



## **The Survivors' Guide to Stable Isotope Ecology V**

### **Siracusa, Italy**

### **Saturday March 25th- Sunday April 2nd 2023**

**Dates** ARR. Saturday March 25- DEP. Sunday April 2 2023

**Program** - 9 days/8 nights

**Number of participants** – 20 min-30 max

**Program Fee per Student** -

Registration by 15th February 2023 - €1750

The fifth edition of The Survivors' Guide to Stable Isotope Ecology sees our great team of lecturers from all over the world come together again to unlock the secrets of stable isotopes for you. Stable isotopes are a powerful and ubiquitous tool in modern ecology. When used correctly, they can unlock the mysteries of food-webs, species interactions, ecophysiology, and migration patterns across the globe. However, incorrect use can result in expensively compiled, useless datasets. This course will give you the skills to maximise the benefit of the use of stable isotopes in your current or future research.

The course will be held on the scenic island of Ortigia, the historic centre of Siracusa in Sicily, Italy. Course instructors include leading experts in the application of stable isotopes of carbon, nitrogen, hydrogen, oxygen and sulphur to marine, freshwater and terrestrial ecology, in addition to expertise in the growing field of compound specific stable isotope analysis and the analysis of stable isotope data.

The course is tailored to postgraduate students and postdoctoral researchers with some or no experience. Mornings will be dedicated to field-activities, lab-work and data analysis, with lectures in the afternoons, combining to provide the students with a thorough understanding of the use of stable isotopes in ecology through hands-on experience. In-person participants will have time to work with the course tutors - and a little time to explore the beautiful island of Ortigia and savour the Mediterranean setting and the local specialties.

#### **Course Lecturers TBC:**

**Prof. Chris Harrod**, Universidad de Antofagasta, Chile

<http://harrodlab.net/>

**Dr. Tamsin O'Connell**, University of Cambridge, UK

<https://www.arch.cam.ac.uk/directory/tco21>

**Prof. Seth Newsome**, University of New Mexico, USA

[sethnewsome.org/sethnewsome/Home.html](http://sethnewsome.org/sethnewsome/Home.html)

**Dr Clive Trueman**, Associate Professor in Marine Ecology, University of Southampton, UK

<https://www.southampton.ac.uk/oes/research/staff/trueman.page>

**Dr. Brian Hayden**, Science Manager, Stable Isotopes in Nature Laboratory, University of New Brunswick, Canada [www.atomicology.com](http://www.atomicology.com)

**Dr. Alexia Massa-Gallucci**, Exedra Mediterranean Center, Italy: Ocean Breath - Greentech solutions, Malta

<https://oceanbreath.eu/>

SGSIE V 25 March - 2 April 2023

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## APPLICATION AND COURSE FEES

Applications can be made online through the course webpage at

<https://www.exedramc.com/course/sgsie-5-2023/>

and

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdWErs6Yx-koohJfEujw\\_At1e5-kgmoKGM-W2TB3\\_wnvptnQg/v  
iewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdWErs6Yx-koohJfEujw_At1e5-kgmoKGM-W2TB3_wnvptnQg/viewform)

To apply, please

- ❖ complete the on-line application form
- ❖ send a **letter of support** from your academic supervisor and
- ❖ a half page **letter of intention** detailing your research interests and experience and how you intend to apply stable isotopes to your current or future project to [info@exedramc.com](mailto:info@exedramc.com).
- ❖ On receiving written acceptance from the SGSIE team, you will be required to pay the non-refundable deposit of €500 by 15th February to confirm your place.

## Fee per student

Early Bird registration before 1st January 2023 10% discount on regular fee. ~~€1750~~ €1575

Regular registration before 15th February 2023 - €1750

Late registration after 15th February 2023 - €1900

**All fees must be paid by March 15th 2023**

## Course fee includes:

- ❖ Transfers between Catania airport and Siracusa on arrival and departure days
- ❖ Accommodation in B&B for 8 nights/9 days, within walking distance of center, shared rooms\*, breakfast included
- ❖ Welcome and Farewell dinners
- ❖ Coffee and tea breaks
- ❖ Tuition
- ❖ Field activities
- ❖ Internet service at the Exedra Mediterranean Center during opening hours and limited printing service
- ❖ General liability insurance
- ❖ Certificate of participation
- ❖ Exedra Mediterranean Center 24-hour support

\*Single rooms available on payment of supplement of 30 euros a night for a total of 240 euros for 8 nights

## Course fee does not include:

- ❖ Travel to/from Sicily
- ❖ Meals with the exception of those listed above
- ❖ Personal expenses
- ❖ Internet service outside of Exedra Mediterranean Center opening hours, except as available in accommodation
- ❖ Passport or visa fees
- ❖ In-country travel not outlined in Program Schedule

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## TERMS AND CONDITIONS

### ENROLMENT AND PAYMENT

#### ❖ EARLY BIRD ENROLMENT AND PAYMENT - Before 1st January 2023

A 10% discount will be applied to those who apply, are accepted and pay the deposit by 1st January 2023.

~~€1750~~ €1575

#### ❖ REGULAR ENROLMENT - before 15th February 2023

The applicant returns

- ❖ the on-line application form
- ❖ the letter of support from an academic supervisor or tutor
- ❖ a half page letter of presentation and intention, detailing research interests and experience and how you intend to apply stable isotopes to your work, send to [info@exedramc.com](mailto:info@exedramc.com)

On receiving written acceptance from Exedra Mediterranean Center, the applicant pays the non-refundable deposit of **€500** by 15th February 2023.

The remainder of the course fee (€1750 - €500 = **€1250**) should then be paid by 15th March 2023.

If the course is cancelled by Exedra, anyone who has already paid will be refunded.

#### ❖ LATE ENROLLMENT - after 1st March 2023

Applications received after 1st March 2023 will pay the late course fee of **€1900** euros in a single payment.

All enrolments should be considered valid only upon receipt of written confirmation sent by Exedra Mediterranean Center.

### HOW TO PAY

The non-refundable deposit of **€500** must be paid by **15th February 2023**.

The remainder of the course fee (€1750 - €500 = **€1250**) must be paid in full by **15th March, 2023** unless otherwise agreed with Exedra Mediterranean Center.

You will receive a pro-forma invoice via Paypal which can be paid

- ❖ using Paypal (plus transaction fee of **7%**)
- ❖ by bank transfer (**without** transaction fee) to:

Beneficiary name : EXEDRA s.r.l.s.  
Bank name : BANCA AGRICOLA POPOLARE DI RAGUSA  
Address: Corso Umberto - Agenzia n. 1  
Account number/C.C: 1351661933  
IBAN : IT 96 G05036 17101 CC 1351661933  
BIC : POPRIT31135

Please indicate for whom the payment is being made by stating clearly the **student's name** and the **name of the course**.

Payment must be received in full.  
Students are liable for all Paypal and bank charges and will be billed for such charges on the first day if necessary.



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## SPONSORSHIPS

Thanks to some generous sponsors, Exedra is able to offer a limited number of bursaries of **500 euros** to participants who do not have any other funding. Bursaries will be awarded on the basis of merit and need.

If you are awarded a bursary, it will be discounted from the total cost of the course fee.

If you wish to apply for a bursary, please attach an additional letter explaining the circumstances which necessitate that you receive a bursary in order to attend, together with the letter from your supervisor, confirming that you do not have any official funding, and your personal presentation letter.

For further details, please contact [info@exedramc.com](mailto:info@exedramc.com)

## COURSE AND ACCOMMODATION CANCELLATION

Cancellations of accepted students should be communicated in writing.

For cancellations, Exedra Mediterranean Center will withhold the non-refundable deposit of 450 euros and any other costs that have been paid up-front, except in exceptional, documented circumstances and at the discretion of Exedra.

If any participant decides not to attend classes or to shorten the course, they are not entitled to any refund.

## PARTICIPANTS

**A minimum of 20 participants is required for this course.** Exedra Mediterranean Center reserves the right to cancel the course if there are not enough participants. Any participants who have already signed up and paid for a course that does not run because cancelled by Exedra will be reimbursed the sum already paid.

## ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

Participants should arrange to arrive at Catania Fontanarossa airport on **Saturday 25th March** before 5pm, and to leave on **Sunday 2 April 2023** by 11am. Exedra Mediterranean Center will arrange the transfers within this time-frame.

Transport-costs for a participant who arrives after 5pm on Saturday 10th September or leaves after 11 am on Sunday 18th September, will be at their own expense.



## TRANSFER SERVICE FROM/TO CATANIA AIRPORT

All information concerning flight details and arrival time should be communicated to the center at the latest, **1 week before arrival.** Exedra Mediterranean Center will send the confirmation and all relevant information concerning the airport transfer service.

## PERSONAL DATA

The participant authorises Exedra Mediterranean Center to use his/her personal data in accordance with the current GDPR EU law. Exedra Mediterranean Center undertakes to use the participant's personal data only for the purposes of organising the course.

The participant authorises Exedra Mediterranean Center to send information and promotional material periodically about the center and the courses offered.

The participant may request at any moment that all of this information is deleted.

## USE OF PHOTOS AND COMMENTS

Permission is given for the use of participant's comments or testimonials and photographs/ images of participants in the official promotional material for Exedra Mediterranean Center by the participant or their parents or legal guardian with acceptance of these terms and conditions.

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## **QUERIES AND COMPLAINTS**

Participants should bring any problems to the center's attention immediately, in order to receive all the assistance needed to resolve any issues arising during their stay at Exedra Mediterranean Center. We do not accept retrospective complaints or queries.

## **SPECIAL NEEDS AND WELFARE**

### **Special learning needs**

The center will endeavor to make reasonable adjustments to participants who declare a learning difficulty or disability. Please consult the center well in advance if you have special needs.

### **Physical disability**

Our center is at present not accessible for wheelchair users or those who have difficulties using stairs.

### **Dietary requirements**

We ask students to communicate any dietary requirements in good time so that arrangements can be made to meet these needs.

## **CONDUCT**

Participants are expected to observe behaviour based on generally accepted standards of courtesy and consideration for others. In an international environment, it is vital to respect cultural, racial and religious differences. Exedra Mediterranean Center reserves the right to expel participants who are offensive or abusive to other participants or to Exedra staff and faculty. Participants are expected to respect Italian Law.

## **RESPONSIBILITY**

The Exedra Mediterranean Center is not liable for any loss of property on its premises or in Exedra-arranged accommodation.

## **INSURANCE**

Participants are advised to take out medical and personal insurance before leaving their home country and to insure themselves against loss of fees through non-arrival, absence for any reason, or unforeseen termination of their courses.

## **24 HOUR EMERGENCY NUMBER**

Exedra Mediterranean Center provides all participants with the Exedra Emergency number, active 24 hours a day. Exedra staff will provide assistance and/or advice in case of medical or other emergencies.

## **COVID-19**

Participants are expected to respect the anti-Covid guidelines issued by the Italian government during their stay in Italy. They should be prepared to wear a mask, show vaccination certification, maintain social distancing, etc. if so requested.

Exedra will assist with arranging testing for travelling where necessary and in case of suspected infection, and will provide support services and liaise with the local health authority in case of a positive test or sickness. Exedra will not cover any additional costs (tests, medication, hospitalisation, extra nights of accommodation, extra travel costs etc.) beyond what is specified as included in the course fee.

**Participants are strongly advised to take out personal health and travel insurance to cover all Covid-19 related eventualities.**







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