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BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

GRADUATE FORUM FOR
MEDITERRANEAN ARCHAEOLOGY



University of Cyprus
Department of History
and Archaeology



University of Cyprus
Archaeological Research Unit



GRADUATE FORUM FOR MEDITERRANEAN ARCHAEOLOGY

Nicosia, December 9th / 10th, 2022

ABSTRACTS

FOMARC 2022
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ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH UNIT
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY & ARCHAEOLOGY
UNIVERSITY OF CYPRUS

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NICOSIA 2022

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PRESENTATION ABSTRACTS

Miniature Bodies, Miniature Subjects: The reconstruction of identities through the study of micrographic bodies in Aegean Bronze Age seals

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The human body is considered an active agent through which humans perceive the world, collect experiences and memories that differs depending on space and time. The embodied involvement with the environment, with other people and with the material culture, constitutes the way in which social identity is formed and expressed. The body entangles with the social and cultural environment through a multisensory process and thus comprises a means for the (re)construction of identities. In the current presentation, I will focus on human figures and their practices, as they are depicted on Bronze Age Aegean seals. The aim here is therefore to reconstruct the way through which their subjectivity is formed, and their identity (either individual or communal) is constituted. Human bodies and seals are mutually constructed through a proximal and multisensorial engagement. This embodied interaction not only forms the human agency, but also the agency of the seal itself. Therefore, the miniature representation of human bodies becomes meaningful through the dialectical relation between the image, the person that experiences the image and the surrounding environment. The person actively participates in the perception and interpretation of the human body representation and is strongly affected by social, psychological, ideological and external factors (e.g. Visibility, lighting conditions) to which he/she is exposed. This process involves not only the viewing of the micrographic image, on the contrary is a multisensorial process that stimulates a series of senses and sentiments. Through this process, the image is perceived but also experienced contributing to the formation of the subject's identity and individuation.

The Perception of Prehistoric Antiquity in 19th century Greece

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The aim of this research was to understand the role that the study of Aegean prehistoric antiquity played during the 19th century and how it shaped and affected the archaeological and socio-cultural landscape of the time.

The research delved and took into account the Annuals of the Archaeological Society at Athens, the Annuals of the British School at Athens, travelers' handbooks and scientific publications (books and articles) by the excavators of the prehistoric sites dug in the Helladic peninsula and islands from the year 1800 till 1899.

Throughout this inquiry, the marginalisation of the prehistoric remains by the archaeological community became evident, as the artefacts' manufacture seemed "inferior" and "barbaric" when compared to the Greek Classical ones, usually on account of the coarseness of the material or the technique. This "inferiority" of the prehistoric finds was associated with the general belief that they were products of an oriental people settled in the Helladic territory, a belief that dovetailed with the general anti-Semitism of the time.

This anti-orientalist approach of the prehistoric remains started to shift once Schliemann excavated Mycenae in 1876, or, in other words, when he discovered the "Greek, Homeric" antiquity. As the "Mycenaeans" proved to be of "Greek origins" – Christos Tsountas' research was particularly focused towards this goal – and in association with the theory regarding the cultural continuity of a nation, archaeologists attempted to prove the relation of the "Greek/European Mycenaeans" with the Anatolians and Near Easterners.

This change of narrative fitted in the wider attempt of the West's to appropriate culturally (and not only) the East. Therefore, what this study established was the instrumentalisation of Greek prehistoric archaeology in this process of appropriation; the archaeological narrative was adjusted and used prehistoric artefacts as indicative of "the primitive Greekness" of these "eastern-like" prehistoric peoples.

Exploring the Pottery and Plaster Production Technologies at Neolithic Makri, Thrace, Greece

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As part of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Innovative Training Network place, this doctoral research project will investigate the silicate and cementitious ceramic technologies (e.g., pottery and lime plasters) at the Neolithic site of Makri, Northern Greece, the only systematically excavated Neolithic site in the region of Thrace, an important contact zone between Anatolia

In the west and the Balkans to the east. Many details of this coastal tell settlement have been preserved, including post-framed houses, plastered floors and clay structures. Previous initial analyses of its rich pottery assemblage suggest that a single stable local tradition might have

Existed for an extended period and the Neolithic potters had a high level of know-how and technological skill. The pottery characteristics of Makri can be viewed within the Neolithic Balkan context, as part of the long monochrome dark burnished ceramic tradition of the southeastern Europe. The external influences of this tradition and technological characteristics may be the key to better understand the cultural development of the prehistoric communities in Northern Greece and the economic and socio-political processes involved in their production.

Additionally, the abundance and good preservation of plaster-based building materials at Makri, particularly during its main occupation, provides an opportunity to examine the wider uses and technologies of ceramics at the site, beyond pottery, a topic that is rarely approached

By studies on Neolithic or later prehistoric Greece. The proposed project will approach these and other questions via detailed scientific study of pottery, plaster and other ceramics from the most recently excavated and well documented Trench (D8).

Archers in Mycenae Shaft Graves?

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The end of the Middle Helladic is marked by the increase in the number of arrowheads discovered in settlements or funerary contexts. This period of appearance of the Mycenaean culture offers a prime example for studying archery in mainland Greece, its role, its practices (hunting or war) and the values associated with it. For this, I will rely on a preliminary study carried out on the archaeological material related to archery in the Mycenae shaft graves Delta and Lambda from Circle B and IV from Circle A, and in particular the stone arrowheads.

After a quick presentation of the mesohelladic arrowheads contexts of discovery, I will present how I retraced the «*chaîne opératoire*» of those from shaft graves. The observation of the raw materials highlights the continuity of the supply strategies but also, for tomb IV, of a form of accumulation of more diversified rocks. The morphological and volumetric studies make it possible to observe the objectives of the different knappers. The technological study allowed me to show the progressive standardization of the production for certain types in spite of the preservation of an important variability of forms. Finally, I was able to observe a characteristic that seems to be favoured by the Mycenaean knappers: the extreme thinness of the arrowheads which seems to be one if not the main objective.

By taking into account the results of these observations and by adding data from anthropological studies, the rest of the grave goods and the iconography found in these three graves, I put forward the hypothesis of the existence of individuals recognized and identified as archers within the population of Mycenae.

Exhibiting Archaeological Materials Using New Technologies: The case of ‘the Faces of Juliopolis exhibition’

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Treasure hunting and illegal excavations endanger the preservation and survival of archaeological heritage sites. One way to raise awareness about cultural heritage and its destruction is to increase the visibility and recognition of such sites through new technological applications in archaeology and anthropology. This study focuses on one of these endangered sites, Juliopolis, an ancient city located in the Nallıhan, Ankara (Turkey). Because of its location on the ancient Pilgrims Road and Silk Road routes, Juliopolis was an important site during the Roman and Byzantine periods. The salvage excavations, carried out in the Juliopolis necropolis since 2009 by the Museum of Anatolian Civilizations, have uncovered more than 700 tombs of various types. Archaeological finds unearthed from these graves revealed that the necropolis areas were used from the Hellenistic period until the Roman and Byzantine Empire periods. However, over time, the necropolis has been subjected to illegal activities and vandalism, which made it difficult to establish a meaningful connection between the local communities and the site. To circumvent this problem, the research team devised a public archaeology program in which an exhibition, “The Faces of Juliopolis”, was held at four different locations in Ankara, using facial traits reconstruction methods, holograms of ancient people were exhibited to help visitors to meet and empathize with the ancient people of Juliopolis. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with visitors and museum professionals to gather feedback about the exhibition. Overall, both visitors and museum professionals found the exhibition innovative and attractive. While museum professionals were inspired to incorporate these types of technology in their own museum management practice, visitors indicated that they were able to empathize with the Juliopolis people whose faces were reconstructed. Our findings suggest that such technological applications can attract visitors to museums where traditional methods of display may not be as appealing.

Research in the Making: Early ceramic technologies and traditions in the Edom lowlands region of southern Jordan

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The aim of this ongoing project is to document and study the traditions of ceramic manufacture and usage at several previously surveyed and/or excavated settlement sites dating from the Early Bronze Age III-IV to the Early Iron Age located in the Edom Lowlands Region of southern Jordan.

By combining macroscopic, petrographic and compositional analytical techniques (pXRF, LA-ICP-MS, SEM-EDS, XRD) the research will focus on characterising the chemical and mineralogical composition and determining the provenance and examining the technological steps and skills involved in the manufacture of the ceramics. The results will lead to a better understanding of the diachronic evolution of the organisation of pottery production. These data will also shed new light on technological knowledge and trade and exchange patterns by exploring the sociocultural/economic interaction between the Faynan region and other areas of southern Levant, especially the Negev (Israel). The role played by pottery production in the emergence of the so-called 'complex societies will also be addressed alongside their contribution to the development of copper metallurgical production.

The Tools of Trade of Late Bronze Age Cyprus: A view from Morphou bay

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The Late Bronze Age period in the eastern Mediterranean is characterized by an unprecedented flourishing of long distance trade in which Cyprus had an essential role. This flourishing is well attested by textual evidence and especially by a solid corpus of “tools of trade”, among them weighing scale components and weights. These object classes have been the object of a fairly extensive and continuous study in the Levant and Mesopotamia. In Cyprus, on the other hand, these objects have been the subject of only discontinuous study efforts. The first stage of scholarship was marked mainly by the research of Jean Claude Courtois, which was essential because it provided the first metrological identification of a yet dispersed corpus. Since the middle of the nineties, however, weights and scales have been the subject of only very limited and sporadic studies. The aim of my ongoing doctoral research is not simply to provide an organized updated corpus with metrological interpretations obtained through a new methodology. A much more important goal is also to understand what these objects could tell us about the economic, productive and social environments in which they were used in the context of the different phases of the Late Bronze Age. The methodology used to answer the question is not limited to metrology, but it will also consider other aspects which previously have not been considered. I will present some preliminary results of my ongoing research taking a closer look at the evidence from Ayia Irini and Toumba tou Skourou, two sites located near the coastline of north/north-western Cyprus.

Object Analysis of the Early Bronze Age Kotsiatis Shrine Model: Does this model depict ritual or religious action within an ancient Cypriot heterotopia?

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This paper is primarily an object analysis of the Cypriot Kotsiatis shrine model, dating to the Early Bronze Age, this object is an extremely valuable reflection of the ideologies and practices of the contemporary relationship with the dead. Influenced by the structure of the model itself, this analysis can be broken into three parts: Starting with the Female figure, followed by the Tripartite Façade of bull-headed figures, lastly a holistic view of the ceramic leading into my interpretations. Depictions of bucrania, are reoccurring throughout the aesthetic language of the Cypriot (and extended Mediterranean) Bronze age, and as such a shared and versatile symbol it is extremely fascinating. Should we be looking for a 'meaning' at the risk of imposing one on these images or rather question, whether it means anything at all and was purely an aesthetic choice? There is much to be abstracted from this model. To preface, although the meaning might not be obvious to a modern recipient, this is a depiction of interaction that encompasses human and ethereal engagement, through the most accessible of material means. Yet, there is an underlying exclusion about this space, whilst supplication and mediation are at the heart of this composition; If this was an exclusive space, is there sufficient evidence for it to be deemed a heterotopia? Provoking further research into the subject matter as I believe this space operated outside the normalcy of daily life amongst the community.

Legal Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage: A glance from the Republic of Cyprus

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During the last decade or so, Cypriot legislation has undergone important transformation in order to protect underwater cultural heritage. Despite this, scant attention has been given to those legislative developments. This paper constitutes the first comprehensive study which surveys the Cypriot regulatory framework as well as discusses the relevant Cypriot case law as far as the protection of underwater cultural heritage. It concludes by underlining that the island, though not a state party to the 2001 UNESCO Convention, has transposed its main principles into its domestic legislation by incorporating the Annex of the Convention.

Harmatoloi or Ordinary Warriors? In quest of the donors of the monastery of Saint Nicholas in Metsovo, Greece (1702)

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In the region of Metsovo (Ioannina, Epirus, Greece) there are a few post-Byzantine monuments preserved, even though Metsovo experienced a cultural, political, economic, and social flourishing during the 17th and 18th centuries, prompted by privileged status. The monastery of Saint Nicholas is the earliest dated monument in 17th century, renovated in 18th century and has not been the subject of thorough research so far.

The monastery consists of the katholikon, a chapel and auxiliary compartments. It is decorated with murals dated in the 17th and 18th century. There are several inscriptional evidence as well as a donor inscription in the south external wall, testifying the year of 1702 and the donors' names. Information regarding the donor or donors of the initial monastery have not been saved, except of a donor portrait, severely damaged.

Of particular interest is the oldest donor portrait, that of the year 1702, in the Holy Bema, as it depicts three mounted men, standing on the foreground. Their attire reminiscent of the attire of *harmatoloi* or *capetans*, the armed men who were associated with the Ottoman authorities and tasked with maintaining the order in an area.

There are other examples of *harmatoloi* sponsoring the decoration of a church in the year of 1679, in Arta (Epirus, Greece) and later, in 1784, in Alepochori Botsaris (Ioannina, Greece).

Aim of this paper is to examine the donor portrait, focusing on its iconographic elements and comparing it with similar ones, to examine whether those three men were or were not *harmatoloi*, as the portrait bears no accompanying names and in the donor inscription there is no indication of their status.

The Material Culture in Ottoman Cyprus

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The aim of this paper is to present a new collection of Ottoman pipes from four excavations in Nicosia (Archbishop Palace, Eleutherias Square, Paphos Gate and Antigonou Street). Tobacco was a particularly important resource in the Ottoman Empire, a central actor in a large imperial and international economy. The plant arrived at the beginning of the 17th century, first affecting an urban elite, then spreading to all classes of society by the end of the century. Tobacco was first banned, then legalised and heavily taxed. The use of pipes, *chibouk*, according to the Ottoman term, stopped at the beginning of the 20th century, when cigarettes were democratised. The different pipes present in the city show a great presence of Levantine imports with a coarse grey clay and purplish slip, and Turkish with an intense red clay and slip, coming from the district of Tophane, one of the biggest pipe makers of the 19th century. However, for the first time, traces of a Cypriot workshop with a pinkish-beige clay, without slip and a very specific roulette decoration have also been found. The interest is then to compare these different types, as well as the techniques of production and thus to highlight the economy and exchanges of the island of Cyprus and its autonomy of production in the tobacco industry and consumption vis-à-vis the Ottoman imperialism.

The Terracotta Lamps of the Hellenistic Period: A comparative study between the lamps discovered at Antioch on-the-Orontes and their parallels from Nea Paphos

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This paper aims to present a comparative study on the terracotta lamps dating to the Hellenistic period discovered at Antioch-on-the-Orontes and its hinterland with their parallels from the excavations of Nea Paphos. The methodology is based on the archaeological context of the lamps. The comparison will allow observing the influences of the typology and the chronological questions relating to dating.

From Hellenistic to Roman Cyprus: An archaeometric study of hydraulic plasters in their context of use

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Plasters and mortars have played a great role as building materials during all periods of Antiquity and in recent history. Because it is a man-made material, we are able to understand the technology and knowledge of plaster and mortar construction in each period through the study of this material. Hydraulic plasters and mortars are scarcely studied in Cyprus, but they can be a great tool in comprehending the technological knowledge of ancient builders in this area. This research aims to study hydraulic plasters, from structures related with the use of water, with several archaeometric techniques, from two archaeological sites of ancient Cyprus. These archaeological sites are: The neoria excavation site (Kition-Bamboula) in early Hellenistic Kition and the Roman excavation site at Akaki. Through their differences in macroscopic and physiochemical characteristics we are able to understand the evolution, or changes, of technology in plaster manufacture and their probable outside roman influences.

Tableware Production at the Site of Sagalassos (southwest Anatolia) from the Hellenistic to the Byzantine Period: A petrographic and geochemical study in a diachronic perspective

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From the Hellenistic period onwards, ancient Sagalassos in southwest Anatolia gradually became the main ceramic production centre in the region. Amongst others, the local potters specialised in the mass production of a red-slipped ware or sigillata, the so-called Sagalassos Red Slip Ware (SRSW). The potters' workshops associated with this ware have been discovered in the eastern parts of the ancient city (Eastern Suburbium) and were active from around the start of our era until the mid. 6th c. CE. Pottery was already locally produced since Late Achaemenid times, and SRSW would remain in production until at least the end of the 7th c. CE, albeit at other locations. Important questions remain regarding the tableware production in the region of Sagalassos in the long-term. How did SRSW emerge and how did it relate to the pre-existing Hellenistic tradition of slipped pottery in the region and Anatolia in general? Is there a chronological change in the procurement of raw materials over time? How was the production organised, especially before and after the mass production of SRSW?

Building on the previous archaeometric research on ceramics from Sagalassos, this study aims to answer these research questions by reconstructing ceramic production organisation and craft technology at Sagalassos within a *longue durée* interpretative framework. For this purpose, a large number of ceramic samples (n=178) dating to different chronological phases have been selected for archaeometric analyses. In this paper, we will present the first results of the petrographic and geochemical analyses of more than 100 samples. The results of this study demonstrate the importance of the analytical examination of pottery in a *longue durée* perspective in order to reconstruct continuities and discontinuities in ceramic traditions, and better understand the sociocultural dynamics that are constantly changing over time.

Nuragic Landscape of Sant' Antioco, Southern Sardinia: Seeing, hearing, and questions of appropriation

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The focus of our research projects is Bronze Age Sardinia, famous for its dry-stone buildings and megalithic architecture. Since 2017 the region of the Cannai plain in southern Sant' Antioco is being investigated by a team from the University of Bochum in cooperation with local association "Il Calderone ARCI", this sets the frame for the two phd-projects presented in this paper.

The islet of Sant' Antioco in the south-west of Sardinia is well-known for its Phoenician and Punic heritage at the harbour town of Sulki, whose importance within a wider Mediterranean network has been profoundly assessed through research of the last decades. In comparison, our knowledge about earlier periods is still extremely superficial, although the amount of Nuragic monuments is comparatively high.

Through the use of Geoinformation-Systems we aim to answer questions regarding the perception of the landscape as well as possible interactions between the Bronze Age population, the monuments and the landscape, through visual and acoustic analysis in addition to traditional documentation of archaeological remains. This approach is complemented by material analysis, focused on Nuragic pottery production. The identification of the raw materials used, and their potential location helps to integrate the daily activities into the visual and acoustic sphere to create a holistic approach.

Landscape Management, Environment, and Cultural Associations in Greece and Cyprus during the 1st millennium BCE: Evidence from wood charcoal

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The following phd study involves the exploration of archaeobotanical materials, focusing on wood charcoal, collected from Greece and Cyprus. More specifically, from the sites of Sikyon, Corinth, Athenian Agora, Nikoleika, and Krania in Greece along with Pafos, Amathous, Nicosia (PASYDY), Limassol (rescue excavation) and Dhali in Cyprus, all samples spanning throughout the whole duration of the 1st millennium BCE. The anthracological analysis of these samples will be completed by identifying wood species through their anatomical characteristics and establishing woodland assemblages, which will shed light on environmental reconstruction, landscape management and past climatic alterations, and any consequences they may have had on human societies and their practices through the 1st millennium BCE in the Eastern Mediterranean. Archaeobotanical studies focusing on the 1st millennium BCE in the eastern Mediterranean are scarce, more precisely, there is a clear absence of wood charcoal investigations in the region during this period. The region of the eastern Mediterranean has been the focus for many prominent and multifaceted societies in the past millennia and therefore, it is a location of vast archaeological interest. Over the past decades there has been a growing emphasis on the study of archaeobotanical materials in archaeological contexts with emphasis on agropastoral practices, food economies and culture. In addition, continuous emphasis is given on the impacts of human activity on the environment and vice versa. This study aims at investigating the transition of woodland and flora composition in both spatial and temporal scales across Greece and Cyprus during the 1st millennium BCE.

Egyptian Blue Production: An overview of archaeological evidence and technical ceramics involved

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One of the first artificially produced inorganic pigments, Egyptian blue was an important part of the ancient artistic palette. This material had broad geography of use and an even broader range of applications, being used not only as a pigment but also for producing small objects (beads, scarabs, inlays, etc) and mosaic tesserae. This presentation aims to provide an overview of Egyptian blue production sites and processing workshops and discuss some aspects of its production with the main focus on technical ceramics. Egyptian blue crucibles from Qantir and Memphis will be presented and the first insights into their chemical composition and overall design will be provided.

Decoding the Rural Landscape of Late Antique Cyprus: A GIS approach

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During the past two decades archaeological research on Late Antique Cyprus, has shifted from the study of urban centres and monumental urban structures to the rural landscape of the island in Late Antiquity. Many archaeological surveys emerged, identifying numerous rural sites, revealing a 'busy countryside' throughout the period. Despite this turn in research and the significant number of published archaeological surveys and excavations, there is still a gap in archaeological research. The excavation and survey data identified in urban and rural contexts are mainly quantified and interpreted separately and rarely evaluated as integral elements of a common framework, the social and economic landscape of Late Antique Cyprus.

The corpus of published and unpublished archaeological material identified is enormous, however, a comprehensive study and interpretation of the remains in their historical, social, cultural, economic and environmental context is still missing. This thesis approaches Late Antique sites in terms of their spatial distribution in the periphery of the urban centres in an attempt to interpret their role in the social, economic, administrative and religious (where applicable) landscape of Late Antique Cyprus.

The overall objective of this thesis is to identify the socioeconomic role and function of rural sites located in the chorae of urban centres, propose possible site hierarchies and webs of interconnected rural sites and their functions within wider rural-urban settlement networks on the island and the empire.

Rural Settlement Dynamics in Medieval Cyprus

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The dynamic landscape of Cyprus constituted the ground of many diverse civilizations since antiquity. Following the conquest of king Richard, the Lionheart, Latin hegemony was established in the island, which included the implementation of feudal system imposed on the locals. Fieldwork in the wider region of the modern villages of Denia and Akaki (Nicosia District) has focused on the reconstruction of the settlement pattern through the analysis of surface ceramics, the available architectural material and historical records. In this context, additional archaeological data from neighboring regions will be discussed.

Cypriot Medieval Tomb Monuments: From religious piety to their musealisation and their introduction to the digital Age

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The medieval tombstones constitute an integral component of the Cypriot cultural heritage. The quantity of material that has survived is impressive, making Cypriot funerary sculpture a witness to the historical changes that took place on the island. In this paper, I will try to highlight the history of these monuments from the Lusignan period until today. I will present the functions of these artworks in the different historical phases of the island (from the Lusignan period to that of the Venetians, the Ottomans, the British, and the Cypriots after independence) and how these different rulers treated them. We will take a “journey” through the European cultural imagery, covering a time span of about eight hundred years (13th–21st century). The funerary slabs inform us about the history of the island and its political transitions in the medieval years. They reveal to us aspects of the religious and social life of Cypriot society. They constitute powerful evidence of the phenomena of desecration prevalent in early modern Europe, but also of the religious changes taking place in the eastern Mediterranean area during this period. They organically participated in the colonial struggles of the European Powers during the 19th and 20th centuries. Thus, the slabs were transformed from works of piety into tools of political and cultural interest, ending up from churches to museums. The final stage in the journey of the existence of these objects is a digital project, carried out in the framework of the research programme netmar. Thus, the paper concludes with the presentation of dimecy, a project that aims both to reconnect these monuments, which are now museum exhibits (mainly at the Cyprus Medieval Museum), with the places where they originated (medieval churches), and to better acquaint and inform the visitors of the Museum about the cultural heritage of Cyprus.

Ceramic Technologies of the Late Bronze Age in Cyprus: A technological, compositional, and experimental archaeological investigation of utilitarian pottery from Enkomi and Aghios Sozomenos

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The aim of this research is to characterise local ceramic production at two important Late Bronze Age sites on Cyprus, i.e., Enkomi and Aghios Sozomenos. This is essentially a technological and intra-regional investigation into the raw materials used to produce Plain White and Red/Black Slip ware from the Late Cypriot I-IIB period, c. 1650-1450 BCE. Moreover, it will place emphasis on the understudied Late Cypriot IIA-B period, as well as trace the impact of the potter's wheel diachronically. To accomplish this, it will combine technological and compositional analyses of ceramic samples, using ceramic petrography, scanning electron microscopy, and handheld X-ray fluorescence spectroscopy, with a morphological study of the site assemblages, and a comparative study of sediment samples from the Gialias and Alykos river valleys. It will also incorporate experimental archaeology for the replication and testing of technological observations made on the archaeological ceramics. By focusing on the earlier stages of the chaîne opératoire (raw material selection and processing), it will explore the role of the environment and of evolving potting technologies, such as the introduction of the wheel, for the production of ceramics at the two Late Cypriot communities. The overall project will be presented including its methods, research questions, sampling strategy, and the importance of the research to the wider debate.

The Dispersal of Etruscan Votive Bronze Figurines Around the World: A ‘re-assemblage’ of the museum collections to shed light on the human-object relationship

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Museum collections are material and social assemblages which represent connections and continue to have agency in the present. Therefore, reconstructing histories of collections, also known as ‘re-assemblage’, become fundamental in the uncovering of ongoing social relations which are always mediated by material things. The re-assemblage should be carried out in order to re-contextualise and decolonise archaeology. The focus of the paper will be the Etruscan votive bronze figurines and the ways in which they were collected, their dispersal, and their exhibition history; this will show the influences of modern colonial discourse on their lives and their agency in perpetuating symbols. The figurines will be mostly seen as an assemblage rather than as individual objects, as the purpose of the paper is the uncovering of the generalisation and categorisation of Etruscan symbols in ancient times and pre-Roman heritage as a group in modern times. Alongside this, the concepts of object biography and itinerary, as well as an anthropological approach to object agency will be used to display the dispersal of the figurines around the world. The results will reveal some patterns in the world dispersal of the figurines and the significant role of modern colonialism discourse in shaping the interpretation and reception of them in the last centuries. In particular, the paper shows how the figurines maintain their agency throughout their lives, but are charged with new symbols and meanings. There is therefore a two-way relationship between people and objects, where both parts shape the other.

A Holistic Approach to the Study of Cooking Ware from Toumba Thessalonikis, from the Late Bronze Age to the Early Iron Age

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Recent archaeological research carried out in central Macedonia during the last decades have provided significant new data for the study of past communities in the Northern Aegean during the transition from the Late Bronze Age (LBA) to the Early Iron Age (EIA). In this framework, our project aims to undertake a diachronic and regional study of cooking pottery during this period, in order to shed light on everyday life practices and their reproduction through time and across space. The ultimate objective will be to discuss such data in the context of the intense mobility and interaction attested in the region with other Aegean and Balkan communities during the so-called Mycenaean period through to the time of the first Greek colonies, resulting in significant socio-cultural and economic transformations.

The project aims to study cooking ware through a holistic approach. The goal is to understand this type of pottery in its entirety by combining a variety of methods targeting different facets through which the vessel 'has lived'. The site of Toumba Thessaloniki, dated to the late 2nd and early 1st millennium B.C., offers good conditions for a typological, functional and technological study of cooking pots, allowing us to understand not only how and where the cooking pots were manufactured through the study of the *chaînes opératoires* and the fabric composition, but also their repertoire and the way they were used by examining their shape and use-wear but also analysing organic residues. Only by integrating these different strands can the biography and the practices related to this type of vessel can be truly understood. The current contribution will present the aims and methodology of the project as well as the preliminary results obtained through the macroscopic study and evaluation of existing scientific data.

Open-search Proteomics for the Identification of Proteins and the Quantification of Deamidation in Ceramics

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Palaeoproteomics uses mass spectrometry to sequence and identify ancient proteins in different tissues, organic and inorganic substrates. The identification of proteins in ceramics is limited to a small number of successful studies. The preservation of proteins in ceramics and the possible presence of modern contaminants are the main issues. Protein contaminants in ceramic samples include the modern versions of those aimed to be identified in the samples, which are commonly used in molecular biology laboratories such as milk or blood proteins. Food proteins can also be a source of contamination, as well as cross-contamination from other samples.

Mass spectrometry and palaeoproteomics can also identify post-translational modifications in proteins (ptms). Some of these modifications give proteins the properties necessary for them to perform their functions. Some other modifications occur after deposition in a degradation process and accumulate over time. Glutamine and asparagine deamidation has been proposed as a way to distinguish truly ancient proteins (deamidated) from modern contaminants (intact) and validate their authenticity. Often, a high percentage of spectra remain unidentified and cannot be matched to any peptide sequence. This is due to unaccounted ptms. In this study, I develop a framework for the quantification of ptms from proteins recovered from ceramics aiming at the authentication of ancient proteins. I use open search proteomic software to identify peptide sequences and their possible ptms, which to this date are not widespread in Palaeoproteomics. The open search aims to identify more ptms and improve the identification rate. They are modular, and downstream analysis are easily plugged in. To this date their use is not so widespread in palaeoproteomics. I developed an algorithm that can calculate glutamine and asparagine deamidation from the output produced by this software and analyze published data on proteins recovered from ceramic from the Eastern Mediterranean and Middle Eastern.

Settlement Evolution and Land-Use in Western Achaia: Testing the Frankish period dynamics

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My research project, in the framework of my PhD dissertation, examines the settlement evolution in the area of Patras (western Greece) from the Late Antiquity till the end of the 19th century, aiming to investigate the factors that caused boom and bust cycles in the course of the time. Drawing on the surface survey of the western Achaia as its starting point and through the application of Landscape Archaeology methods and approaches, I will explore how local communities interact with their environment and respond to the historical developments.

In this presentation, I will focus on the Frankish period (1205-1460). I will try to show how the formation of peripheral centres that gained power, after the dissolution of the Byzantine Empire, stimulated, in some instances, the emergence of new settlements and, in others, gradual settlement relocation and revival. Fief as the local administrative unit and its castle as the centre of power, harvest store and tax collection contributed to the re-organisation of the countryside. Discussion on the topic will proceed by combining the results of archaeological surface survey, spatial analysis and historical records, including the early Ottoman registers, on the level of the barony and that of a fief. It seems that complex and long-term processes have shaped the landscape and have left traces, both tangible and intangible

Plasters and Mortars from the Hellenistic Theatre in Nea Paphos: Preliminary results

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This contribution aims at presenting the first preliminary results of the analytical work conducted on plaster and mortar samples collected from the Hellenistic Theatre in Nea Paphos. A set of analysis – including petrography, x-ray fluorescence and diffraction, and thermal analysis – was carried out in order to assess the composition of the selected materials, and to trace out eventual diachronic and synchronic evolutions in the plaster technologies employed for the construction, furnishing and aesthetic decoration of this relevant public building. The chronological frame of the study spans from the Hellenistic period, foundation horizon for the construction of the first stage, to the II century AD, roughly after the Antonine reconstruction phase.

From Macro to Micro: Mortars from the Roman baths at the site of Sagalassos

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Since antiquity, mortars played an important role in building and construction. Archaeological excavations at the site of Sagalassos showed that architectural remains were well-preserved, revealing abundant mortar evidence. Few archaeometric studies have investigated Sagalassian mortars (Viaene et al., 1997). These analyses were mainly developed in view of conservation efforts because these structural remains are completely exposed to the elements (Degryse et al., 2002; Ergenç et al., 2022). This research offers a novel perspective as its main aim is to reconstruct the chaîne opératoire of mortars at Sagalassos during the Roman Imperial Period, thus trying to provide a better understanding of the techniques and the organization of mortar production. For a pilot study, more than 10 specimens were selected from buildings within the Roman Baths, dating from around the 2nd century AD until the 5th and 6th centuries AD (Waelkens, 2018). The methodology mainly comprises macroscopic and thinsection examination. Despite being able to provide a range of different information, these two approaches are often carried out without a consistent and comprehensive descriptive procedure. These attitudes mean that important details about manufacture can be lost, making it difficult for other researchers to realise what the artefacts under examination look like. Here, we propose a systematic way to approach these qualitative analyses at both the macroscopic and microscopic level. This in-depth qualitative examination provided several findings, such as the lime-based binder nature, dry slaking practice and aggregates variability in terms of raw materials and concentration. These initial insights on processing will be further explained in terms of function and according to the short diachronic perspective, between 2nd and 6th centuries AD. Future directions, samples and methods that are planned to be incorporated in this research will be presented.¹

¹ References:

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Interpreting the Use of Fruit Trees During the Pre-Pottery Neolithic Cyprus: A correlation of the archaeobotanical and ethnobotanical data

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Wild and domesticated fruit remains are common finds among the archaeobotanical material preserved in various Pre-Pottery Neolithic sites in Cyprus, underlying their importance in everyday life of past human societies. Their status and role in human alimentation were strongly correlated in one part to the availability of species in the exploited environments, as well as to the eating choices and agricultural practices. This article deals with the exploitation of fruit trees in Neolithic Cyprus, with a diachronic view through the Pre-Pottery Neolithic (ca. 10th millennium-5500 BCE) and with a special focus on the Late Aceramic Neolithic (or Khirokitian culture). New archaeobotanical evidence (seed, fruit, charcoal) from Ayios Tychonas-Klimonas (ca. 9500 BCE), Parekklishia-Shillourokambos (8200-7500 BCE) and Khirokitia-Vounoi (7500-5500 BCE) correlated to ethnobotanical data contribute to the analysis of the role and the interpretation of the use of several fruit species, such as pistachio, fig tree, olive tree, in human alimentation and everyday life.

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The Economic Centres of East Crete Through the Study of Utilitarian Pottery During the Neopalatial period

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Major purpose of this paper is to contribute on a synthetic overview of the economic/trade roads of East Crete. Utilitarian pottery is a misunderstood category from which, in this paper, new outcomes would be proposed and they may be viewed under a new perspective. Studies, so far, have dealt with difficulties related, but not limited, to poor conservation of this group, as well as the poor petrographic analysis in a lot of sites of this periphery. Nevertheless, this work will focus mainly on analysing existing petrographic studies, in conjunction with visual examination studies, where available. This fact would allow to understand the major and minor centres that trade pottery, and are conducting an important role, correlating with the social and economic life of the palaces. The existence of workshops which are located around a big centre, as well as the belief of the relative autonomy of the smaller ones, is a matter of examination for the East Crete. It is suggested that their autonomy may not be as it is thought to be, and that, if this happens, it might occur through specialization of production of utilitarian pottery and their distribution in other sites. Regardless of all these, new petrographic analysis should be done and smaller sites should be viewed; which might be useful to be understood in relation to palaces.

The Necropoleis of Amathous: Mortuary topography, funerary architecture and burial practices during the first millennium B.C.

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The study of the mortuary topography, the tomb typology and the burial practices of ancient Amathous has been my phd thesis topic, completed in 2022. The analysis of the funerary topography focuses on the spatial organization and extend of the three necropoleis diachronically. The spatial organization and extend of each necropolis is examined separately for each period and the data are presented collectively and diachronically in order to obtain a clear picture of the gradual development of the three burial grounds.

The study and analysis of the data collected during the review of the literature and the study of the unpublished archival and archaeological material resulted in the typological classification of the tombs, with six main tomb types and in the examination of each type within a spatial and chronological context. The emergence of specific types of graves at Amathous and their use have been analyzed in relation to parallel data from other sides of the island.

The funerary practices and the burial customs constitute an integral part of the study of the funerary monuments. The reconstruction of the burial process and the funerary practices performed at Amathous was attempted through the analysis of the available published and unpublished excavation material.

The synthesis of the data from the study of the mortuary topography and the funerary architecture lead to some important conclusions especially related to the early phases of the history of Amathous. Taking into consideration the location, the architecture and the rich burial assemblages of the earliest tombs I seek to provide answers with respect to the foundation of Amathous. The early stages of the development of an urban structure, which led to the formation of the capital of one of the independent polities of the island, are traced in the funerary material, tomb architecture and funerary topography.

Byzantine Art in Venetian Crete: The case of Hagioi Apostoloi church at Kavousi

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Due to the numerous small churches towards the Cretan countryside that have arisen from the Venetian Occupation, Byzantine art in Crete is well renowned (1211- 1669). The vast majority of instances remain unpublished today. The current announcement focuses as a case study on the church of Hagioi Apostoloi at Kavousi. The church, covered by a tiled gable roof, has at least two superimposed layers of wall paintings while we could witness a dedicatory portrait and engravings. This paper aims to shed light on the architecture and iconographical program of Hagioi Apostoloi and investigate the religious artistic milieu in eastern Crete during the 15th century.

Wayfaring in Late Cypriot Communities: Houses and households

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During the last decades, a large number of Late Cypriot sites have been excavated. Several of them have been fully published, while others are known through preliminary reports. These sites are chronologically distributed to altering periods of prosperity, of integration in the “international” trading network, as well as of undeniable island-wide politico-economic upheavals. However, a comprehensive analysis of Late Cypriot settlements is still lacking. Dwellings, the basic cells of any settlement, feature three dimensions: a) the material dimension, namely the form of the house and the building materials and techniques employed to construct it; b) the economic dimension, namely the use of domestic space that transforms a static architectural unit into a dynamic household; and c) the social dimension, namely the identity and organization of the social group housed in each dwelling. This presentation aims to trace house and household types of the Late Bronze Age through the examination of indicative case studies, such as Episkopi-Phaneromeni, Toumba tou Skourou and Alassa; settlements located in distinct topographic settings. A contextual bottom-up approach to houses from these settlements includes key questions such as the recognition of individual houses and household units, the degree of their architectural and economic independence and the similarities and differences between such units in the same or different sites. Additionally, the examination of houses and households may allow a discussion on the fluidity or solidity of intra-house social bonds in Cyprus during this period.

Archaeobotany, a Key Proxy for Tracing Daily Life: the case of Sikyon (4th century BCE, Greece)

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Recent excavations (2017-201) at Ancient Sikyon at the northeastern Peloponnese brought to light Classical- early Hellenistic structures associated with the city core of the polis of Sikyon. Besides 'traditional' archaeological approaches this project employs Archaeobotany which is not commonly applied in the archaeological excavations of the 1st millennium BCE Aegean. Archaeobotany which mainly aims to illustrate the interaction of human and plants and highlight human behavior is used as a window to reconstruct past agricultural regimes and dietary habits. Various proxies such as macrobotanical analysis of carbonized seeds, study of invisible starch granules, geometric morphometric analysis of olive stones and scanning electron microscope analysis are used in order to better understand the role of cultivars in the region, agricultural practices, culinary preferences, and dietary habits. Most importantly, however, the present paper stresses the need of applying interdisciplinary analyses on regional and interioregional levels, in order to illuminate aspects of the daily life of archaeological sites.

A Shot in the Dark: Cooking pots as indicators of resilience and change in early medieval Cyprus

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The early mediaeval centuries in the Eastern Mediterranean region always stood as a mystery to research -and more so to Byzantinists. An often-called Dark Age, this "faded memory" perhaps to our collective historical narratives, is a period of determining changes to the status quo in the region; a funnel of brutal events and reflex responses that transformed reality from the booming world of Late Antique to the more austere (sic) Mediaeval times. One of the few places where this transition is illustrated vividly is the island of Cyprus, a "buffer zone" between two antagonising worlds. From the late 7th century until the mid-10th century (965 CE), Cyprus suffered a "condominium" -a treaty, more correctly- between the newly-founded Umayyad Caliphate and the Byzantine Empire.

Despite the plurality of events that stroke the island, our perception of those years is surprisingly sketchy and well-established narratives are persistently holding us back from examining this period for what it was, free from subjectivity and biases. Until recently, even the aspect of material culture most accessible and trusted for reflecting on past societies, pottery, failed to do so, remaining non-easily identifiable to research. Fortunately, more and more studies focusing on this period provide us with material that -already- starts to tell a different story. This presentation offers some preliminary results of my ongoing phd research and aims to shift the focus on a humble but crucial piece of pottery, cooking vessels, from four early-mediaeval sites in Cyprus. Through the application of ceramic petrography, the goal is to explore the ceramic technology found in this period, trace possible patterns of fabric variability and ultimately reveal aspects of pottery production in early mediaeval Cyprus.

Transcultural Routes of Communication Between Cyclades and Crete During the Early Bronze Age

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The intensification of contacts between Cyclades and Crete during the Early Bronze Age led to the creation of a space in the wider region of the southern Aegean, where various cultural traits were communicated and exchanged. The transcultural character of these contacts is mostly attested by the influence of the Cyclades on Crete, since only a few objects deriving from Crete have been found in the Cyclades. The imports and then the local copies manufactured on Crete argue for a selective adoption and adaption of different off-island ideas while using local technological skills and processes of production. Although the distance and the routes of communication are not the ones determining the character of the relations between different regions, however, they must have had an impact on aspects of perception and integration of non-local objects and ideas. More specifically, distant regions on Crete, which would not have a direct access to the Cyclades, for example the communities in the Mesara and the Asterousia Mountains, probably had a limited knowledge of their original place of origin.

A Proposal for a New Iconographic Interpretation of the Fresco in the Church of Saints Peter and Paul in Famagusta

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The iconographic identification of the painting depicting a group of men, preserved in the Church of Saints Peter and Paul in Famagusta, seems to be a questionable issue. Although all researchers who have been studying the painting so far have interpreted this fresco as a representation of the Holy Forty Martyrs of Sebaste, it cannot be ruled out that the partially preserved scene may have been a fragment of a larger composition with a completely different iconography.

It seems probable that the fresco from Famagusta can be interpreted as a fragment of the Torments of the Damned scene, which is a part of the unpreserved composition of the Last Judgment, which once adorned the walls of the church. This identification of the painting is backed by the religious affiliation of the Church of Saints Peter and Paul, which most likely belonged to the Latin or Nestorian rite. Presumably, the church also had funerary functions, which would additionally support the interpretation of the painting as a part of the Last Judgment scene.

Furthermore, in the Famagusta fresco one can observe iconographic similarities with other paintings showing the Torments of the Damned scene, which were made in the Late Byzantine period. This can be evidenced by the comparisons with the frescoes, among others in the parekklesion of the Chora Monastery in Constantinople, as well as in churches from the territory of the Kingdom of Serbia (i. A. Church of Dečani Monastery) or even from Cyprus (i. A. Narthex of the Church of Panagia Phorbiotissa at Asinou).

Putting Ancient Egyptian Plaster in its Place: The case of study of Pakepu's coffin set

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The term 'plaster' is ubiquitous in Egyptological literature: it is a key component of cartonnage, for casting, gap-filling and modelling, and as a substrate for painting and gilding. There has been some study of 'plaster' in architectural contexts, but detailed examination, analysis and description of its use on objects is very limited. Its potential to contribute to object context and provenance studies remains largely unexplored. The word 'plaster' is, also, loosely applied to technology and chemistry that include both true plasters (made from lime and gypsum cements) and mud, calcium carbonate- and calcium sulphate-based pastes mixed with a variety of organic binding media, or a combination of all these materials

In this study, we will try to understand the nature of these pastes present in the pseudocartonnage in the coffin set of Pakepu, from Thebes, from the Third Intermediate Period. The main topics will be:

- Analysis of the different pastes present in the pseudo-cartonnage, to determine their precise chemical composition and the methodology for their preparation.
- Analysis of the "pink paste" that was not thoroughly defined in the preliminary studies
- Comparison with coffin fragments in the Fitzwilliam collection, that are from the same period and area and have a similar complex surface, to evaluate if there is consistency in the technical approach.
- Evaluation of composition of fibrous glue which has been observed on many Egyptian artefacts, but not investigated previously.

To do this, mostly non-invasive and non-destructive techniques, as OM, SEM and XRF, will be employed. To acquire a better understanding, some samples will be analysed with destructive techniques, as FTIR. Moreover, to evaluate the binders and the unique nature of the fibrous glue, paleoproteomic techniques will be employed.

Icons Within Icons: The method of insertion as a visual indicator of images' age and status

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This paper focuses on a group of icons called composite icons (σύνθετες εικόνες) – first categorized by Panagiotis Vokotopoulos as Byzantine and Post-Byzantine icons consisting of two separate panels in which a smaller, and usually older, icon is inserted into a larger one. This unusual method of re-use by insertion creates a hierarchy of form and space within one piece of art. Two panels are very often deliberately visually separated by internal frames or a differentiation of materials – this visual rhetoric, underlining the older age of the inset, legitimizes its special status as a miraculous image or as a relic of the past.

This paper presents a group of Cypriot composite icons from the 16th century and focuses on rare examples that are in fact just single panels with carvings that are supposed to imitate insertions. It seems that creating the impression that the central image is a separate and supposedly older panel was applied in order to raise the status of the icon and thus – the status of its owner. Since some of the composite icons still function in the liturgical context, I would like to answer not only why they were created, but also how they are still used and what is the role of this unusual form in the creation of a shared identity of various communities by giving their members the feeling of connection to the past.

POSTER ABSTRACTS

The Role of Classical Architectural Design in Conveying Meaning: Reflections on the architectural buildings in Nicosia

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MISSION STATEMENT

Throughout history, classical architecture has conveyed meaning through the design, has embodied meaningful symbolic and different meanings such as religion, society, nature, economy (Norberg-Schulz, 1980, 5). Moreover, the cultural conceptions give meaning to architecture. To clarify, we can see the symbolic meaning in architecture is clear in the design of the Pantheon, where the Romans imagined the earth as a disk covered by a heavenly dome (Roth, 1993, 224). Through the ages, the analysis of the Greek temple architecture has remained a dominant element in the study of the classical world (Snodgrass 2007: 23). Thus, the research is aimed to achieve a better insight into promoting and preserving the practice, and the significant of understanding of the practical aspects of classical design. The study is analysing both meaning and architectural design together to the architectural buildings in Nicosia, how the architectural structures function as symbols of past, present, and future, and how variations in design were used to convey meaning, that the differences in temple design should be understood as having significance and meaning first of all. Consequently, this study demonstrates the need for further discussion into the meaning behind architectural differences, an important and revealing area that has been overlooked in previous studies. It will examine also the changes in many architectural elements also changed in use and meaning. For instance, the origins of the column in Greek architecture were originally developed to support the roof. As for Renaissance, it was used to support the floor (Alberti, 1988, 25).

THE RESOURCES

This research describes aspects related to classical architecture, design, and symbolic meaning. This is done in terms of archaeological, literary evidence and archaeological field visits, first-hand interviews, informal discussions. As supporting materials, I shall use different types of data such as drawings, catalogues, models, texts, and built

structures. The methodology of this study is its interdisciplinary design in Architecture, World Heritage, History of Art, Classics.

THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE RESEARCH

The contributions of the work are to revisiting the issue of the relationship between classic architectural design and the meaning as a function; in the light of a new reading of the architectural buildings in Nicosia. I have chosen the city of Aswan as a geographical framework, as there have been little researches done on the subject, did not precisely any comprehensive study, which is aimed to achieve a better insight into the understanding of classical design as a worldwide phenomenon. It's being perhaps one of the most rewarding topics in the field of classical architecture research today.

Zoomorphic Appliqués on Ceramic Vessels from LBA in Western Anatolia

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Western Anatolia of the Late Bronze Age is commonly defined a world between worlds. It is an area geographically separated from its neighbourhoods by the Aegean Sea on the West and high mountains ridges on the East. During the second millennium BC., this region, characterized by its own development and customs, is embedded in two spheres of influence of two important cultural circles: Mycenaean and Hittite. Moreover, there are contacts with the whole eastern Mediterranean and Balkans on the North. In this rich context, zoomorphic appliqués and handles started to appear on ceramic vessels. In mostly cases they belong to table ware but also to vessels of different kind. The analytic study of the zoomorphic appliqués still suffers from a lack of academic interest as a category itself. These features of vessels have never been compared yet to ones found in other sites and taken as a possible hint to read material culture. It is even stranger when we look at the appearance of this phenomenon in many important sites of Western Anatolia where we can trace many similarities but also differences. Animal representations were found also in other regions which were in contact with Western Anatolia but were never compared. The aim of this brief presentation, thus, is to propose a preliminary stage of a complete and comparative examination of this material. This research could offer us a concrete potential help in our attempts to better understand the development of the material culture both in the region of Western Anatolia and the cultural transfers in the other regions during the Bronze Age.

Travelling as a Woman in Late Antiquity: Honour, disguise, and pilgrimage

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In modern historiography, the subject of how people travelled from one place to another is so ubiquitous that it was frequently overlooked. Recent attention on the female travellers, sailors, pirates, and military nurses of various eras has focused on their lives and experiences, but never about the mechanisms of their literal travels. Nonetheless, the emphasis on the women's overall experiences allowed historians and archaeologists to refocus their attention to the late antiquity and inquire about how ancient women travelled through ships.

Following the same question and investigating ancient women such as prostitutes, empresses, and holy women, the study will examine the motivations for women's travels and the means by which they accomplished it on sea. In late antiquity, it was inconceivable for a woman to travel alone; in order to travel, women disguised themselves as men or became ascetics. Recognizing the difficulties of locating textual evidence when the majority of women were either illiterate or not members of high society, the findings will concentrate mostly on hagiography and the appearances of these women in other works.

The Byzantine Landscape of Samos

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It is an equivocal fact that Samos's greatest time of power and wealth was in antiquity. What it is not generally known, however, is that even in the medieval times the island was one of the most important for the maritime administration of the Byzantine Empire. Its strategical geographical position was reason enough for the creation of a military base, a *θέμα*, by the late 9th century. The island remained as a military thema up until the early 13th century when the sack of Constantinople in 1204 dissolved any organization in the empire. Samos became a dominion of the Latin emperor of Constantinople and for the next two centuries was under the successive jurisdiction of Venetians, Byzantines and Genoese until finally the Ottomans annexed the island into their empire.

The military landscape of the island is well testified by the number of forts laying on every suitable summit or hilltop. Large or small, military or habitual, these defensive constructions create a network that covers the whole range of the island and corresponds, as it seems, with other fortifications on neighbouring islands like Ikaria.

However, the military landscape is not the only one that the Byzantines have to offer. Monasteries scattered across the island represent the religious landscape of Samos which seems also important. The majority of the monasteries are being studied for the first time providing interesting information about the religious life of the Byzantine Samians.

Finally, there is the landscape of settlements. They are found on the coasts, up on the mountains or on the plains of the island presenting a vibrant, mainly rural, society. Even though after the 7th century the sea represented danger, the Samians, as islanders elsewhere, chose to continue life on their island and eventually managed to thrive.

Experimental Research on Panagia Astathkiotissa and Panagia Kophinou Churches

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The medieval churches of Panagia Astathkiotissa (Agios Theodoros) and Panagia (Kophinou) are located in the Xeros River valley in the Larnaca administrative district. Undoubtedly, these ecclesiastical monuments comprise part of the rich cultural landscape of Cyprus, they are associated with dramatic moments of the island's modern history, and are inextricably linked to people's memory of the country's recent past, having been located in an area that became the epicentre of bi-communal hostilities during the years 1963-1964. The two churches have suffered the consequences of the political and religious confrontation between Turkish-Cypriots and Greek-Cypriots. This paper summarises aspects of the research undertaken in the framework of the research project "Unlocking the Sacred Landscapes of Cyprus" (UNSALA-CY), a collaboration between the Archaeological Research Unit and the Department of Psychology of the University of Cyprus, and the Department of Classics of Trinity College Dublin. By employing Virtual Reality technology, we conducted an empirical experiment to assess participants' perceptions and record their physiological reactions to the natural and purposeful destruction of the fresco decoration in the two churches.

Contextualising Commercial Activity in the Agoras of the Macedonian Territory: The cases of Pella and Thessaloniki

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The Agoras in the antiquity played a significant role in the society. They were considered as the “heart” of the city. They were public, organized places circulated by various buildings in the center of the city. Of utmost importance is the fact that the complex of the Agoras had a profound commercial, productive, social and administrative character consisting of shops, workshops, administration offices as well as the repository of the city’s historical records. Over the last few decades, archaeological research in the Northern part of Greece, and more specifically within the Macedonian territory, has brought to light an impressive amount of significant archaeological evidence. Examination of the archaeological data through a contextual approach can easily offer a new perspective of interpreting and reconstructing the activities and the way of life at the Hellenistic and Roman Macedonia. The present paper aims to present the trading activities in the agoras of Pella and Thessaloniki through a comprehensive analysis of archaeological evidence in the cities during the Hellenistic and Roman period. Although Pella was the capital of the Macedonian Kingdom, the city of Thessaloniki as well as other Macedonian cities had a profound commercial character.

City Planning of Pergamon During Hellenistic period

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This work has the purpose to study the city planning of Pergamon during her most important period, the Hellenistic period. In the Hellenistic era, this very important kingdom is a typical example of the grandeur and the glory of its kings, the dynasty of Attalids.

The politic, administrative and religious center of Pergamon is located over the hulking hill of the acropolis. The public and religious buildings, the royal palaces, the altar of Zeus, the sanctuary of Athena, the fortification, the theater, organized in staggered levels, constituted a unique monumental group. Combining a monumental architecture and benefiting from the difficulties of the landscape, an optical unity is achieved that sets Pergamon among the top Hellenistic cities.

This work starts with the examination of the Hellenistic city and architecture in general. Then, the story of the Hellenistic city of Pergamon and the chronicle of the excavations that were carried out, as well the description of the geographic frame of the city is presented. A short reference to the preellenistic phase of the city is followed by a summary examination of the structure of the city during Hellenistic era and then by an individual analysis of the parts. The chapter of the individual analysis of the parts of the city constitutes the main sector of the research conducted. Consequently, the roman phase of the city is briefly mentioned and the study is completed with the presentation of the conclusions, where the choice of the specific city planning is justified.

Tools for Firing: The use of kilns' spacers in the Iron Age northern Italy

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Production activities hold a crucial role in comprehension of ancient societies. Therefore, the aim of my research is to investigate the entangled relationship between manufactures and society in the Iron Age Northern Italy, by looking at the technological innovations and cultural transfer, mainly in the sphere of pottery production.

Whilst the ongoing research is still in process, in this talk, an inquiry of firing tools is going to be presented; in particular, the attention will be dedicated to the spacers (or flames diverter), a neglected but fundamental class of materials whose use is still not completely clear. Several individuals, mainly coming from main production sites of Emilia-Romagna and Veneto of the middle Iron Age will be presented and critically analysed, by pointing out the main characteristics of these objects, the features of the workshops where they are from and the possible explications of their utility. Special attention will be given to a critical comparison among the Northern Italy spacers, trying to discuss and redefine a functional typology of them.

The main aim of the research is to shed a light on pottery production technologies developed and adapted during the Iron Age, trying to understand the dynamics between them and the final products.

Imagining the Disappearing City: basis for the archaeological study of Late Antique, Byzantine and early Frankish Nicosia

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The purpose of this paper is to present the history and topographic study of the development of Nicosia during the Byzantine rule in Cyprus. Despite its crucial position as the capital of the island and well-documented political history, the appearance and changes within the urban tissue of Nicosia remain obscure. This *Imagining the disappearing city: basis for the archaeological study of Late Antique, Byzantine and early Frankish Nicosia* Page | 2 opens a discussion over the Nicosian identity and its existence in the past. Previous archaeological surveys which provided little information about the Byzantine history of the city are highly challenging to analyse and sometimes treated with bitter negligence. Moreover, the stratigraphic complexity of Nicosia demands a careful analysis of finds and written sources which tend to mix the facts with purely rhetorical features. This study aims to separate largely hypothetical thinking about the Late Roman cities from the historical facts and form the basis for future research, which due to insufficient information, often misleads to overhypothesising. The research focuses on the historic centre of the walled city of Nicosia, which allows a more detailed morphologic analysis of the surviving urban structures and their importance for understanding the development of the Byzantine towns, especially after the crisis of the 7th century. This study also aims to form the basis for future research on the archaeology of urban planning as well as on the theoretical perception of changes taking place inside societies living within the sphere of the Byzantine culture. What will be attempted below is to answer the following questions: is it possible to imagine a Byzantine city that is well hidden from the sight of historical records? If so, which approach should be used to determine its past? What can we say about the medieval layers of Nicosia, whilst previous studies on this matter have been almost entirely hypothetical?

The nature and extent of maritime networks in the Aegean Sea from the Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age

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The Aegean Sea's islands and islets form a contact bridge between the Cyclades (central Aegean) and Crete (southern Aegean). This stretch of sea has long enabled human coexistence and the exchange of goods and ideas; a catalyst for cultural developments in all directions.

The current paper investigates the human connections and maritime networks in the southern Aegean during the Late and Final Neolithic to Early Bronze Age I–II transition (c. 5300–2200 BC, henceforth LN/FN-EBA). It forms part of a Master thesis which attempts to gather all the available evidence and reconstruct trade networks to a certain extent. Until recently, Crete was considered cut off from the rest of the Aegean. However, new archaeological data demonstrates strong socioeconomic connections between Crete and the Cyclades during the Prepalatial period and large settlements on the north-eastern coast of Crete, which potentially served as trade ports or gateway communities to the Cycladic world (Papadatos & Tomkins, 2014; Renfrew, 2011:196). There is solid evidence in the existing literature of flowering trade in the Early Bronze Age, but only a few indications throughout the Late and Final Neolithic.

To address this gap, the research will analyse in detail the trade of material culture from three perspectives (obsidian, marble figurines, boat representations) across both regions in that period. Through this analysis, both the development of these connections and the emergence of Early Bronze Age Crete and Cycladic societies become evident. The results show that a database documenting these interactions is absent. The distinct picture of international trade discussed appears not only for economic purposes but also as a consequence of maritime interactions. To conclude, the paper will bring together the three perspectives of evidence and offer a tentative picture of Final Neolithic and Early Bronze Age maritime interactions.

How to Study and Understand ancient clothing adornment?

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Nowadays the Ancient Greek garment has almost completely disappeared. Starting from the absence of significant archaeological evidence, studies on Greek clothing are largely based on indirect sources. Despite artistic conventions, marble sculptures, vases or terracotta figurines constitute a direct testimony of fashion in Ancient Greek world.

Both masculine and feminine clothing could be highly ornate. In the Archaic period, garments are depicted with a lot of ornaments, so it is rare to find on Greek vases or terracotta figurines a dress that is entirely free from decoration. The represented patterns are varied: geometric decorations are widespread while animal or human motifs are very rare. The discoveries of Attic korai at the end of the nineteenth century are an example of the importance of polychromy in the representation of Greek garment.

Faced with this abundance of ornaments, it is necessary to find an effective methodology in order to establish a corpus that provides maximum information. This repertoire of decorative motifs also leads to other questions: How to understand and explain this ornamental wealth? Why did man feel the need to use clothing ornament? For what purpose? What social and symbolic meaning do these ornaments have?

The aim of this communication is to present a work in progress, to explain the methodological approach used and the major issues that lead my study of Adornment in Ancient Greek world.

Are Objects Agents of Civilization? The role of exotic high-status materials and objects in the Late Cypriot period (LCIA-IIIB); An exploration of materiality and identity in the context of Late Bronze Age 'globalism' in the east Mediterranean

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This paper will consider whether objects are agents of civilisation in Late Bronze Age Cyprus (1450/1300-1100/1050BC). It aims to explore the liminality and intersectionality between the material world of the elite in Late Cypriot period and the and bodily experience and expression of their culture, society, cosmology, and identity of the elite in the context of the LBA global system. Cyprus during the LBA underwent a period of material, cultural and economic transformation, particularly of the upper classes of wealthy elites who primarily derived their wealth from the production of copper, agriculture, and trade internally and with extensive links to the surrounding societies throughout the Mediterranean and the Levant. The engagement with international trade and/or exchange of exotic goods and materials is best evidenced at the Tombs of Enkomi. A large proportion of these goods represents a snapshot of the material and cultural life and death of the elites who lived and engaged in this transformative and complex period of the island's history. The material focus of this paper will touch on the extensive collection of funerary items held at British Museum vast collection of objects excavated from tombs of Enkomi, a LC planned city with a vibrant cultural and economic life. The apparent desire for precious metals such as gold, silver, and infrequently iron, which was primarily included as items of personal adornment are considered through Turner's (1980) theory of the symbolic communication via the body which acts as a physical canvass and a medium between the mental and physical world. It considers whether this symbolic communication was the cultural and cosmological glue, where power structures were contested, and perpetuated and a link formulated that enabled the network of such minds and bodies within the cultural unit, to act as an agent of change. These ideas are referred to as the Second Skin.



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