



A Trilogy of International Workshops – University of Cyprus

'Byzantium' in Transition is a trilogy of international workshops organised by the Department of History and Archaeology of the University of Cyprus. The aim of these successive specialists' meetings is to shed more light on archaeologically 'invisible' eras or periods of major transformations in economy, society and culture after the end of Late Antiquity by (re) evaluating old and new archaeological data, namely dated to (a) the Byzantine Early Middle Ages, middle 7th – 8th centuries, (b) the Middle to Late Byzantine or Early Frankish era, late 12th – early 13th centuries, and (c) the Late Byzantine/Frankish to Early Ottoman period, middle 14th – late 15th centuries. This trilogy of workshops will be held in October 2011, 2013, and 2015.

Objectives of Workshop 1

This workshop reassesses methodological advances and evaluates recently unearthed evidence in order to explore to what extent the term 'Dark Ages', usually perceived as a period of decline for the Eastern Roman Empire, can indeed be applied to the Byzantine 'Early Middle Ages'.

The main issues this First Workshop (28-30 October 2011) aims to investigate through the medium of archaeological information are the transformation and character of 'urban centres', the fate and role of the countryside, the identification of changes or developments in ceramic technology and material culture in general, as well as the regional exchange trends and trade networks, focusing on mainland Greece, the Aegean islands, Asia Minor, Crete and Cyprus.

Agenda of Workshop 1

Three senior scholars set the historical framework and discuss aspects of social and cultural transformation in the early medieval Mediterranean in an introductory panel titled 'Setting the Scene'. Three sessions of five 30-minute papers each, follow covering the five geographical areas of interest, and explore the themes of:

- (a) urban and rural space,
- (b) trade networks and economy,
- (c) artistic testimonies and material culture.

The aim is to publish the Workshop's results as an edited book/monograph with one of the major publishers in the field.