

Bid for hosting CAA 2028

The Archaeological Institute (University of Cologne) and the Cologne Digital Archaeology Lab (CoDArchLab) are pleased to submit this proposal to host the international CAA conference in Cologne in 2028.

Location

Cologne is the fourth-most populous city of Germany — with a population of one million people — and the largest city of the German state of North Rhine-Westphalia. It is located on the River Rhine (Lower Rhine), about 35 kilometres (22 mi) southeast of the North Rhine-Westphalia state capital Düsseldorf and 22 kilometres (14 mi) northwest of Bonn. Cologne was founded and established in Germanic Ubii territory in the 1st century AD as the Roman Colonia Agrippina. Nowadays, it is a major cultural centre for the Rhineland; it hosts more than 30 museums and hundreds of galleries. Among the most outstanding highlights are the Cologne Cathedral, a World Heritage site, and the city's 12 famous Romanesque churches. There are many institutions of higher education, most notably the University of Cologne (est. 1388), one of Europe's oldest and largest universities.

Cologne will be an ideal location for hosting the international CAA conference because:

- The University of Cologne offers many suitable venue options free of charge (see § Venue Options)
- Cologne offers excellent international and domestic connectivity. It is accessible by air travel via three airports (Frankfurt, Düsseldorf, and Cologne/Bonn), among which Frankfurt is the largest airport in Germany. Cologne is also exceptionally well-connected by train, serving as a major western hub for Germany and Europe with over 1,300 daily train connections.
- The University of Cologne has a strong research and teaching tradition in the field of Digital and Computational Archaeology.
- Members of the local organising committee are involved in the organisation of CAA 2026 (Vienna), have extensive experience in hosting local conferences for the national CAA chapters in the UK, Greece and Germany and are currently members of the CAA international.

Venue option(s)

There are various options for a venue:

- Main university building (more info on the rooms available [here](#))
- Lecture Hall building (Hörsaalgebäude; more info on the rooms available [here](#))
- Seminar building (Seminargebäude; more info on the rooms available [here](#))

At the time this bid was submitted we are considering the Lecture Hall building as the most suitable location to host the whole event, as the venue offers eight large and medium lecture

rooms that are suitable for sessions and the AGM, as well as an open space for coffee breaks and the poster session that has a capacity of 1000 persons.

General conference plan

Key dates

Conference: 4 April – 8 April 2028

Workshops: 4 April 2028

Ice-breaker: 4 April 2028

Opening keynote: 5 April 2028

Sessions: 5 – 7 April 2028

Conference dinner: 6 April 2028

Excursions: 8 April 2028

Alternative dates if plans change: 10 April – 14 April 2028

The proposed conference dates are just before Easter 2028 (April 16th). These dates do not overlap with and are right after the SAA (New Orleans, Louisiana, March 29–April 2, 2028). The date for the conference dinner does not overlap with Passover (April 10th 2028).

Local organising committee (preliminary)

Coordinators:

- Eleftheria Paliou
- Anja Wutte

Members:

- Lutz Schubert
- Andreas Angourakis
- Friederike Jürcke
- Oliver Vogels

List of supporting institutions (to be extended in the future):

- Archaeological Institute
- Cologne Digital Archaeology Lab (CoDArchLab)
- Cologne Center for eHumanities (CCeH)