



Pottery as Experiment

Shifting and adapting production technologies, functions and styles

The EAA Annual Meetings have become the most important gathering for archaeologists from all over Europe and beyond, offering the unique opportunity to contribute to a continuing discussion concerning the numerous identities and contexts of European archaeology.

Ancient technologies in Social Context (To3) is one of the Themes on which the EAA 20th Annual Meeting (Istanbul, September 2014) is focused. Within this framework, it is our great pleasure to invite you to join the session:

Pottery as Experiment

Shifting and adapting production technologies, functions and styles (To3So16)

Ceramics, by far the most common finds in the archaeological record, are of vital importance in reconstructing the past. Pottery studies have been mainly concerned with assessing degrees of standardization/specialization, functional properties of artefacts, and classification of stylistic attributes. Indeed, greater attention has been given to the definition of similarities in the *chaîne opératoire*, rather than its variants. On the contrary, the evaluation of experimentation processes may provide powerful tools to analyse the individuality of artisans/artists, as well as highlight the contexts in which major cultural and technological interactions took place.

This session aims at gathering a variety of studies (from Neolithic to Roman period across the ancient Mediterranean), which illustrate pottery production as an experimental and innovative phenomenon, with respect to technology, function and decoration. The issues to be explored could include, but are not limited to:

- Identification of trials, tests and experiments
- Hybridization within shape, function and decoration
- Shapes that shift in function through time, and vice versa
- Incorporation of new technologies or motifs into customary practices
- Adoption of technique and styles derived from other craft technologies (metal, textile, wood, etc.),

We are particularly interested in interdisciplinary research and fresh perspectives on traditional approaches; moreover, we encourage participation of scholars using material science analysis and advanced technical tools of inquiry.



Prospective contributors are invited to submit English abstracts of maximum 200 words by January 27, 2014.

Participants will be notified of the EAA Scientific Committee's decision via email by February 18, 2014.

All contributors must be registered and have fully paid for the meeting by 30 June at the very latest.

Abstract Submission form: www.eaa2014.istanbul.org/abstract_submission_form

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