

1st MEDITARCH Postgraduate Conference

in

Greek and Eastern Mediterranean Archaeology

National and Kapodistrian University of Athens

Hybrid, 18 October 2024

School of Philosophy Library Auditorium & Online

Abstracts

<https://meditarch.arch.uoa.gr/>

<https://conferences.uoa.gr/e/meditarchcon2024>



Alcalde Pablo Garcia

Early Iron Age deathscapes: a case study of the cemeteries at Lefkandi

In this paper, a landscape analysis of Early Iron Age funerary spaces is proposed. For this purpose, the five cemeteries found in Lefkandi, Euboea, will be used as a case study. Furthermore, the methodology of Landscape Archaeology will be implemented in order to examine the relationships and impact the landscape had upon the living community of the area. As well as possible social constructions associated to the cemeteries and their surrounding landscapes. All this, in an attempt to understand the materiality of death in the Early Iron Age, in other words the perceptions that these past societies had regarding death and the dead. Some expected results are to identify a conscious use of the image and position of the dead, as well as of the cemeteries in which they were buried, by the community or, at least, some of the groups in it. Such an outcome would be related to the need to claim a disputed territory or/and to impose power and control over it. Secondly, a division of funerary spaces due to differences in status or kin, and relevance to the memory of the community is expected to be observed. As well as the identification or potential recognition of further deathscapes, which have not been considered because of their low imprint in the archaeological record.

Barrero Daniel

Seeing is Believing: Understanding Spatial Interactions and Visual Culture in Pausanias

This paper explores how Pausanias can be used as a tool in understanding spatiality and visuality in the ancient world. Contrary to previous scholarship on Pausanias, this paper will demonstrate how Pausanias can be analyzed and interpreted a work of unique, improvised ekphrasis whereby Pausanias’s intentional selection of objects and monuments “worth seeing” and his usage of active participles creates mental imagery as well as cognition of movement in the mind of the reader of what Pausanias wants the reader to see. In other words, through his literary style and approach to writing, Pausanias produces a portrayal of the Greece which he deems important to remember and record in the *Periegesis*. The text and genre of the *Periegesis* is compared to other contemporary literary works in order to discover the similarities and differences between Pausanias and his peers. Pausanias’s method and criteria is also analyzed in regards to his selection of the subject matter for his work in order to understand how his methodology was intended to function. Lastly, modern psychoanalytic theory and its effects on ekphrasis are explored in order to evaluate how they can be applied to Pausanias in order to update the perception of the text. What results is a comprehensive examination at how Pausanias blended elements of ekphrasis and real-world interactions with the sites he visited in order to project images in the mind of the audience of his iteration of the Greece worth knowing.

Bergoffen Melissa

Reading, A Female Activity?: Using NKUA Museum Lekythos 9360 & Attic Vases with Literary Iconography to Understand Ancient Literacy and the Lives of Ancient Women

Within the NKUA Museum's Martinou Collection, there is an impressive red-figure lekythos which depicts a seated female figure holding, and presumably reading, a scroll. Using comparative analysis, this vase has been attributed to the Klugmann Painter, who interestingly has two other vases listed on the Beazley Archive Pottery Database depicting female figures with scrolls and, more generally, tends to depict female figures, both mortal and immortal. However, the depiction of female figures with scrolls or other literacy items is not unique to this painter. In fact, although compared to other scene types female literacy and literacy in general is quite rare, they do happen frequently enough to open up questions concerning ancient literacy. Currently, though, most of the existing scholarship concerning ancient literacy does not focus on reading, but rather on writing and the transition from being an oral culture to a written one. The known only source that does indeed focus on reading, and more specifically female reading iconography, provides a great overview on the topic, but also has some gaps and issues, primarily concerning the scope of the iconography discussed. This presentation, and the article it is based on, will hopefully provide a more comprehensive analysis on literacy (specifically scroll, but also briefly tablet) iconography and female literacy through methods of quantitative and iconographic analyses using available information from the Beazley Archive Pottery Database. The aim of this investigation, therefore, is to provide a deeper understanding of ancient women and their connection to reading and literacy.

Betrancourt Louisiane

Death and the Dead in Hellenistic Crete: the evolution of Cretan burial grounds and mortuary behavior. Goals, methodology, and expected results

This paper aims at presenting the research project I will conduct as a doctoral student registered at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens and the Université Libre de Bruxelles. I plan on highlighting the implications, methodology and the data which will be used to deliver the first thorough island-wide synthesis on burial sites and funerary customs of the Hellenistic period on Crete. The presentation will first underline the pertinence of such a research project. In effect, the time period studied here will allow to consider the social systems of Crete through the funerary data, after the “Archaic Gap” period, when the archaeological record is limited both in settlements and cemeteries. By the late 4th century BCE, cemeteries are used again on Crete and will continue to be so throughout the Hellenistic period. One of the main goals of the study is to shed light on the conditions in which burials reappear in cemeteries and how it evolves on the island, throughout the Hellenistic period, alongside the socio-political systems in place and their ideologies surrounding death. Data derived from deathscapes, funerary architecture and mortuary customs, as well as anthropological considerations, will be the bases of my analysis. This study will also evaluate how Cretans expressed their social identities in death, as well as whether funerary customs display insular Cretan practices, or if an influence from other parts of the Hellenistic world can be sensed in their behavior too. Sporadically throughout the presentation, I will use the site of Itanos as a case example.

Doizé Alexe

Crime and Punishment: A Comparative analysis of the Mesopotamian Legal system of the 3rd and 2nd Mill BCE

This thesis aims to comprehend how crimes and criminals were perceived in Mesopotamia during the third to first millennia BCE. By examining the concept and definition of justice and fairness, this study analyzes and compares tangible evidence from the judiciary systems, including law codes, trial records, and narratives built around the great kings who emphasized justice within their territories. Focusing on laws concerning homicide and sexual aggression, this research traverses the evolution of justice, penalties, and perceptions of criminality from Sumerian laws to the Old Testament, and through the Babylonian, Assyrian, and Hittite empires. Using an interdisciplinary approach, this thesis seeks to understand societal perceptions of crime and, more importantly, how criminals themselves were viewed.

Gkoumas Alexandros

Ethnic Identity and Funerary Practices in Emporion and Metaponto: A Comparative Study

The presentation's subject concerns the expression of ethnic identity through funerary practices in the cemeteries of Emporion and Metaponto, Greek colonies in Spain and Italy respectively. A discussion about the theoretical framework of ethnic identity and its perception in Greek antiquity, relative terminology, and research shifts through time. Can material culture from burials facilitate the detection of a certain ethnic identity? The relationship between Greeks and non-Greeks and the invention of the stereotypical concept of the "barbarian" will also be discussed, in an attempt at a broader approach to Greek self-consideration. Examination of the cemeteries, an interpretation of the funerary practices and the accompanying grave goods, in terms of funerary archaeology, is applied to conclude the possible ethnic identity of the deceased. Furthermore, geographical and historical data will be presented as a helpful explanatory introduction to the sites of Emporion and Metaponto. The announcement negotiates the nature of coexistence between settlers and locals, and the extent of their interaction and cultural exchange.

Gourgouleti Eleni

Fields of transformation: The case of the funerary field of Knossos during the Late Minoan IIB – IIIA transition

The transition towards the Post – Palatial period in Crete, is characterized by successive episodes of destructions, demographic shifts as well as innovations and experimentations on the material culture across the island. Combined with the increasing evidence for the use of Linear B script, they have been all considered indications for the establishment of a new status quo. The only palace surviving after the LM I B period, is the palace of Knossos, although not without deviations from the past. This is why, the question of the “Minoan” or “Mycenaean” origin of the group(s), who occupied the palace in its last phase and were buried around it, has always divided archaeologists. Although recent research tends not to equate population with cultural changes, the funerary field of Knossos and especially the changes during the LM IIB – IIIA transition have been systematically employed to argue either for continuity with the past or for discontinuity. This, has kept reigniting the aforementioned question. There is no denying that the funerary field of Knossos was indeed transformed. However, the traditional approaches on change entail interpretation and methodological constraints, since they underestimate the fact that both the terms “Minoan” and “Mycenaean” are modern conventions that are not directly reflected on burials and that their uncritical reproduction leads research to a dead-end. An alternative approach is therefore necessary, in order to understand the dynamic process of change, the factors and conditions that encouraged its emergence and its incorporation to the final palatial modus vivendi of Knossos. For this purpose, this paper proposes a shift to the funerary ritual itself, stemming from theoretical approaches promoting its crucial role in a more fluid and mutually (re-)constructive model of social reproduction.

Grevenioti Fryni

The abecedaria inscribed on sherds and vases from the 8th to 4th century B.C. in Greece

This study examines the reuse of ancient pottery, focusing specifically on abecedaria—alphabet inscriptions—inscribed on ceramic sherds and vases from the 8th to the 4th century B.C. in Greece. By exploring the contexts and motivations behind these inscriptions, the research aims to illuminate the multifaceted roles of abecedaria in ancient Greek society. We investigate the reasons for inscribing abecedaria on pottery, considering their pedagogical, mnemonic, and social functions. The study discusses the locations where these inscriptions are found and analyzes how the places of discovery changed over time, reflecting broader social and cultural dynamics. Examples from various regions, including Attika, Corinth, Chalcidice, Samos, and Crete, are presented to illustrate the geographical distribution and contextual diversity of these artifacts. Most of these inscribed pieces were discovered in sanctuaries and agoras, highlighting their significance in public and religious spaces. While acknowledging the broader themes of language evolution and writing practices, this paper emphasizes the reuse of ceramic materials and their connection to abecedaria.

Ioannidou Barbara

Ionian type cups at Abdera: Investigating aspects of everyday life, funerary and other religious practices through the local pottery production

Abdera was a seaside apoikia, located at the Aegean Thrace, that was founded during 2 different time periods by two Ionian cities of the western coast of Asia Minor; Clazomenae (ca. 654 BC) and Teos (ca. 545 BC). Although Clazomenians remained at Abdera with difficulty due to the hostile climate, marshy area and the continuous threat of the neighboring Thracian tribe, the arrival of the Teians reinforced the city, that during the classical period became one of the richest and the most developed cities at Thrace. One of the most common pottery finds from the archaeological research conducted at the city and the chora of Abdera are the Ionian type cups, a category of drinking vessels that was imported at the city during the last decades of the 7th century BC and that in all likelihood was produced locally from the early 6th century BC. The production of these cups continued to be produced with small changes at their shape but unchanged decoration motifs by the pottery workshops at Abdera until the early 3rd century BC. These vessels were present in the lives of both Clazomenians and Teians and were part of their funerary and other religious practices. In this paper I will present this category of drinking vessels and I will discuss their use at the funerary and other religious practices that took place at the city and the chora of Abdera.

Kevork Maria – Parthena

The gender of Cycladic figurines

The present paper focuses on the gender of the Cycladic figurines. Many scholars have already approached this issue, on the basis of the biological features of the figurines, and have put forward, a variety of interpretations, about the use and significance of the figurines. On the other side, the analyses of contexts of the figurines, have been done superficially, because they have been limited to simple references about contexts, without contextual analysis. Given the separation of the figurines in the previous research, in male, female and asexual, based on biological features, it is here attempted to determine the gender of the figurines, based on other iconographic criteria. Furthermore, given the predominance of female figurines, the continuing debate on their use and significance, and the absence of contextual analyses, it is here attempted to examine the figurines in their contexts-as far as this may be known-, and attempt to understand, to what extent, is their female gender combined with other artefacts, with male and/or female attributes. Also instead of arguing about the exact meaning of female figurines, it is preferable to see, how the expression of gender was operated, namely the way with which the expression of femaleness and perhaps of fertility and/or female corporeality, was combined with the other funerary traits- where this can be seen-, so as to become effective in a burial ritual.

Kouali Margarita

A Hellenistic and Roman necropolis at the upper city, Ktima, in Paphos

This paper presents the research design of the author's doctoral research, which focuses on the examination of the Hellenistic-Roman necropolis at Ktima, in the upper city of modern Paphos. The ancient city of Nea Paphos is situated in southwestern Cyprus. It was founded in the end of the 4th century BC in a favorable coastal location for the development of a port. The city developed rapidly onto a large urban center and by the 2nd c. BC it became the capital of Cyprus, retaining its title until the 4th c. AD. The city had two necropoleis, the so-called Eastern Necropolis and Northern Necropolis. The necropoleis were in use from the Hellenistic to Roman period and they were extended just outside the city walls which were erected in the early 2nd century BC. Ktima is situated on a plateau, approximately 2 km to the north of Nea Paphos, in the center of the modern city of Paphos. Rescue excavations by the Department of Antiquities, due to the construction activity in the area, brought to light a significant number of tombs dating from Cypro-Geometric – Cypro-Archaic to the Roman period. Mortuary evidence also derived from another site in northern Ktima, at *Iskender*. The site was systematically excavated by a French mission, revealing a necropolis dating from the Cypro-Geometric to the Hellenistic period. The archaeological evidence so far indicates the presence of a Hellenistic-Roman necropolis at the lower part of Ktima, along the southern edge of the plateau. The current research focuses on the investigation of the mortuary contexts of this necropolis, aiming to address questions related to material culture, funerary architecture, and burial customs. The results of this study are expected to provide new knowledge on the necropolis chronology, the local community and human activity in the area at Ktima. Moreover, it will explore whether this necropolis was in use by the inhabitants of an unknown society situated in the surrounding area before the foundation of Nea Paphos. It will also address questions related to the connections and interactions of the people of Ktima with Nea Paphos.

Kurt Berk

Beauty, Majesty and Ruin: The implications of the Early Travellers to Asia Minor on Architecture

One of the biggest cultural currents in Europe between 1750 and 1850, was the phenomenon of Philhellenism. Within and beyond the scheme of grand tours, Greece and Turkey began to be frequented by interested parties; documentations and publications regarding the state of antiquities in these regions began gaining attention. This attention led to one of the main features of Philhellenism at the time, Greek Revival Architecture. This architectural movement incepted and flourished within circa 1750 - 1850. The most preliminary figure in this movement was James “Athenian” Stuart. His expeditions and publication with Nicholas Revett, named *Antiquities of Athens* by the Society of Dilettanti formed the backbone of what will later be named in 1860, Greek Revival architecture. Two years after the first volume of *Antiquities of Athens*, the society funded an expedition, to Asia Minor which was published as *Ionian Antiquities* in 1769. This led to a series of expeditions which were then published as *Antiquities of Ionia* in five volumes between 1797 and 1815, forming a parallel to the *Antiquities of Athens* publications in four volumes. In the discussion of Greek Revivalism, the Ionian side does not get the attention it deserves; bringing us to the point of this paper; which is the evaluation of the influence of the series of expeditions and publications of Ionia, funded by the society of Dilettanti on Greek Revival architecture in Britain with regards to specific buildings and persons.

Leventis Andreas

Pottery from Basement A of Shatby Cemetery in Alexandria

The cities of the dead (νεκροπόλεις), as created through the eyes of the living who follow specific burial practices, become the object of study and knowledge production. One such case of great interest for the study of Hellenistic Alexandria is the necropolis of Shatby (4th - 2nd century BC), the oldest cemetery in the city (after its foundation by Alexander the Great in 331 BC), located at the eastern end of the city, just outside its walls. The rudimentary excavation context, with the otherwise impressive finds of pottery and funerary architecture that survived from the excavations of the early part of the last century, is an important aid to the present study. With the pottery unearthed by the latest excavation research and the partnership of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens and the Archaeological Society of Alexandria between 2020 - 2022, we will travel back to the beginning of the city's creation and decipher the perceptions of its early inhabitants. The chronological sequence from the end of the 4th to the 2nd century BC will help us to understand the cultural exchanges of the cities of the Hellenistic world (e.g. Crete, Rhodes) as they are reflected in the underground A within about two centuries. Black-glazed plates, lamps, unguentaria, amphorae, commercial amphorae, and even Hadra-type water jars vividly illustrate the cultural coexistence of different populations and beliefs with a common geographical point, the center of the Hellenistic world, the city of Alexander.

Lyu Meilin

Greek Archaeological Site Management in face of Climate Change

This presentation examines the management efforts of Greek archaeological sites amidst climate change challenges, drawing on insights from qualitative interviews with Greek scholars, Ministry personnel, cultural heritage professionals, and heritage NGOs. The selective revival of classical and Hellenistic heritage sites in Greece has been strategically linked to political and economic developments, constructing Hellenic national identities. The presentation begins by reviewing relevant global conventions and frameworks related to heritage site preservation and climate change impacts. It then focuses on the Greek context, where recent efforts include the establishment of an interdisciplinary committee in 2019 and the announcement of a National Action Plan for Cultural Heritage and Climate Change in 2022. Despite these initiatives, significant challenges remain. The presentation would present some of the current public perception towards climate change agenda in Greece; the conducted interviews would reveal several criticisms of the Ministry of Culture's bureaucratic inefficiencies, superficial rhetoric, and inadequate staffing, which hinder effective site management. Additionally, there is a persistent reliance on traditional disaster management strategies, with limited adaptation to emerging climate risks. The study highlights the need for strategic planning, enhanced collaboration with local stakeholders, and the integration of modern technologies to ensure the sustainable preservation of Greece's cultural heritage in the face of climate change.

Mavros Efstratios

The Role of Natural Environment in Cypriot Economic Systems: The Case of Dhiarizos and Kouris watersheds

The Cypriot economy during the Late Bronze Age was heavily reliant on exploiting the rich copper resources. The distribution of copper in the metalliferous pillow lavas surrounding the foothills of Troodos Mountain, centrally located on the island, enabled different regions to exploit, transport, and export copper, thereby establishing stable economic relations between the inland and the coastal gateways. Each regional center had to develop a strategy to protect and stabilize safe transport from the Troodos metalliferous zones to the coastal areas tailored to the peculiar environmental characteristics of their wider regions. This study focuses on the Limassol district and the eastern expanses of the Paphos district to examine how the natural environmental elements, -such as geomorphology, hydrological networks, and the available resources- influenced the economic strategies and the socio-political structures of the indigenous societies. Specifically, it concentrates on the Kouris and Dhiarizos watersheds, that yield the most reliable archaeological remains. The available archaeological data will be integrated into a GIS environment, to perform the essential terrain and spatial analyses representing the geospatial context of key archaeological sites. By investigating these aspects, this paper aims to elucidate the environmental features of these regions and discuss their dynamic impact, which led to the foundation and establishment of different socio-economic and political entities during the Late Bronze Age.

Pantzouris Konstantinos

What a house can tell: Exploring Tenos' countryside in Classical and Hellenistic times through the study of farmsteads.

This presentation is part of an ongoing PhD project examining two neighboring ancient farmsteads in the area Vourni on the southeast coast of Tenos (Cyclades), about 1.5 km east of the sanctuary of Poseidon and Amphitrite in Kionia and 4 km east of the *asty* of ancient Tenos. One farmstead dates back to the Classical period and its building consists of a round tower and several rooms, while in the other farmstead a one-room building of the Hellenistic period was excavated. As this is the first time the PhD project is being presented, the objectives and challenges of the study, as well as its research methodology, will be discussed first. The presentation will then focus on the Classical farmstead: After a detailed presentation of the archaeological data of this site, the possible use of each room will be investigated. Although the study is still at a preliminary stage, the large number of finds and the very good state of preservation of the building seem to shed light on various aspects of daily life and the agricultural economy of Tenos during the Classical period. Moreover, although several round and rectangular towers have been recorded on the island, this is the first excavated tower on Tenos and one of the few excavated towers on the islands. This fact offers the opportunity to discuss both the integration of Vourni's tower in the defence network of Tenos and the uses and functions of the island towers.

Pefani Aggeliki

Wall-paintings in their architectural environment: unravelling socio-political strategies through sensorial impact at the palace of Pylos

Previous research has treated wall-paintings and their architectural milieu separately, even though both have been considered mediums for political messages and social interaction. For example, extensive examinations of the mural paintings of the Pylian Palace have aimed to bring up common features in the behavior of visitors and their movement as a medium of political propaganda. In a similar manner, there are studies on the ability of architectural settings to affect the placement of the spectators of palatial ceremonies, their ability to watch them and thus their behavior in the palace. However, the unity of structural and aesthetic cues to the experiences of the visitors has not been thoroughly investigated. This paper proposes a new methodological approach, which emphasizes the dynamic relation between painted surfaces and architectural configuration of the Palace of Pylos. The joint study of these two elements may lead to a better understanding of the ways in which symbolic values, ideologies and political strategies were conveyed. This was achieved through the control of visibility, accessibility, movement, and sensorial effects, such as tricks of visual gradations, illusion of enlargement, induction of muscular pressure, different modes of accessing and consuming olfactory stimuli, changes in lighting and temperature and acoustic of space. All these stimuli within and around the palace served as mechanisms, triggering individual reactions, reminding or even reforming social identities and restructuring collective understandings of society through feelings of inferiority or superiority. Evidently, forward planning of a “meaningful structure”, such as the palace of Pylos in his final remodeling phase, aimed at ensuring the well-being and continuity of the palatial institution and its hierarchical system of power and authority.

Peppe Paraskevi

Maritime Trade and Urban Dynamics: The Role of Perge, Phaselis, and Aspendos in Shaping Interregional Networks from the LBA to the EIA

This paper investigates the trade networks and interregional relationships of Perge, Phaselis, and Aspendos, three prominent port cities on the southwest coast of Anatolia in Pamphylia during the transition from the LBA to the EIA. Employing archaeological evidence such as pottery and architectural remains, and alongside epigraphic records like inscriptions, the study aims to present the commercial and social dynamics of these cities. Furthermore, shipwrecks like Cape Gelidonya and Uluburun serve as alternative sources of information for the entire region of Pamphylia. The study synthesizes these findings with historical accounts to outline potential trade routes and analyze the economic and socio-political interactions within the region. Notably, Perge was connected by trade routes to adjacent areas along the ancient river Kestros (modern Aksu) and the coastline. Phaselis leveraged its three natural harbors since the Archaic period, while Aspendos benefited from its location beside the navigable Eurymedon river. According to Greek tradition, Aspendos was established by settlers from Argos under the leadership of Mopsos and was known as Estwediya during the 5th and 4th centuries B.C., possibly named after King Asitawadia (or Asitawada), referenced in Hittite hieroglyphic inscriptions near Adana. This study aims to offer insights into how these cities formed and maintained trade networks, enhancing our understanding of ancient maritime commerce and urban development.

Tasopoulos George

The Minoan channel kiln: A technological innovation of the late bronze age in Crete

The most dominant type of pottery kiln in prehistoric Aegean was the updraft kiln with its various subtypes. It was used throughout time in the Greek mainland and Minoan Crete from the Early Bronze Age onwards and its use continued without any substantial changes until the early 20th century AD. However, a new type of kiln appeared in Crete during the Neopalatial period (1700-1450 BC), the so-called channel kiln, which coexisted with the updraft kiln throughout the Late Bronze Age. The chronological and geographical distribution of this type is limited, suggesting a specialized technological innovation. Despite various references to Minoan channel kilns in the literature, our understanding of how the Minoan channel kiln operated and the differences between it and the updraft kiln remain limited. This presentation will try to clarify the advantages and disadvantages between the updraft kiln and the Minoan channel kiln. It will also research the political and economic factors under which a new technological innovation was adopted during the Neopalatial period. Finally, it will highlight the interaction of a technological innovation in the wider social context in which it took place.

Theodoropoulou Philippia

The ionic column base AB2407 from the Library of Hadrian

The architecture of the Athenian Agora had been well studied by scholars so far. Even though, there are still some grey zones considering the architecture of certain monuments. One of them, that will be the main subject in this paper, is the Southeast (SE) fountain house. During the past decades it is widely accepted that the SE fountain house in the Athenian Agora, had a portico, with three ionic columns. Even though the scholars had pointed out in their publications, that this representation of the fountain is hypothetical, no conceiving attempts have been made in order to reverse this theory. The purpose of this paper is to associate the ionic base column AB2407, found in the Library of Hadrian with the three bases that are attributed to the portico of the SE fountain house. It appears that all four bases belong to the same portico which was at least four columns long. After a short presentation of the theories published until now and the type of the specific ionic base, a comparison will be made between the dimensions of base AB2407, the ionic bases from the Agora and also an ionic base of the same type from the Acropolis.

Theotokatou Chara

***New insight into the spatial arrangement and social significance of Late Cypriot households:
the application of Space Syntax analysis***

The interpretation of the concept of space is challenging yet pivotal in any attempt to decode the domestic environment of past societies. This is first because space is not simplistically confined by the physical boundaries of architectural structures; second, living space is connected to socio-cultural activities and therefore, actively (re-) constructed through everyday practice. Past research has indeed focused on the domestic sphere, seeking to understand how past societies were organized. Nevertheless, attention has only recently shifted to the social implications of space configuration. Especially regarding the Late Cypriot built environment, research has focused exclusively on the spatial analysis and the importance of monumental buildings. As a result, non-elite dwellings of the same period have been largely excluded from relevant discussions. This presentation aims to amend this shortcoming, through the spatial analysis of lower-tier structures, such as the habitation units of Alassa-Pano Mantilaris and Pyla-Kokkinokremos. Space syntax analysis may then provide a significant insight into different patterns of intra- and inter-house social dynamics and, hence, a deeper understanding of the foundations of Late Cypriot societies.

Trasanis Gerasimos

Fortifying Grevena: Towards an understanding of the fortified sites in a region beyond the mainstream ancient Greek world

Fortifications and fortified sites, particularly in rural areas, have not garnered adequate research attention, especially when it comes to mountainous and semi-mountainous landscapes like the prefecture of Grevena—an area notably underexplored archaeologically in Greece.

This paper will present the preliminary findings of an ongoing research in the region of Grevena. Over 20 naturally and manmade fortified sites have been identified, suggesting activity during the Hellenistic era and possibly earlier or later periods in some instances. While their dimensions and masonry do not resemble the well-known large and complicated structures of southern Greece, these characteristics do not lessen their importance to the local communities. A combination of traditional data recording methods, and modern technologies such as GIS and aerial drone photography have been utilized. These approaches have yielded a comprehensive understanding of the sites' distribution in the natural landscape, enabling an exploration of their characteristics and potential roles in both interregional and intraregional dynamics within the socio-political and economic context of Upper Macedonia.

Voiklis Madeleine

Dionysian Wine: An Examination of Wine as a Ritual Substance in Ancient Greece

Dionysus is a god of various domains—theatrical, chthonic, maniacal. Most commonly, he is identified as the God of Wine. Wine itself performed a variety of functions in ancient Greek life as a ritual substance, medicine, and drink. How can these variable ideas concerning Dionysus and wine be reconciled? There has been much disparate scholarship on the worship of Dionysus. Attention has also been paid to wine's use as a mediator of identity both in expression by the individual and recognition by others. However, rarely have all these aspects been put in conversation with each other, contextualizing them. In compiling and comparing these various sources, using description and examples of the sacred and profane functions of wine, I hope to generate a new and holistic representation of Dionysus and the use of wine as a ritual substance. The discussion clarifies ancient Greek ideas of identity—ethnic, regional, and gender—and physiology—medicine, drunkenness, madness. It also consolidates previous research done by disparate scholars and offers original interpretations of texts and objects. The resulting work synthesizes the functions and meanings of Dionysian wine.

Welz Tobias Emanuel

The Sanctuary of Rantidi Revisited

This paper will examine the sanctuary of Rantidi near Palaepaphos (modern Kouklia) in SW Cyprus. Due to poor documentation of the first excavation in 1910, as well as of later excavations, our knowledge of this sanctuary and its former importance is limited. This is not just unfortunate in itself, but also runs counter to the fact that here alone, ca. 10 % of all known Cypro-Syllabic inscriptions of the island have been found. The inscriptions found so far have been published, but until now, there is no synthesis of the many (often quite short) publications on the site. There are still unsolved questions: Which deity/deities was the sanctuary dedicated to? Which role did it play in the wider religious landscape of southern Cyprus, especially given its proximity to Palaepaphos and Kourion? In this paper, which is based on my MA dissertation, an attempt will be made to bring the existing literature on the sanctuary together. Through this, as well as through comparisons of the site to other sanctuaries on the island, new interpretations will be discussed. Furthermore, it might become clearer what can or should still be done at the site to increase our knowledge of it – given the heavy building activity in the immediate surrounding of the sanctuary, something that might be important rather sooner than later.

Scientific Committee

Assist. Prof. Nikolas Dimakis
Assoc. Prof. Eurydice Kefalidou
Assoc. Prof. Konstantinos Kopanias
Prof. Yiannis Papadatos
Assist. Prof. Vassilis Petrakis
Prof. Dimitris Plantzos
Prof. Giorgos Vavouranakis

Organizing committee

Dr Ioulia Bouza, NKUA
Katerina Konstantinidi, PhD Candidate,
NKUA
Dimitris Papageorgiou, PhD Candidate,
NKUA
Mark Safranski, PhD Candidate, NKUA
Katherine Slaughter, PhD Candidate,
University of Oxford
Gerasimos Trasanis, PhD Candidate,
NKUA

Participants

Alcalde Pablo Garcia, MA Student
Barrero Daniel, MA Student
Bergoffen Melissa, MEDITARCH Alumna
Betrancourt Louisiane, PhD Candidate
Doizé Alexe, MA Student
Gkoumas Alexandros, MA Student
Gourgouleti Eleni, MA Student
Grevenioti Fryni, MA Student
Ioannidou Barbara, MA Student
Kevork Maria-Parthena, MA Student
Kouali Margarita, PhD Candidate
Kurt Berk, MA Student
Leventis Andreas, MA Student
Lyu Meilin, PhD Candidate
Mavros Efstratios, PhD Candidate
Pantzouris Konstantinos, PhD Candidate
Pefani Aggeliki, MA Student
Peppe Paraskevi, PhD Candidate
Tasopoulos George, MA Student
Theodoropoulou Philippia, MA Student
Theotokatou Chara, PhD Candidate
Voiklis Madeleine, MA Student
Welz Tobias Emanuel, MA Student