**Ludovic Orlando** received his PhD in molecular genetics from the University of Lyon, France, twenty years after the first ancient DNA molecule was ever sequenced. Trained in phylogenomics as a postdoc, he was rapidly appointed as a permanent Associate Professor at the prestigious ENS Lyon. He is now leading a research group at the Centre for GeoGenetics, Natural History Museum of Denmark, Copenhagen. Current research in his lab focuses on developing integrative approaches for studying ancient DNA molecules, promoting the field of palaeomics by the merger of biochemistry, molecular biology, genomics and computational biology. These novel approaches have recently specifically been used to study the evolutionary history of one iconic mammal: the horse.