



Maria Nefeli Choupa

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Education

MSc Erasmus+ Traineeship in Max Planck for Evolutionary Anthropology |

Department of Archaeogenetics, Leipzig, Germany, 1/4/2024 – 8/7/2024

Master's degree in IPSP «Applied Bioinformatics and Data Analysis» |

Department of Molecular Biology and Genetics, Democritus University of Thrace, 11/2022-7/2024 (Grade: 9.6).

Diploma thesis: «Unraveling the genetic history of prehistoric human populations in the Hellenic Region through Bioinformatic Analysis».

Supervisor: Dr. Aristotelis Papageorgiou

Master's degree in IPSP «History of Medicine and Biological Anthropology: health, disease and natural selection». | School of Medicine, Aristotle

University of Thessaloniki, 10/2020 –20/12/2022 (Grade: 9,38).

Specialization: **Biological Anthropology**

Diploma thesis: «Dietary reconstruction of Hellenistic and Roman inhabitants of ancient Thessaloniki, through stable Carbon and Nitrogen Analysis».

Supervisor: Dr. Christina Papageorgopoulou

Bachelor's Degree in Geology | Department of Geology, University of Patras

9/2015 – 4/2020 (Diploma grade, 7.52).

Specialization: **Paleontology-Stratigraphy**

Thesis: «Palaeoecological and Taphonomical Analysis of the microvertebrate fossil material from the Paleolithic cave of Kalamakia in Mani Peninsula».

Supervisor: Dr. George Iliopoulos

Experience

Technical Scientist | Ancient DNA Lab, Paleogenomics and Evolutionary Genetics Group, Institute of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology (IMBB), Foundation for Research and Technology, Hellas (FORTH), Heraklion, Crete | Supervisor: Prof. Nikos Poulakakis, 01/09/2025- present.

External Collaborator-Bioinformatics Technician | Computational and Bioinformatics Laboratory, Department of Computer Sciences and Biomedical Informatics, University of Thessaly | Supervisor: Prof. Pantelis Bagos, 18/06/2025-15/09/2025.

Bioinformatic processing of archaeogenetic data from Hagios Charalambos EMBA Site in Crete | Max Planck for Evolutionary Anthropology, Leipzig, Germany | Supervisor: Dr. Eirini Skourtanioti, Dr. Alissa Mittnik, 1/4/24-7/24.

Participation in palaeontological excavations in Santa Napa, Cyprus | Supervisor: George Theodorou, 10/2024-11/2024.

Participation in excavations at the paleontological site PV1 of Megalo Rema, Pikermi, Attiki, Greece | Supervisor: George Theodorou, 9/2023-11/2023, 9/2020.

Paleontologist- fossils Conservator | Exhibition of Paleontological Findings of Pikermi 1/2020-3/2020.

Internship at Directorate of Paleoanthropology and Speleology - Ministry of Culture and Sports | Supervisor: Dr. Athanasios Athanasiou, 7/2019-9/2019

Participated in the archaeological excavation of the Paleolithic site of Rodafnidia in Lesbos Island | Department of History and Archaeology, University of Crete, Supervisor: Nena Galanidou. 8-9/2017

Skills

- Proficient in English (C1)
- Proficient in R programming language and Statistical Data Analysis.
- Good knowledge of C programming, terminal operation, Geneland, RAxML, Splitstree.
- Certified knowledge in Python programming
- Very good knowledge of PCA & ADMIXTURE analysis
- Very good knowledge of contamination estimation methods for aDNA analysis: ANGSD, contamMix, hapCon
- Very good knowledge of relatedness methods: READv2, BREADR, kin, IBD and also hapROH
- Familiar Power Point, Grapher, Surfer, Matlab, Crystallographica, Minpet, Georse environments.
- Proficient in Scientific and Athletic Speleology, Hellenic Speleological Society

Publications

- Choupa, M. N. (2022). «Dietary reconstruction of Hellenistic and Roman inhabitants of ancient Thessaloniki, through stable Carbon and Nitrogen Analysis». <https://doi.org/10.26262/HEAL.AUTH.IR.343643>
- Besiou, E., Choupa, M., Lyras, G., & van der Geer, A. (2022). Body mass divergence in sympatric deer species of Pleistocene Crete (Greece). Palaeontologia Electronica. <https://doi.org/10.26879/1221>

- Kolendrianou, M., Choupa, M.-N., Iliopoulos, G., & Darlas, A. (2022). Taphonomical and palaeoenvironmental analyses of the microvertebrate fossil material from the Late Pleistocene cave of Kalamakia (Mani peninsula), Greece. *Historical Biology*,0(0),15. <https://doi.org/10.1080/08912963.2022.2092849>

Invited Talks & Selected Conferences

1. Choupa M.N., “Unraveling the Past: Archaeogenetic and Isotopic Studies of Ancient Populations in the Hellenic Region”. Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Leipzig, Germany. 9-13 December 2024.
2. Papageorgopoulou C., Choupa MN., Georgiadou A., Protopsalti S., Tzevreni S., Konstantinidou K., Vasileiadou S., Ganiatsou E., “The urban evolution of diet: evidence from ancient Thessaloniki using stable isotopes, Bayesian modeling and machine learning”. 30th Annual Meeting of the European Association of Archaeologists (EAA), Rome, Italy. 30 August - 2 September 2024.
3. Ganiatsou E., Souleles A., Choupa M-N, Bantavanou P., Georgiadou A., Protopsalti S., Tzevreni S., Konstantinidou K., Vasileiadou S., Papageorgopoulou C. “A wean-wean situation: diachronic patterns of infant and adult diet in ancient Thessaloniki through the analysis of incremental dentine”. 29th Annual Meeting of the European Association of Archaeologists (EAA), Belfast, Northern Ireland. 30 August - 2 September 2023.
4. Ganiatsou E., **Choupa M-N** , Protopsalti S., Tzevreni S., Konstantinidou K., Vasileiadou S., Papageorgopoulou C. Unravelling human mobility in ancient Thessaloniki through Sulphur isotope analysis. Movement conference. Samarina, Greece. 25-27 August 2023.
5. Ganiatsou E., Georgiadou A., Choupa N., Aidonis A., Souleles A., Protopsalti T., Tzevreni S., Konstantinidou K., Vasileiadou S., Papageorgopoulou C. "Investigating the urban side of diet: reconstructing infant and adult diets through sequential and bulk isotopic collagen in the multicultural site of ancient Thessaloniki". 92nd Annual Meeting of American Association of Biological Anthropologists, Reno, Nevada (2023) April 19-22, 2023.
6. Choupa, M.N. «Dietary reconstruction of the diet of the inhabitants of ancient Thessaloniki during the Hellenistic and Roman Period, through stable isotope analysis». 12th Scientific Conference of the Medical School of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, 15th-18th March 2023.
7. Kolendrianou Maria, Choupa Maria Nepheli, Dimitriou Ypermachia, Darlas Andreas, Iliopoulos George, 2021. Revising the microvertebrates from the Paleolithic site of Kalamakia (Mani Peninsula), Greece. 1st Virtual Conference for Women Archaeologists and Paleontologists, 8th9th March 2021.