

International Workshop

WEAVING THE PAST: THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF TEXTILES AND TEXTILE PRODUCTION IN GREECE IN THE FIRST MILLENNIUM BCE

British School at Athens

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Organisers: Margarita Gleba, Christina Margariti and Joanne Cutler

In the past few years the field of archaeological textile research has witnessed a major dynamism as demonstrated by numerous conferences and publications on the topic, as well as establishment of large-scale interdisciplinary collaborative programmes. The scientific methods have been or are being developed within archaeology that can be applied to gain new knowledge about ancient textiles on unprecedented scale.

Compared to Central and Northern Europe, textile research in Greece has been a rather neglected field until recently. The reason most often cited for the absence of studies on ancient textiles in Greece is their extremely poor preservation. Textiles, however, are much more common finds than generally thought and survive in original organic state but also as carbonised and mineralised traces, as well as in the form of imprints. Over the last 10 years, the research on and conservation of archaeological textiles carried out at the Hellenic Centre for Research and Conservation of Archaeological Textiles and the Directorate of Conservation of the Hellenic Ministry of Culture have significantly raised the awareness of textiles and related materials excavated in Greece. In addition, there are numerous other sources of evidence, such as textile tools, palaeobotanic and archaeozoological remains, as well as iconographic and literary sources, which permit us to gain valuable information about many and varied aspects of textile production in ancient Greece.

The interdisciplinary workshop will gather specialists in these fields in order to bring together and to discuss the various methods and approaches to textile and fibre studies in ancient Greece with a particular focus on the 1st millennium BCE. The overall aim of this session is to demonstrate the potential of archaeological textiles for the investigation of ancient Greek economy, technology and agriculture and to discuss new methods that can be applied to the investigation of ancient textiles.

PROGRAMME

AM

Introduction

- 9:00-9:10 Welcome - John Bennet (Director, BSA)
9:10-9:30 Introduction - Margarita Gleba (University of Cambridge)

Session 1: Textiles

- 9:30-9:50 The conservation of textiles excavated in Greece
Christina Margariti (Hellenic Ministry of Culture)
- 9:50-10:10 Textile cultures in the 1st millennium BC Europe: a view from Greece
Margarita Gleba (University of Cambridge)
- 10:10-10:30 Textile technology in Classical Athens: an overview
Stella Spantidaki (Artex, Athens)
- 10:30-10:50 Archaeological textiles from Macedonia: Newest significant finds and the current interdisciplinary research
Dimosthenes Kechagias (University of Peloponnese)
- 10:50-11:00 Discussion
- 11:00-11:30 Coffee Break

Session 2: Raw Materials

- 11:30-11:50 What can archaeobotany tell us about textiles: the evidence from the Aegean
Evi Margaritis (The Cyprus Institute)
- 11:50-12:10 Weaving the past from bones: sheep (and goats) in the zooarchaeological record of Bronze Age and Iron Age Greece
Valasia Isaakidou (University of Oxford) and Paul Halstead (University of Sheffield)
- 12:10-12:30 Purple Dye between the Aegean and the Central Mediterranean in the Bronze and Early Iron Ages
Francesco Iacono (University of Cambridge)
- 12:30-12:50 HPLC methods to identify the chemical and biological origin of organic colourants (dyes)
Ioannis (Yiannis) Karapanagiotis (University Ecclesiastical Academy of Thessaloniki)
- 12:50-13:00 Discussion
- 13:00-14:30 Lunch break

PM

Session 3 – Tools

- 14:30-14:50 Weaving differences and similarities in the Bronze Age Aegean
Iris Tzachili (University of Crete, Rethymnon)
- 14:50-15:10 Textile production in Bronze Age Aegean - new perspective
Eva Andersson Strand and Marie-Louise Nosch (CTR, Copenhagen)
- 15:10-15:30 Materialising production: textile tools, textile technology and cloth production in ancient Greece
Joanne Cutler (University of Cambridge)
- 15:30-15:50 Textile production and consumption in Iron Age Thrace: state of the evidence
Bela Dimova (University of Cambridge)
- 15:50-16:00 Discussion
- 16:00-16:30 Coffee break

Session 4 – Tools, iconography and written sources

- 16:30-16:50 Loom weights in Corinth: the Sanctuary of Demeter and Kore
Nancy Bookidis (ASCSA, Athens)
- 16:50-17:10 Garments of the archaic korai: a textile approach to iconography
Susanna Harris (University of Glasgow)
- 17:10-17:40 Class, gender and dress in archaic Greece
Hans van Wees (University College London)
- 17:40-18:00 Discussion
- 18:00-19:30 Reception