



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Not Just Pretty Objects: Personal Adornments and the Social Persona

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Abstract

Jewelry has always had an irresistible allure, inspiring amazement and curiosity yet in the past, also had a significance and function within society far beyond ornamentation. Ancient ornaments are an important, if often overlooked facet of archaeological material culture. They were not only a collection of "pretty objects" of aesthetic value, but as highly personal and displayed items worn on the body to be seen, ornaments were also "speaking objects" that carried and reflected encoded and complex set of socio-cultural information, so that the question "what can we say about it" may be rephrased to "what can it tell us". As the most personal aspect of 'dress accessories', personal adornments forge a path to the social persona of an individual and a society as they played a multifaceted role as distinguishing markers of wealth, status, gender, cultural affiliation and more. Over the years, research of personal adornments has become diverse and interdisciplinary, involving archaeology, anthropology, art history, gemology, historical/textual studies, as well as research of materials and manufacturing techniques, so that its study over time and space holds tremendous potential. As scholars who have been juggling jewelry for some years, the time has come to bring together researchers who have an interest in the study of personal ornaments in the prehistoric and pre-classical periods of the Mediterranean basin and beyond, to connect for a pluralistic dialogue. Suggested topics may include research theory and methodology as well as new research horizons; the archaeological, cultural or economical context of ancient jewelry; materials and techniques involved in jewelry manufacture; the reappropriation of personal adornments as well as recent discoveries and enigmatic items.

The workshop welcomes presentations from various periods and regions and will also welcome any topic that serves to highlight the association of personal ornaments with the social persona of the individual.

Keywords

Jewelry , Ornaments , Social persona, Mediterranean basin, Pre-classical period

Program

Each presentation will be followed by a Q&A and at the end there will be a final discussion

1. Dr. Amir Golani
(Israel Antiquities Authority, Dept. of Research and Specializations)
Title: Getting to the Individual – How to Study Personal Adornments

2. Prof. M. Cifarelli
(Professor Emerita of Art History Manhattanville College - Consulting Scholar, University of Pennsylvania Museum of Anthropology and Archaeology, Philadelphia, PA)
Title: Social Persona, Gender and Jewelry: You are what you wear?

3.. Dr. Daniella E. Bar-Yosef Mayer
(Tel Aviv University, The Steinhardt Museum of Natural History Harvard University, Peabody Museum for Ethnology and Archaeology)
Title: From Heirlooms to Ad Hoc ornaments: Social events at Neolithic Nahal Hemar Cave

Coffee break

3. Prof. Emma Baysal
(Dept. Of Prehistoric Archaeology, Ankara Bilkent University)
Title: Unexpected identities: the methodological challenges of EBA grave contexts at Ba?ur Hoyu?k, southeast Tu?rkiye

5. Prof. Josephine Verduci
(University of Melbourne, Honorary Fellow School of Historical & Philosophical Studies Faculty of Arts)
Title: The Intentional Body: Earrings and the Encoding of Social and Cultural Identity in the Southern Levant

6. Dr. Erin Hall
(Tel Aviv University and the Israeli Institute of Archaeology, Researcher)
Title: Adorning the Dead: Personal Ornaments in the Iron II Burials of Israel and Judah

Break (lunch)

7. Dr. Zuzanna Wygnanska
(Adjunct, Polish Academy of Sciences, Institute of Mediterranean and Oriental Cultures)
Title: Iron Age Personal Adornments from Arabian Peninsula Graves

8. Dr. Laetitia Phialon
(Université de Fribourg - Universität Freiburg, Lecturer)
Title: For her... or perhaps for her child? Reflections on adult-child burials furnished with jewelry in Early Iron Age Greece

9. Dr. Susan C. Ferrence, Dr. Philip P. Betancourt, Dr. Allesandra Giumlia-Mair and Dr. Metaxia Tsipopoulou
(Institute of Aegean Prehistory at University of Pennsylvania, Researcher and Director of Publications; Consulting Scholar, Penn Museum, Mediterranean Section)
Title: Minoan Crete and the East: Jewelry Imports in the Early to Middle Bronze Age Elite Necropolis at Petras, Siteia

10. Dr. Maria Mina
(Assistant Professor of Prehistoric Archaeology Department of Mediterranean Studies University of the Aegean)
Title: In the Public Eye: Somatoperception and Visualisation of Personal Adornment on Bronze Age figurines from Cyprus

11. Prof. Cynthia Colburn
(Professor of Art History Fine Arts Division, Seaver College)
Title: The Emotional Piece: Bronze Age Aegean Jewelry and Its Emotional Value

12. Dr. Giulia Tucci
(Independent researcher)
Title: Taste and Choice in ornaments. Production and Materials between Archaeological Data and Communities

Discussion

Type of paper

Workshop