



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Getting to the Individual How Can We Study Personal Adornments

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Abstract

Ancient jewelry was not only a collection of 'pretty objects' of aesthetic value, but as highly personal, displayed items of material culture worn to be seen, ornaments were also 'speaking objects' that carried and reflected an encoded, complex set of socio-cultural information about individuals and their cultural group. As one of the most personal objects we can identify, their study offers a unique opportunity to understand aspects of individual and cultural identity. This may be done using several avenues of interdisciplinary research to assess the archaeological, cultural and technological context of jewelry fabrication and use in the past, illuminating the social, religious/cultic and economic functions of personal adornments. These topics all make the study of personal ornaments an effective tool in archaeological research to connect objects and people, providing a holistic and comparative perspective on the role of personal adornments in past societies, between regions and periods.

Keywords

Personal Adornments, Cultural identity, Social persona

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7. Characterizing culture ?

Workshop

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