

# Walter Finsinger



Hi,

I'm a late-Quaternary palaeoecologist interested in responses of terrestrial ecosystems to environmental changes and disturbances (e.g. climate change, land-use changes, fire disturbances). I developed my main analytical skills – pollen and spores, stomata, plant-macrofossil, and charcoal analysis – at the University of Bern (Switzerland), but I also received a broad training in sedimentology and geomorphology during my MSc studies in Natural Sciences at the University of Pisa (Italy).

I'm running as a candidate for vice-chairperson of the European Pollen Database (EPD) to help maintain and develop this important community-curated palaeoecological data infrastructure and publicly available data repository.

The EPD has supported science for more than 30 years and contributed to significant advances of palaeoecological science in Europe as well as increasing the visibility of palaeoecology to a wider audience. I have been involved in the EPD since 2007, while being a post-doctoral fellow at the University of Utrecht (The Netherlands), where I helped organizing a workshop. Since then, I helped curating data stored in the EPD and contributed to update the EPD in the Neotoma Paleocology Database. In addition, I contributed to develop and maintain the “EPD news and activities” webpage (<https://epdweblog.org/>).

**I got involved with the EPD** because I believed (and still do so) that it is a valuable tool to store and curate data collected with the hard work of scientists, young and old in age, thereby increasing the lifetime of the data and securing the legacy of the work. I'm also firmly convinced that a possibility is given to collectively increase their value, not least as the sum of the parts is often greater than the whole. **My vision** of the EPD is that it could develop further. For instance, by building bridges to other palaeoecological communities having expertise with other proxy types from natural and documentary archives, which could foster studies addressing complex relations among ecosystem components and processes. In addition, developing and promoting educational uses and applications for multiple audiences and educational settings could also strengthen EPD's outreach services.

