

Παλαιολιθικό Σεμινάριο 2025

Τετάρτη 7/5, 19:00

Αμφιθέατρο του Ινστιτούτου της Δανίας στην Αθήνα, Χαιρεφώντος 14, Πλατεία Αγίας Αικατερίνης, Πλάκα



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Palaeolithic adornment practices: Socio-economic connections and symbolic behaviour

Beads and various other personal ornaments are considered to express human rank and affiliation, but when does this behaviour start and why? The earliest evidence for personal ornaments comes from Middle Palaeolithic sites in Africa and the Levant. Some unperforated shells collected around 160 ka (or earlier) indicate a symbolic interest in shells, however, the first perforated shells to date, are from Bizmoune Cave in Morocco, dated to about 140ka. I propose that somewhere in between these dates is when strings first came into use. The recurring collection and use of specific shells, especially *Glycymeris* and *Tritia*, speaks to their symbolic value, which continues throughout the Palaeolithic, Neolithic, and in some regions until recently. The rapid spread of Modern human populations during the Upper Palaeolithic brought an increase in both quantities of ornaments, in diversity of shell species collected and in the addition of newly exploited raw materials for ornamentation. Those include ostrich egg shells and landsnails in Africa, and bone, antler, teeth and ivory in Europe. Furthermore, new practices of ornamentation are inferred from their presence in graves, which reflect some symbolic uses. The presence of specific ornaments in geographic regions distant from the source, in particular in the circum-Mediterranean, allows us to reconstruct human interactions. Yet similar finds in Asia and Australia may testify to far reaching networks.

Διοργάνωση

Πανεπιστήμιο Κρήτης – καθηγήτρια Νένα Γαλανίδου
Υπουργείο Πολιτισμού, Εφορεία Παλαιοανθρωπολογίας-Σπηλαιολογίας – δρ Ανδρέας Ντάρλας



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Με την ευγενική υποστήριξη του Ινστιτούτου της Δανίας στην Αθήνα και της Airotel

