



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

From Root to Rise: The Steppe Sisters Network

BULLION E. ¹, *CAMPBELL K.* ², *CASTRO M.* ³, *CHILDEBAYEVA A.* ⁴, *CONTE C.* ⁵, *DUTURAEVA D.* ⁶, *HARUDA A.* ⁷, *HOPPER K.* ⁸, *NOSEDA A.* ^{9*}, *RAISSOVA A.* ¹⁰, *TOSHEVA D.* ¹¹, *VENTRESCA MILLER A.* ¹¹

- ¹ US National Resources Conservation Service, Spokane, United States
- ² University of Cambridge, Cambridge, United Kingdom
- ³ Institute for the Study of the Ancient World, New York City, United States
- ⁴ University of Kansas, Lawrence, United States
- ⁵ Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany
- ⁶ University of York, York, United Kingdom
- ⁷ University of Oxford, Oxford, United Kingdom
- ⁸ Durham University, Durham, United Kingdom
- ⁹ Musm national d'Histoire naturelle, Paris, France
- ¹⁰ Yale University, New Haven, United States
- ¹¹ University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, United States

*Corresponding author

Abstract

Women and underrepresented groups are inadequately represented as researchers in historical sciences in central Eurasia. The Steppe Sisters Network (SSN) addresses the lack of equity and diversity by promoting vital networking and mentoring opportunities. We connect scholars with expertise in their region and foster safe spaces (online and through conferences and workshops) for our members to flourish as they develop confidence in themselves, their voices and research. We built our network on an ethos of compassion and humanity, within a framework that reinforces kindness between members. We seek to level the playing field and expand access to opportunities for women academics through networking and partnership building, knowledge exchange, and small grants that support direct research expenses, open-access fees for publications, conference attendance, or continuing education costs, such as travel and visa fees. We focus on capacity building, including enhancing bioarchaeological training, and supporting the development of local specialists. In the last two years we have helped support initiatives developed by Steppe Sisters which have offered internships and training to women students at Kafir Kala in microfaunal analysis, and zooarchaeological practices at Samarkand. In this paper we reflect on current accomplishments, and consider strategies for sustaining this and similar networks.

Keywords

Central Asia, Networks, Capacity Building, Women academics, Steppe Sisters

Session

6. Life and death: Human behaviour and practices

Workshop

Type of paper

Oral presentation