



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE



## Gesture, Stance, and Movement Communicating Bodies in the Aegean Bronze Age

University of Heidelberg, Germany

11-13 November 2021

### CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Bodily comportment in Aegean Bronze Age two-dimensional and three-dimensional representations is a powerful communicative tool. Figures and figurines, glyptic scenes, wall paintings, vessels with figural decoration, jewellery, and even script depict expressive and often interacting bodies, which not only communicate amongst each other but also convey messages to their onlookers and users. A number of studies have therefore pointed to the salience of gesture and stance in these depictions by identifying different patterns of body ‘language’, the contextual clusters in which they appear, and by interpreting their ritual, religious or social significance.

The conference’s objective is to systematically and critically advance research on bodily comportment by focusing especially on the forms and methods of communication expressed, triggered, and intended by Aegean Bronze Age depictions of the anthropomorphic or hybrid body. Attentive to recent theoretical and methodological advancements, the conference aims to explore the conventions employed in representations of the gesturing, still and moving body; the conventions employed in the depictions of interlocutor(s) and receiver(s); the evidence for choreographed action; the different forms of bodily vocabularies which subsequently arise, as well as the potential impact of chronology and geography in their formation, use, and abandonment; the subtle renderings of emotion and affect; the contexts in which various forms of communication are depicted; and the relevance of body type, gender, age, status, occupation, and identities more generally, to the bodily expression represented. Discussions may also include considerations of the role that material and object type plays in the scenes’ representation and significance, and the appropriateness of existing methodologies employed in broader studies on the body for research focused on bodily comportment.

Please email your proposed title and abstract (250 words max.) to [aegean.gestures@gmail.com](mailto:aegean.gestures@gmail.com) by **30<sup>th</sup> October 2020**. Both oral and poster presentations are welcome. Contributors will be notified of the acceptance of their submission in January 2021. Oral presentations should not exceed 30 minutes and shall each be allocated a 10 minute question and discussion slot. The conference language is English. After the conference, presenters will be invited to submit their contribution for publication in the proceedings volume.

The conference will take place at the Internationales Wissenschaftsforum Heidelberg (IWH). While participation in person is strongly encouraged, contributors will also have the possibility to join through video conferencing.

The Organising Committee,

**Ute Güntel-Maschek** (University of Heidelberg)

**Céline Murphy** (Trinity College Dublin)

**Fritz Blakolmer** (University of Vienna)

**Diamantis Panagiotopoulos** (University of Heidelberg)