

Report on the outcomes of a presentation and participation in a Dissemination Conference¹

Action number: 22145

Grantee name: Barbara Care

Conference Details

Conference title: **Play in Antiquity, Playing Antiquity**

Conference web-page:

Conference venue²: University of Bristol

Conference start and end date: 07/07/2025 to 08/07/2025

Accepted oral contribution details

Title of the presentation: Games without frontiers: the GameTable approach to heritage games

Co-authors:

Other details of the presentation: specify here any additional details related to the contribution (e.g. title of the session / track of the conference programme in which the contribution is accepted)

Session **Modern Practical Approaches**

Outcome of the conference participation

Description of the outcome of the conference presentation, including contacts made and potential for future collaborations.

(max. 500 word)

The recent international conference **Play in Antiquity, Playing Antiquity** provided an excellent opportunity to present the new methodological approaches developed within the framework of the COST Action. The paper focused on the structure of the network and how interdisciplinary methodologies, ranging from archaeology and material culture studies to digital reconstruction and AI-driven analysis, can be used to improve our understanding of ancient ludic practices and their socio-cultural contexts. The presentation was well received and sparked interest among both senior scholars and early-career researchers ; several participants also expressed interest in joining the Action. In addition, the conference also revealed a growing interest among professionals and educators in ancient games as tools for knowledge transfer and cultural dialogue. This opens a

¹ This report is submitted by the grantee to the Action MC for approval and for claiming payment of the awarded grant. The Grant Awarding Coordinator coordinates the evaluation of this report on behalf of the Action MC and instructs the GH for payment of the Grant.

² For an online conference, specify virtual participation; for hybrid conferences, specify whether it is an in-person or virtual participation.

promising avenue for interdisciplinary collaboration between researchers, local museums and heritage institutions.

As a concrete follow-up, I was invited to contribute to the forthcoming conference proceedings, where I will expand on the methodological framework presented at the conference. During the event, I was also inspired to initiate a proposal for a new edited volume coordinated by WG5, focusing on the diachronic interplay between beliefs, scientific knowledge, and political or cultural ideologies that influence the design and reception of game boards (as is the case of the so-called “colonial games”, to give an example). This project would offer a valuable opportunity to invite contributions from other Working Groups within the COST Action, fostering cross-thematic dialogue and collaboration.

In conclusion, the conference not only provided valuable visibility for the methodological innovations developed within the Game Table initiative, but also fostered multiple contacts and opened up real possibilities for future collaborative research and outreach.

Acknowledgement of inclusion of necessary supporting documents to claim the grant

I confirm that the following documents have been uploaded on e-COST as an integral part of this report:

- the certificate of conference attendance.
- the programme of the conference or book of abstracts / proceedings indicating the oral presentation of the grantee.
- copy of the given presentation.