

Dear colleagues,

It is with great pleasure that we inform you of some good news during this complicated time for all of us: PCI Archaeology is now open! (<https://archaeo.peercommunityin.org/>) This is a new system for peer-reviewing academic manuscripts in archaeology. How it works is explained nicely here: <https://youtu.be/4PZhpnc8ww0> (3min40). For those interested, please find below more information.

The current system of scientific publishing poses many problems, as illustrated by the fierce negotiations under way between several research institutions and the main scientific publishers. One of the solutions often put forward is open access, but this is currently very expensive and therefore only solves part of the problem. Another solution, widely supported in some disciplines, is the depositing of manuscripts on preprint servers. However, the lack of a peer review process is a problem in this case. In order to overcome this problem concerning preprints, a system has been set up: the Peer Community In (PCI) (<https://peercommunityin.org/>). This system is intended to organise, in a completely transparent way, the peer review process of manuscripts already deposited on preprint servers. The complete process is explained on their website in a video here: <https://youtu.be/4PZhpnc8ww0> (3min40).

In summary, a PCI is a community of researchers (called recommenders) who agree to act as associate editors. The list of present recommenders for PCI Archaeology can be found here: <https://archaeo.peercommunityin.org/public/recommenders>. When a researcher deposits a manuscript on a preprint server, he/she can ask the PCI to review his/her work and a traditional review process begins if a recommender takes over the article. This process may or may not result in the validation of the manuscript by the recommender, after one or several rounds of revision. Afterwards, it remains possible to submit the manuscript to a traditional journal. Several institutions, recruitment committees and journals already support this initiative (<https://peercommunityin.org/who-supports-peer-community-in/> and <https://peercommunityin.org/pci-friendly-journals/>) with additional support agreements currently in the works. The advantages of such a system are numerous and are summarised here: https://youtu.be/jMhVl_gupg (1min11).

We believe that this initiative can contribute to a radical and necessary change in scientific publication in the coming years. We have therefore created PCI Archaeology which has just opened its doors (<https://archaeo.peercommunityin.org/>). This community currently consists of over 50 recommenders and will expand in the coming months to cover all subjects and regions of specialisation internationally.

We hope that you will find this project as exciting as we do, and that you will consider submitting your manuscripts and your data to our community for an efficient peer-review process in the framework of the Open Access and Open Science movements.

Feel free to contact us for more details, or explore the FAQ on the website. You can follow our news on Twitter (@PCI_Archaeology), Facebook and Instagram.

Sincerely,

Brad Logan (Recommender) and the founders of PCI Archaeology.