



# **13<sup>TH</sup> ICAZ**

## **INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE**

**ABSTRACTS**

**2<sup>ND</sup> - 7<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2018**

**ANKARA - TURKEY**



# 13<sup>TH</sup> ICAZ INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

2<sup>ND</sup> – 7<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2018

ANKARA – TURKEY

## ABSTRACTS



*A series of suggestions and drawings for the conference logo were submitted by METU, Ankara University and Hacettepe University students. After a vote by the members of the Scientific and Organizing Committee, the drawing proposed by Zeynep Ece Sahin was chosen. It encircles a number of bone "shadows" topped with the statue of a deer drawn after a metal find from the "Kings' tombs" at Alacahöyük. This statue is displayed at the Anatolian Civilizations Museum in Ankara.*



International Council for Archaeozoology



Middle East Technical University



## **A string of marine shell beads from the Neolithic site of Vršnik (Ovce polje, Republic of Macedonia)**

Beads made of *Spondylus gaederopus*, *Antalis vulgaris* and *Cyclope neritea*, most likely forming a single string, are found in an anthropomorphic vessel at the Neolithic site of Vršnik (Ovce polje, Republic of Macedonia). The discovery was made in the course of the excavations of the Neolithic settlement, conducted by Milutin and Draga Garašanin (1961). In the excavation report, the anthropomorphic vessel has been illustrated, and the find of shell beads just shortly mentioned. Later, this find has been forgotten and omitted on the maps of *Spondylus*/marine shells findings in the prehistoric Europe.

Majority of beads are made of *Spondylus* and *Antalis* shells. Being that these two molluscs have shells of very different morphology and structure, beads are unexpectedly similar in size, shape and color. Assumption is imposed that exactly that was the intention of the beads' producer, to make the like out of unlike row material.

The use of *Cyclope* shells on one side, and *Spondylus* beads on the other, point to interweaving of Mesolithic tradition and adoption of new, Neolithic trends in ornament production and exchange. At any rate, this find represents an important datum for the European *Spondylus* exchange network in the Neolithic period. Also, it adds to the appreciation of *Antalis* items' share in the exchange network, which might be underestimated because of the difficulties of scaphopod identification. Putting this find back in focus is also a motive to undertake mapping of items made of marine shells, in Pelagonia, the valley of the river Vardar and Ovce polje in Macedonia, the region previously poorly researched in this respect.

**Keywords:** *Spondylus*, beads, Neolithic, Vršnik, Macedonia

Vesna Dimitrijevic, Laboratory for Bioarchaeology, Department of Archaeology, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Belgrade. [vdimitri@f.bg.ac.rs](mailto:vdimitri@f.bg.ac.rs)

Goce Naumov, Center for Prehistoric Research, Goce Delcev University, Macedonia.  
Sofija Stefanovic, BioSense Institute, University of Novi Sad, Serbia.

## **Shell ornaments distributional patterns in the Aegean and Eastern Mediterranean Bronze Age as indicators of identity and connectivity**

Shell ornaments have a special importance in the studies about prehistoric cultural identities. The mollusc species that were utilized, as well as the shapes in which their shells were worked, often expressed symbolisms and semiotic meanings that were interpretable only in a specific culture. The result is that peculiar shell ornaments are characteristic of defined periods and regions. The study of their chronological and geographic distribution may contribute either to define ancient cultural identities and their dynamics or to identify the cultural connections among them. The archaeomalacological data about the Aegean and the Levant of III and II millennium BC are particularly suitable for such kind of analytical approach. The distributional pattern analysis of several types of shell ornaments from Greek, Turkish, Cypriot, Near Eastern and Egyptian Bronze Age sites revealed how these items were strongly related to regional traditions. Their discovery in archaeological contexts away from the traditional geographic area suggests sometimes the sporadic presence of foreigners in a site or, otherwise, the diffusion of a tradition from one area to another with important implications about the expansion of cultures as well as about possible migrations phenomena.

Alfredo Carannante, IRIAE (International Research Institute for Archaeology and Ethnology).  
[alcarann@yahoo.it](mailto:alcarann@yahoo.it);