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ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Cypriot Legacy Materials: Issues, Approaches and Encounters on Old Archaeological Data

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Abstract

Since the late 19th century CE, Cyprus has been attracting archaeological interest. If this had established a Cypriot archaeological discipline, it would have left numerous excavations unpublished. After the 1974 invasion, many sites located in Northern Cyprus also remain inaccessible. This forced the archaeological focus in the south, with relatively few studies of old excavations of sites in the north (e.g., Enkomi, Phlamoudhi-Vounari and Melissa, Lapithos). Thus, scholars engaged with the Cypriot past to deal with the “archaeology’s dirty secret” (Fagan 1995): unpublished or partially published excavations and legacy material. Despite their enormous cultural and research potential, these records are in a research limbo: they exist but are forgotten. As time passes and documentary support ages, we risk losing significant data and cultural heritage. The workshop addresses the issue by covering topics such as:

- Legacy materials from old excavations (both published and unpublished);
- Archaeological archives;
- Orphaned collections;
- Digital applications and archaeological sciences to study and integrate information from old excavations;
- Methodological and ethical issues that arise from dealing with these data.

Rarely tackled in Cypriot archaeology, the workshop wants to highlight and discuss a problem that leaves us with an unbalanced view of the island’s archaeological record and cultural heritage.

Keywords

Cyprus, legacy data, museum archaeology, archaeological archives, archaeological ethics

Program

1. Ana Gonzalez San Martin (Brown University): “Legacy Spatial Data as Archaeological Artefact: The Fifth Hermeneutic Fold?”
2. Elisabeth Ilgner (Cyprus American Archaeological Research Institute): “Like a Swiss cheese: the funerary landscape at Ptolemais Chrysochous”
3. Matthias Metzger (Aix Marseille Univ, CNRS, LA3M, Aix-en-Provence; University of Cyprus): “(Re)Discovering the Early Christian basilicas of Cyprus”
4. Sophie Geraldine Horacek (Humboldt Universität zu Berlin): “Why one should ask and look twice for traces, artefacts and documents. A case study of the unpublished archaeological material of the sanctuary on the east acropolis of Idalion (Dikoupolis, Cyprus)”
5. Marie-Louise Jahn Hansen (Copenhagen University; The Cyprus Institute): “Soli, a gateway community - (Re)Excavating the pottery of the Swedish Cyprus Expedition”
6. Ian Randall (Masaryk University): “McFadden's Worms: A Post-Disaster Archaeology of Kourion's Legacy Data”
7. Chase Minos (The Cyprus Institute): “New Techniques for Old Pottery? Methodological Approaches to Legacy Material from the Excavations of Porphyrios Dikaïos at Enkomi”
8. Francesca Meneghetti (Independent Researcher): “Digging the storeroom: the case of Athienou-Bamboulari tis Koukounninas”

Type of paper

Workshop