



BSA Friends Lecture

Another Keros mystery: exploring the unusual burial choices at the Early Cycladic island of Keros

Dr Ioanna Moutafi

Tuesday 14 May 2019, 6pm in Room 349 in the South Block of Senate House, London.

The Early Bronze Age (ca. 2700-2200 BC) site of Keros (Cyclades) is one of the most significant and fascinating prehistoric sites in Greece, recognised as the first maritime sanctuary in the Aegean and beyond. A series of excavations, led by Prof Colin Renfrew (University of Cambridge) under the auspices of the British School at Athens, has revealed evidence for unique ritual practices on Kavos and a prominent settlement on nearby Dhaskalio. Both the exceptional ritual practices and the peculiar monumental settlement on Dhaskalio are posing several compelling questions about the character of this Early Cycladic society. The scarce skeletal remains found on site are also attesting to rather unusual burial choices, unique so far in the Early Cycladic period. In this lecture, Dr Ioanna Moutafi will explore these mortuary assemblages through a taphonomic bioarchaeological approach that will shed light on both the biological profiles of the dead and the funerary acts of the people who buried them.



Dr Moutafi, a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Postdoctoral Fellow at the McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research, University of Cambridge, is a bioarchaeologist specialising in the excavation and contextual analysis of human remains from the prehistoric Aegean. Her research interests lie primarily in social bioarchaeology and funerary taphonomy, investigating the social dimensions of prehistoric mortuary practices. Working mostly on collective skeletal assemblages, she employs a multi-dimensional biosocial

approach that brings together traditional archaeology, mortuary theory and current advances in biological and field anthropology. Ioanna has worked as leading bioarchaeologist in several international archaeological projects around Greece.

The lecture will be followed by an informal reception. There is a suggested donation of £8.50 for Supporters of the BSA (£10.50 otherwise). Donations should be made in advance and cheques made payable to 'The British School at Athens'.

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