19th International Congress of Classical Archaeology Cologne/Bonn, 22 – 26 May 2018

Call for Papers

Panel 6.7: Classical Food and Diet under the Microscope

Diet, with its multiple social and economic determinants, constitutes a key research arena in archaeological studies. Dietary patterns in the Classical world have been extensively explored as a window on ancient cuisine, agricultural and animal management practices, and social structure, among others. The primary means adopted in such studies have been written sources, artistic evidence, material culture and, to a lesser extent, bioarchaeological data (archaeobotanical, zooarchaeological and human skeletal evidence). Recent advances in microanalytical techniques have demonstrated the high potential of microscopic and biomolecular evidence in elucidating dietary aspects which remain elusive on a macroscopic scale. It is the purpose of this session to elucidate the chaîne opérartoire from food production to consumption using different lines of evidence. In this direction, we are interested in papers that aim at reconstructing agricultural practices, dietary choices, food processing and food consumption in different geographical areas of the Classical world, by means of archaeobotanical remains, phytoliths, and starches, dental calculus microdebris of dietary origin, dental microwear analysis, residue analysis from pottery and other material cultural remains, or any other microscopic dietary evidence. Equal emphasis will be placed on contributions with a primary methodological direction, presenting novel approaches in microscopic dietary reconstruction, and to contributions with a stronger biocultural character, which emphasize the integration of the resulting data in their broader economic and societal context. Papers focusing on interdisciplinary approaches to diet and the ancient economy, emphasizing the added value of an interdisciplinary approach, will be very welcome. We are also open to experimental approaches aimed at implementing our understanding of the archaeological record related to diet.

* Deadline for abstract submission for papers and posters: 31st of August (please visit the conference website to submit your contribution -

http://www.aiac2018.de/)

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