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IIHSA INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

**IRISH INSTITUTE OF HELLENIC STUDIES AT ATHENS**

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ΙΡΛΑΝΔΙΚΟ ΙΝΣΤΙΤΟΥΤΟ ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΩΝ ΣΠΟΥΔΩΝ ΣΤΗΝ ΑΘΗΝΑ



**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE**

**ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE IONIAN SEA:**  
**Landscapes, seascapes and the circulation of**  
**people, goods and ideas**  
**(Palaeolithic – Bronze Age)**

**BOOK OF ABSTRACTS**

**10-11 January 2020**

at the Lecture Hall of the  
Italian School of Archaeology

Organising committee

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Ambasáid na hÉireann  
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-- Friday, 10 January 2020 --

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KEYNOTE LECTURE

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**Comparative perspectives in Island Archaeology:  
A view from the Ionian Sea**

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**Abstract**

The Ionian Sea offers a prime, albeit somewhat neglected, case study in Island Archaeology, in terms of understanding the interaction between island, coastal and inland communities. From the ephemeral traces left behind by its early inhabitants to the celebration of a maritime ethos in the Homeric epics, the Ionian Sea has fulfilled multiple, even contradictory, roles throughout prehistory, alternately embodying a border or passage area, and acting as a filter or catalyst in cultural processes. Here, the islandscape, coastscape, and seascape blend into one another, creating a scaled-down “sea of islands” (Hau’ofa 1994). A diachronic perspective reveals the mutable roles of the islands (here as elsewhere around the world), either as extensions of the mainland or as distinctive places. Their histories allow us to challenge traditional views of insularity based around simple dichotomies such as isolation/connectivity, centrality/marginality, and innovation/conservatism. Geographically, the Ionian Islands can be characterised as marginal spaces, located on the edge of the mainland. From a network perspective, however, they can be considered as in-between places. Under changing historical conditions, their inhabitants experienced different degrees of cultural integration, at times harnessing and optimising their in-betweenness.

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**Palaeogeographical changes and their implications for human activities along the coasts of the Ionian Sea since the mid-Holocene**

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**Abstract**

The coasts of the Ionian Sea have undergone considerable changes during the Holocene due to sea level fluctuations, sediment supply from the hinterland by creeks and rivers, sea storms and flooding events as well as earthquakes and related tsunami impacts. We have studied palaeogeographical changes along the coasts of the Ionian Sea and their geoarchaeological and archaeological implications on the Ionian Islands (Corfu, Lefkas, Kefalonia), in mainland western Greece (Epirus, Akarnania, Etolia) as well as in the western and southwestern Peloponnese. Our investigations are based on geophysical prospection methods such as electrical resistivity tomography, seismics and ground penetrating radar in order to obtain information on the local stratigraphy, the bedrock topography or archaeological remains. Prospection studies are followed by sediment coring and multi-proxy-sediment analyses of sediment sample using a variety of palaeontological, geochemical, mineralogical and geochronological methods. Here, we present selected geoarchaeological case studies from different regional settings all along the Greek coast of the Ionian Sea – from Corfu in the north, via the Ambrakian Gulf and Akarnania and the central Ionian Islands to the Peloponnese in the south – documenting different kinds of coastal change impact to human communities. These case studies comprise examples for the influence of relative sea level changes, abrupt co-seismic crust uplift, delta progradation and shoreline shifting as well as earthquake-related tsunami landfalls.

## Palaeogeographic reconstruction of the northern Inner Ionian Sea Archipelago (Western Greece) during Late Quaternary low sea level periods

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### Abstract

A seismic reflection survey was conducted in the northern Inner Ionian Sea Archipelago, West Greece, to reconstruct the palaeogeographic evolution of the area during Late Quaternary low sea level periods. Maximum Regressive Surfaces on the slopes and in the basin's infill are used to define seismic stratigraphy and chronostratigraphy. Four low sea level clinofolds have been associated with Marine Isotope Stages (MIS) 2, 4, 6 and 8. Active faulting has displaced vertically the sea level markers in respect to the expected depths predicted by the eustatic curve. Subsidence rates, attributed to the vertical tectonic movements, vary between 1 m/ka and 0.7 m/ka. The best-defined sea level markers are associated with MIS 2 and MIS 6. The MIS 2 palaeoshoreline has been found at depths ranging between 130 m in subsided areas and 105 m bpsl in uplifted areas. The MIS 6 palaeoshoreline varies over a wider depth range, between 253 m and 214 m bpsl. Reconstruction of the submerged landscapes is given for the low sea level stages MIS 2, MIS 6 and MIS 8. Kefalonia and Ithaca have maintained their insularity throughout the last 250 ka at least. Atokos may have been connected to the mainland during MIS 8. Lefkas, Meganisi, Kalamos, Kastos and Arkoudi were connected to the mainland during MIS 2, MIS 6 and MIS 8. The implications of these palaeogeographic reconstructions on the Palaeolithic settlement and the history of early seafaring are discussed. This work is based on the MSc Thesis of A. Zavitsanou.

## Use of geoscience to understand the palaeogeographic development of Livadi Marsh, Paliki: implications for the detection of an ancient harbour and anthropogenic settlement

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### Abstract

Harbours and safe anchorages were critical facilities for seafaring nations in Mycenaean times for trade and defence. These were often simple sites on which to beach shallow-draft craft, but such sites are not common in tectonically active areas such as the Ionian Sea in general and Kefalonia in particular where much access is via steep cliffs. Identifying such sites is critically important to reveal the historical record of human activity pre-history.

Natural processes: tectonics, storm and tsunami events, currents, wave action and sedimentary depositional processes can frequently obscure paleo-harbour sites. Geophysical investigations including Electromagnetic, Ground Penetrating Radar, Resistivity and Seismic surveys with subsequent, targeted boreholes, can identify geological changes to the paleo-landscape in the Holocene. We focus on the “Livadi Marsh” area bordering Livadi Bay at the north end of Kefalonia’s Argostoli Gulf and use geophysics supported by boreholes to calibrate and trace its palaeogeographic development from a natural bay suitable as an ancient mooring to a contemporary environment of sediment-filled fertile land edged by marsh. We identify complex interacting natural processes, including faults, tsunamigenic deposits and sedimentary deposition/erosion, which have impacted the changing palaeogeography. Additionally, we have identified signs of anthropogenic remains suggesting human settlement activity bordering the paleo-bay and potential indications of an ancient site worthy of future exploration by archaeologists.

**Tracing Middle Palaeolithic land and sea routes in the Central Ionian Sea**

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**Abstract**

The Central Ionian Sea is an ideal case study for the investigation of both terrestrial and marine crossings that may have occurred during the Pleistocene since its present-day coastal configuration differs significantly from the one that would have been encountered by Palaeolithic foragers. According to the latest palaeoshoreline reconstructions, most of the isles and islets of the area were connected to the opposite Akarnanian coasts. Land bridges, today submerged, hold clues for the terrestrial routes available during the low sea-level stands of MIS 2, MIS 4, MIS 6 and MIS 8. On the other hand, the islands of Kefalonia, Zakynthos, Ithaki and Atokos were for the most part separated from the mainland, thus, any artefact attributed to the Middle Palaeolithic would be an indication of marine rather than terrestrial crossing.

Survey projects conducted on islands of the Central Ionian Sea during the last two decades, at the Inner Ionian Sea Archipelago and at the Livatho Valley, Kefalonia by the University of Crete and the Irish Institute of Hellenic Studies respectively, in collaboration with the 34<sup>th</sup> and 35<sup>th</sup> Ephorate of Antiquities of the Greek Ministry of Culture, provide new, critical evidence and reveal the geographic extent of Pleistocene activity and the mobility patterns occurring in western Greece since at least the Middle Palaeolithic.

## **Palaeolithic peopling and settling of Zakynthos island. Interpreting the new evidence within the Western Greek and Adriatic context.**

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### **Abstract**

During the last 20 years, archaeological surveys on Zakynthos, through their findings, have enriched significantly the earlier, fragmentary, evidence for the island's prehistory. In this context, the Zakynthos Archaeological Project conducted under the auspices of the 35<sup>th</sup> Ephorate of Antiquities, Hellenic Ministry of Culture, and the Netherlands Institute at Athens - University of Amsterdam (UoA), apart from other evidence, has brought to light a considerable amount of lithics and related sites and findspots, assigned chronologically to the Palaeolithic period.

The study of this new evidence includes both an analysis of the features of the chipped stone assemblages and that of their geographical setting, and in addition deals with the examination of the island's available resources and raw materials. This comprehensive approach allows us to establish, with a fair amount of certainty, the pattern of human occupation and aspects of human activity and behaviour during the chronological period and within the cultural context under discussion.

In this presentation this new archaeological evidence will be presented and discussed along with its interpretative implications for the Western Greek and broader Adriatic context.

## Prehistoric settlement in the Inner Ionian Sea Archipelago and its Ionian Archipelago connections

Nena Galanidou<sup>1\*</sup>, Maria Gatsi<sup>2</sup>, Olympia Vikatou<sup>3</sup>, Antonis Vasilakis<sup>4</sup>, Cathy Morgan<sup>5</sup>, Jeannette Forsén<sup>6</sup>, Vivian Staikou<sup>3</sup>, Christina Papoulia<sup>1</sup>, Panagiotis Zervoudakis<sup>1</sup>

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### Abstract

The Ionian Sea features two Archipelagos: one to the west consisting of the large islands and one to the east consisting of the smaller islands of the Inner Ionian, the shallow semi-enclosed sea, delimited by the mainland of Greece to the east and Lefkas, Kefalonia and Ithaca to the west. The Inner Ionian includes a variety of marine and freshwater resources, coastal lowlands along an extended and intricate shoreline interspersed with a complex inland topography, little arable land, a karstic landscape featuring caves, rockshelters and dolines, some of which are partly or totally submerged, seasonal and perennial wetlands, and flint of excellent quality. In 2010, an intensive surface survey coupled with small-scale excavation was initiated on Teleboides, the northern cluster of islands, with the aim of investigating the history of occupation and the ties with settlements on the mainland and the larger islands of the Ionian Sea from prehistoric to modern times. Archaeological survey was conducted on Meganisi, Thileia, Kythros, Tsokari, Petalou, Nisopoula, Phormikoula, Madouri, Atokos and Arkoudi. An area of a little less than 7km<sup>2</sup> was covered in the three field campaigns (2010 – 2012), and 20,000 portable finds were collected. In this paper we present the method and results of survey work conducted in the Inner Ionian Archipelago and explore the connections of the smaller islands with the larger islands of the Ionian Sea from the Middle Palaeolithic to the Bronze Age.

## **Lithics as diachronic proxies for the circulation of people and ideas in the dynamic Ionian landscape**

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### **Abstract**

The dynamic Ionian seascapes and coastscapes as well as the, now submerged, landscapes have significantly influenced human adaptations, mobility networks and economic activities with multifaceted implications in terms of socio-cultural organisation in each and every part of prehistory, from the Palaeolithic to the Bronze Age. Lithics, the only type of artefacts perpetually used in the history of our species since the earliest of times, although abundant in the Ionian region, have not been adequately included in the historical narrative of western Greece up to its merits. A big number of published and unpublished lithic assemblages from surface collections, excavated open-air sites and caves from the Ionian islands and the Epirotic and Akarnanian coasts are able to provide significant clues about the way people moved across the landscapes and seascapes west of the Pindus mountain range, about the transportation of goods and the transmission of ideas, from a diachronic perspective. By examining the lithics as proxies for the circulation of people and ideas, it is possible to explore the diachronic and reciprocally transformative relationship between human communities and the sea, the critical role of coastal environments in the formation of small and extended networks of cultural and economic exchange and the implications in terms of behavioural, cognitive and social transformations within prehistoric societies and between them. This needs to be done through a holistic approach including macroscopic (typological and technological) analysis, microscopic use-wear and residue analysis, elemental analysis for the identification of the raw material sources and GIS analytic techniques.

**Prehistoric settlement in the Choitrypa Cave on Lefkas**

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**Abstract**

In this paper we present the prehistoric remains recovered from the Choitrypa Cave, a large and complex karstic system near Apolpaina overlooking the lowlands of the modern town of Lefkas in the central Ionian Sea. Between 1995 and 1997 rescue excavations conducted by KZ at the talus of the cave brought to light rich and diverse archaeological assemblages dating from the Stone Age to Hellenistic times. We focus on the Middle Palaeolithic and the Neolithic records to address questions of context of two different sorts: i. the cave as an archaeological context of recovery, and ii. the cave as context of activity of the Neanderthal groups of hunters and gatherers and of the Neolithic groups of farmers and herders. The archaeology of the Choitrypa Cave is then discussed by comparing it with the archaeology from other homologous sites in the Ionian Sea.

## Beyond the horizon. Stone artefacts and social networks in Late Neolithic Drakaina Cave, Kefalonia Island

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### Abstract

This presentation investigates the crucial role of well-established interregional communication and exchange networks, such as the supply of stone raw materials, for supporting the social life of island communities in the Ionian Sea during the Neolithic. We attempt to approach social networks through the provenance analysis of stone artefacts, including celts, stone ornaments and a marble vessel, unearthed in the Late Neolithic deposits (c. 5600 - 3700 cal BC) of Drakaina Cave, a small cavity located on the steep slopes of the Vochynas gorge within the area of Poros village at the SE coast of Kefalonia island.

Petrographic and provenance analyses on stone objects from Drakaina Cave have indicated the co-existence of stone artefacts of both local and non-local origin, with the latter originating from sources in mainland Greece and the Aegean Islands. Based on this evidence, but also on the technological study of the artefacts and their association with other lithic industries of the Greek Neolithic, we will address the participation of the social groups that gathered at Drakaina Cave from time to time in regional and interregional social networks that favoured the supply, circulation and distribution of raw materials and products, and supported mechanisms of social reproduction. Furthermore, we will expand our argument to include other material categories uncovered at the site (e.g. local chipped stones, pottery), suggesting that the gorge of Drakaina Cave was a significant and strategic *locale*, which acted as a bridge, connecting the occupants of Kefalonia island with the broader Neolithic Aegean world.

## Evidence of settlements on Kefalonia during the EH period. The case of Sami.

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### **Abstract**

Habitation during the EH period on Kefalonia is confirmed by the excavation data which come from the sites of Mouna Skala, Arginia and Sami. The best-documented site is Sami, which lies on the eastern part of Kefalonia. At the periphery of the modern village, the ruins of buildings have been recovered as well as children's burials in vases and a cist grave, which were found in the foundations of the houses. The pottery is the usual pottery of the period and similar to the pottery of other well-known sites. Two categories are distinguished, the fine and the coarse wares. Among the shapes of vases the most common are the *phiale* and the *pithoi* with plastic ornaments.

From the above data it is concluded that the settlement of Sami belongs to the same culture bearers as the ones that flourished in other regions of Greece.

## The Early and Middle Bronze Age in the Ionian Sea. New evidence from the island of Zakynthos

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### Abstract

Our view of the Early and Middle Bronze Age in the Ionian Islands is determined to a great extent by the results of W. Dörpfeld's researches in and around Nidhri, Lefkada. No other area in the Ionian Sea has a similar concentration of funerary sites with identifiable imports and other valuables from these periods. However, the many surveys and excavations of the last few decades on the islands and the nearby mainland have yielded numerous sites from this period in the region.

This paper will be based on the results of the Zakynthos Archaeology Project, a large-scale landscape research programme that was carried out from 2005-2015 under the auspices of the Netherlands Institute at Athens and the responsible Ephorate of Antiquities. We will first give an overview of the Early and Middle Bronze Age materials that have been attested on Zakynthos. With that basis, we will address the question to which extent the material record of Zakynthos during this period can be compared to that of the other Ionian Islands and Nidhri in particular. We will conclude with an attempt to assess the connections of Zakynthos with the other Ionian Islands and the nearby Peloponnesian areas of Achaia and Elis.

-- Saturday, 11 January 2020 --

**ARCHAEOLOGY Session 3**

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**LBA ELLIPSOID MEGARON AT TZANNATA, NEAR POROS, KEPHALLENIA.  
New evidence for the LBA in Kephallenia and the Ionian Islands**

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**Abstract**

In 2011-2013 a new excavation revealed a large ellipsoid/ovoid building with a small ellipsoid building built later on its ruins at the location by the name of 'Riza' near the village of Tzannata/Poros. This discovery has changed our knowledge of LBA Kephallenia. Two LBA buildings were excavated many years ago at Starochorapha near Krani and at Agioi Theodoroi-Vounias near Sami, but the information is poor. A third excavation near Argostoli in 2010-2014 has revealed parts of a badly preserved LBA building. The building at Tzannata is the fourth of the period and the better preserved. Pottery of all periods from MH III to LH III periods was collected from all rooms. The basic wares are:

- Fine or semi-fine pottery of the late MH/early LH I periods.
- Fine pottery of the LH II and LH III periods. This can be put into three main sub-categories: the yellowish, mostly for chalices; the light brown; and the reddish used in other shapes.
- Handmade coarse pottery from MH III to LH III, fragmentary and badly preserved, of low firing and unclean clay, from light brown or grey to dark brown or grey.
- Handmade pottery, of the same clay as the above category, but with relief and barbotine decoration.

The continuing analysis of the pottery will give evidence for further and more detailed subdivisions of the clay wares into more subtotals and categories.

Both the architectural type of the megaron at Tzannata and the pottery from it mark the conservative character of the local culture in early and middle LBA.

## **Diverging trajectories within the western Mycenaean koine: the case of Kefalonia.**

Odysseas Metaxas

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### **Abstract**

The study of the LBA period in western Greece has progressed considerably in the course of the previous decades, although not uniformly over all areas. At Kefalonia a series of cemeteries has been excavated but the island has been the focus of a relatively meagre amount of studies.

Since they are characterized by several interesting features when seen through the lens of a regional perspective, more work can be done in examining those features in conjunction to areas of western Greece, such as Achaëa, where studies in the development of social dynamics have been more prolific.

The differences between the Kefalonian LH IIIC mortuary data in comparison to those from adjacent areas, indicate that societies were developing within a fragmented and heterarchical political landscape, in which local conditions, as well as preexisting traditions were shaping a complex picture. Mortuary practices and aspects of related material expressions could have been used in the construction of identities or the propagation of social arrangements which had a local character, seemingly diverging in specific attributes in comparison to areas of western mainland Greece.

We should not however view such trajectories as indicative of an introvert stance by Kefalonian LBA communities. We should rather view them as part of an intricate web or interrelations between communities connected by the Ionian Sea, through which societies selectively adopted or rejected specific elements.

## Migrants, refugees and social restructuring in Late Helladic Kefalonia

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### Abstract

In 1964 Desborough stated an argument for the “mycenaeanisation” of Kefalonia via the intrusion of populations coming from mainland Greece. According to this view, the “refugees” had fled there after the collapse of the Mycenaean palaces. Moreover, their arrival at Kefalonia resulted in a largely prosperous period within the Late Helladic IIIC phase. Since the mid-1960’s post-processual archaeology altered significantly the way prehistoric migrations and colonisations are perceived while post-colonial perspectives emphasised the complex situation and cultural admixture between intrusive groups and the locals. However, more than 50 years after Desborough’s theory, his culture-historical view still dominates archaeological explanations in the area of the southern Ionian Islands and also in other regions of the Aegean and eastern Mediterranean where Aegean cultural groups have seemingly migrated around 1200 BC. In this presentation, I will discuss past theories on the “mycenaeanisation” processes of Kefalonia and I will attempt to investigate the existing situation on the island by focusing on selected aspects of material culture and funerary data. It will be argued that the island was in direct contact with mainland Greece since at least the 14th-13th cent. BC and the indications for a massive population movement around 1200 BC are at best tentative.

**Islands in the stream.  
A maritime perspective of the central Ionian Islands in the Late Bronze Age**

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**Abstract**

Island Archaeology is a relatively new field of enquiry, which initially, in the early 1970s, attempted a close application to archaeology of the principles of biogeography, viewing insularity as the prime shaper of island societies and aspects of their cultures. Subsequent studies found flaws with this model and instead fostered a focus on coastal communities and maritime interactions as more suitable analytical tools. It is undeniable however that islands share unique common characteristics, above all their boundedness and dependence on seafaring for external contacts. Thus, the combined study of island and maritime considerations are highly appropriate. It has moreover been recognized, given their geographical, geomorphological and cultural diversity, that islands or archipelagos need to be studied in their own right.

Unlike for other islands or island groups in the Aegean world (e.g. the Cyclades, Kythera-Antikythera), for the Ionian Islands the relevance of insularity and the maritime environment has not so far been part of the archaeological discourse. One of the reasons for this is the absence and low resolution of the available data, and the lack of specialist research. For these reasons, in approaching the subject, this paper does not aim to offer definite answers and solutions, but rather to raise questions and to propose some hypothetical cultural/historical scenarios resulting from the possible effects of insular conditions, sea-based connectivity and mobility, and the use of the sea. The focus will be on the central Ionian islands, particularly Kefalonia and Ithaki, in the best archaeologically documented period, i.e. the Late Bronze Age.

***Archaeological Shoreline Research* on the cultural semantics of coasts: the promontory of Kapos, SE Kefalonia, in the Bronze Age**

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**Abstract**

This paper contends that the cultural semantics of shores constitutes a significant component of the “maritime” in any platform designed to explore earth history and culture history in maritime landscape formations. *Archaeological Shoreline Research (A.Sho.Re.)* investigates maritime cultures, conjoining long-term material evidence and relevant geo-historical data in a systematic and extensive research frame. It further focuses on epistemology in archaeology regarding theory building and method testing pertinent to the conditions of the coastal terrain. The significance of coastal semantics issues from the above research strategy, hereby discussing a case from Kapos, the easternmost promontory of the largest island of the Ionian Sea. This is a preliminary account of ongoing fieldwork, regarding a novel deposit from a hitherto unidentified type of site in Kefalonia. A small karstic cavity shelters human presence in the form of hearths, a bench and other structural arrangements, evidencing the art of masonry in dry walling, floor, the use of boulders and the steep path terracing. The deposit contains some pottery, including small size but thin walled sherds and miniature pots, bones and shells, few fine finds and a small quantity of obsidian. A dynamic nexus of geo-archaeological facts of local and supra-regional significance is thus emergent. In an epistemological sense, however, the “maritime” rises as a highly selective state of cultural traits that may be cogent to but not necessarily co-eval with the probabilities generated by the natural sequences of coastal formation processes.

## Aetoloacarnania and Ionian Sea in the Bronze Age: A history of interaction

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### **Abstract**

The part of Greece today referred to as Aetoloacarnania is located in the Southwest part of mainland Greece. Until a few decades ago, this region used to be *terra incognita* for prehistoric archaeology, but this has started to change with the new data of the recent decades.

Aetoloacarnania borders the Ionian Sea to the west, while to the south the sea penetrates into the land, forming the Gulf of Patras with the distinctive landscape of Aetoliko and the Mesolongi lagoon. A similar formation is noted on the south-west, which is defined by the Ambracian Gulf. It is, therefore, evident that the region, apart from its mountainous mainland character, is also characterised by a very long coastline along the Ionian Sea.

The aim of this presentation is to emphasize the role of the Ionian Sea for the development of the societies of Aetoloacarnania during the EBA. This role seems compatible with the main character of the EBA, which sees the development of contacts and trade just as much between the Ionian Sea and the Aegean and vice versa, as between the Ionian Sea and the Dalmatian shores to the north, reaching the area via the coastlines of Epirus and Albania. In order to include Aetoloacarnania in this geographical and cultural framework, we will use the help of the archaeological evidence provided by the settlements and the cemeteries of the period, and by doing so we hope to demonstrate that the communications and exchanges between the areas did not just involve material good, but included the transfer and exchange of ideas.

## Reconstructing paths of interregional communications: the LH IIIB-C handmade incised pottery of the Ionian Islands

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### Abstract

Since the first field researches by Sp. Marinatos at Kefalonia, it is commonly thought that handmade pottery could be interpreted as a category inspired or influenced by external contacts. The connections, either in terms of typology and of decorative patterns, between handmade pottery mostly from Kephallonia and that handmade pottery found in other districts of North-Western Greece and Southern Balkans is not sufficiently clear.

This paper aims at focusing on a select group of handmade vessels found in LH contexts. The group consists of small cylindrical pyxides decorated with incised motifs. It also includes two rectangular legged vessels, one stored in the Neuchâtel Museum (Switzerland) and the other coming from the Dörpfeld excavations at Kephali, Kerkyra. In both cases it is possible to propose some close links with a specific category of '*impasto*' type pottery found in South Italy and Sicily in LBA contexts (according to the terminology of Italian chronological sequence). It is also worth noting that the small rectangular legged vessels are well documented in Sicily, where they circulated in the same sites where LH III Mycenaean imported pottery was found. Furthermore, a good parallel to the Kephali pyxis is a vase, similar in shape and decoration, which comes from Ausonian II level on Lipari Island.

The study of this intriguing pottery category, applied to two different geographical contexts, will contribute to the exploration of the relationships of mainland Italy, including Sicily, within the wider network where circulation of pottery and people are the relevant distinctive characteristics.

## The Ionian-Adriatic interface as a landscape of mobility

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### Abstract

The last few years have marked a considerable increase in our level of knowledge of the Southern Adriatic/Ionian area during the Bronze Age. However, observing these developments from the vantage point of the main land-masses lying at the north-western boundary of the Ionian, namely Salento in South Eastern Italy, the picture we have remain primarily based on the record of a very limited number of well explored sites, with very few data on landscape occupation. Yet, as we know because of these limited snapshots, during the second millennium BC Salento is a privileged hub of long-range mobility and interaction, involving actors as different as the Aegean world (broadly intended but with intense connections with the Ionian area and western Greece), as well as northern Italy and selected areas of the Balkans. How was this landscape of mobility manifested in the archaeological record? What were the traces left on the ground? This paper will try to answer such questions using data from a survey project recently undertaken in the territory around the site of Rocavecchia, one of the main loci of Bronze Age connectivity in the area.

**Making pots in no clay's land:  
The communal ceramic traditions of prehistoric Ithaca**

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**Abstract**

Habitation on Ithaca continued essentially unbroken from the Final Neolithic into the Late Roman period. The prehistoric record, based largely (but not exclusively) on excavations conducted by the BSA during the 1930s, at present indicates a north-south divide: Bronze Age settlements are found mostly in the north of the island (Pelikata: EBA (EBAIII)-MBA; Polis Cave: MBA-LBA; Treis Langadas: LBA; Stavros cemetery fill: LBA), whereas in the south of the island, limited prehistoric habitation traces date to the Neolithic and LBA (rescue excavations conducted around Vathy by the Ephorate of Kefalonia and Ithaca). A diachronic large-scale analytical programme based in the Fitch Laboratory of the BSA aims to assess the exact character of local production through mineralogical identification of the different ceramic fabrics recognised macroscopically, and the reconstruction of the technological choices made at each stage of the manufacturing process. A total of 195 ceramic samples dating from the Neolithic to the Late Roman periods was examined via petrographic analysis and refiring tests, while 39 raw material samples were collected, experimentally processed, and thin sectioned for comparison with the ceramic material. Analytical results indicate that prehistoric pottery production, regardless of period, is heavily based on local resources. Raw material processing was of crucial importance in the local *chaîne opératoire*, as Ithacesian sediments are not suitable for pottery making if unprocessed. The four Bronze Age communities in the north of the island seemingly share a strong, long-lasting, "communal" potting tradition, in tandem with more localised pottery making "recipes" (e.g. Pelikata).

## **The nature of warfare in Western Greece and the Ionian Islands during the Late Bronze Age**

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### **Abstract**

Although various aspects of warfare in Mycenaean Greece have been discussed in a number of papers in recent years, an overall view of the evidence provided by the archaeological finds of western Greece and the Ionian Islands is still lacking. Within the confines of my short paper an effort will be made to fill this gap of our knowledge.

## Homeric questions on Late Bronze and Early Iron Age Ionian revisited

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### Abstract

The extensive literature regarding Homer's references to the Ionian islands and peoples, especially in the *Odyssey*, includes both amateur and scholarly studies, which get more and more difficult, if not impossible, to differentiate and to evaluate. By delving into publications, critically reviewing the data, publishing old and especially new archaeological material from the central and south Ionian Sea and conducting archaeological research in the Greek and wider Mediterranean world, one may recompose the natural and human environment, within which the epics were born and grew, independently of their specific place of birth and time of recording. Sea travels in the Ionian archipelago, being on the way of the Greeks towards the West, were frequent and significant already since the last centuries of the Bronze Age, and became even denser in the first centuries of the Iron Age. Their significance is implied by the Mycenaean and especially Early Iron Age evidence that passed down into the epics and is highlighted today through the study of archaeological finds from the islands of the Ionian Sea, the Greek mainland and the Aegean.

**Climate and environment of the Ionian Islands.  
From the first human impact to the Protogeometric period**

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**Abstract**

Located in western Greece from modern Albania through the coast of Akarnania in the North to the Peloponnese in the South, the Ionian Islands are largely at risk from various natural events. Several tectonic stress fields strongly influence the Islands of Kerkyra, Lefkada, Kefalonia and Zakynthos, as well as their satellite Islands resulting in earthquakes and related natural disasters. In addition, the region of Akarnania and the Ionian Islands, with their unusually high amount of rainfall, represent an exception to the warm and dry climate prevalent in the eastern Mediterranean. For this reason, this presentation will review the geological and climatic setting of the Islands to show the usefulness of systematic analysis of climate with regard to understanding the formation of landscapes and settlement activities. The study will use recent archaeological and scientific studies focused on the climate of the Ionian archipelago and the Mediterranean to draw a coherent picture of the influence of Mediterranean climate on humans from the first evidenced human activity on the Ionian Islands until the Bronze Age and Protogeometric period. Special focus will be given on the impact of special weather phenomenon on the formation of landscapes and coastlines of the Islands, and its influence on the site selection of settlements.

## **The rock-cut tholos tomb between Mycenaean influences and local peculiarities: The case of South-Central Sicily**

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### **Abstract**

Over the last 25 years, the studies of the funerary architecture of Sicily, especially those concerned with the rock-cut tholos-shaped chambers assignable to the Middle and Late Bronze Age (according to the local chronology), have increased the perception that such architectural experiences were the result of the relationship with archetypes deriving from the Mycenaean world. The studies have given consideration to the close relationships between the Bronze Age Aegean societies and the local groups in order to understand the extent to which the latter were influenced by the former.

This poster will focus on the discrepancies between the “ideal model” of the Mycenaean tholos and the architectural examples found in South-Central Sicily. The main goal is to try to understand whether these discrepancies are the result of previous cultural experiences of the local communities or are due to practical factors (land morphology, lack of technical skills etc.).

## **Health status, medicine and diet on the opposite sides of the Gulf of Corinth in the Bronze Age**

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### **Abstract**

This poster will present a comparative study of the health status and level of medicine of the regions on both sides of the Corinthian Gulf. From the regions to the north of this gulf, there exist only 3 sites with preserved and published skeletal remains (Goutsoura in Thesprotia, Kirrha and Kastrouli-Desfina in Fokis). On the south side of the gulf - in Elis and Achaea - there are 7 sites with preserved and published skeletal remains (Agia Triada in Elis; Agios Vasileios-Chalandritsa, Achaea Klauss, Kalamaki, Laganidia Kallithea; Spaliareika and Voudeni in Achaea; in Kalamaki and Voudeni only the results of the analyses of the stable isotopes of the bone tissue for the determination of the prevailing diet were published).

The interesting fact is that in 4 sites within the studied area the individuals with trepanations were found - in Kirrha, Agia Triada, Laganidia Kallithea and Achaea Klauss. As the trepanations were found on both sides of the Corinthian gulf, it might be concluded that there probably was some transfer of the medical knowledge regarding complex surgical interventions.

On this poster, firstly the health status of the individuals of the aforementioned sites will be presented (including their diet), and this will be followed by a comparison of the health status and level of medicine of the regions on either side of the Corinthian Gulf.

## Continuity in the Material Culture of Kefalonia: LBA and Historical Period. The Case of Drakaina Cave

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### Abstract

The cave sanctuary of Drakaina, close to the coastal site of Poros, on the Ionian Island of Kefalonia, played an important role in the religious life of the island during the historical period. The majority of the material dates to the Archaic, Classical and Hellenistic periods. However, activity at the site started in the Early Geometric period and continued throughout the Geometric, with the dedication of a few utilitarian large vases and a small group of votives. This assemblage demonstrates the smooth transition to the large flow of dedications in the Archaic period. During this time the most popular shape is the kantharos.

In this presentation I will focus on the relation that demonstrates the affinity of the Geometric pottery and even terracottas with the LBA past of the island. The kantharos, a shape that is introduced early in the 9<sup>th</sup> century, is a choice made by worshippers for the Archaic period cult in the cave.

Furthermore, a style that is known as West Greek derives directly from the shapes introduced during the Matte-painted II phase and before the beginning of the proper Geometric style that appeared in the region of Western Greece around 900 BC. A group of drinking cups imported in the cave, which are imitated by local workshops, fits in this context. Finally, the many dancing groups that were dedicated during the early Archaic times are a votive that was first seen in the LBA in funerary contexts. Continuity and re-use are noteworthy in the coroplastic and pottery production of Kefalonia.