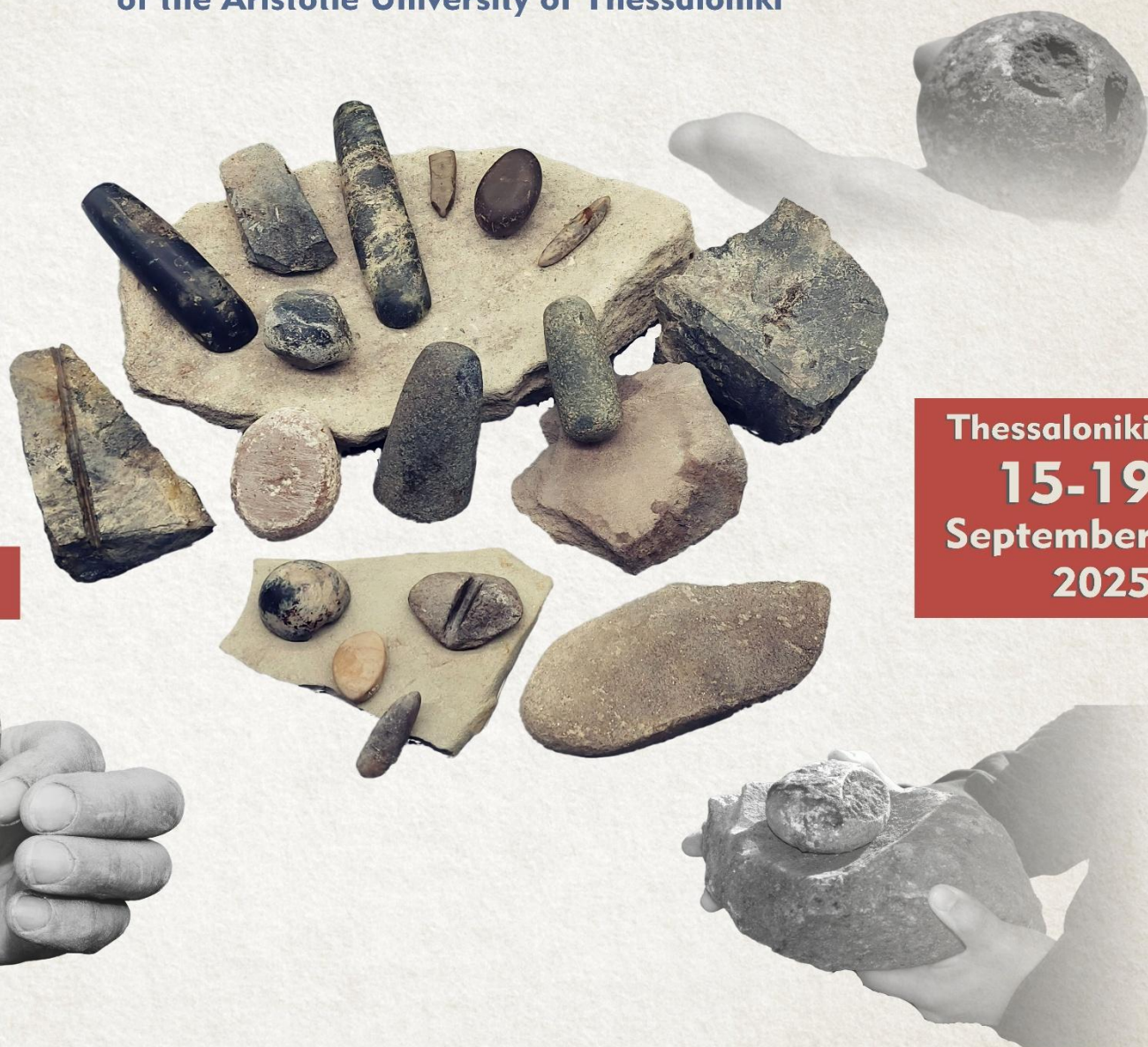


The 5th Meeting of the Association for Ground Stone Tools Research

Worlds of Stone

interdisciplinary approaches of ground stone technologies

under the auspices of the School of History and Archaeology
of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki



#agstr2025

Thessaloniki
15-19
September
2025

Aristotle University Research Dissemination Center (KEDEA) / Conference Hall II



Local Organisers: Soultana – Maria Valamoti & Tasos Bekiaris

Organising team: Soultana – Maria Valamoti, Tasos Bekiaris, Danai Chondrou, Matina Gkeivanidou, Ismini Ninou

Scientific committee: Tasos Bekiaris, Danai Chondrou, Vasileios Melfos, Lambrini Papadopoulou, Haris Procopiou, Anna Stroulia, Danny Rosenberg, Anna Stroulia, Christina Tsoraki, Soultana – Maria Valamoti

Administrative support/registrations/financial issues: Matina Gkeivanidou & Ismini Ninou

Program and abstracts volume preparation: Ioanna – Ermioni Papaioannou

Student volunteers:

Master's: Tiphane Blanchemain, Eva Brachou, Sofia Firtikiadou, Evi Kalogiannidou (catering), Alexandros Kateris (consumables), Iliana Lefa, Nikopoulou Christina (gift sponsors), Maria – Avgi Oikonomidou, Maria – Ioanna Stefanaki

Undergraduate: Haris Drampa & Paraskevi Kleisiari

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AGSTR 2025

15 - 19 SEPTEMBER 2025

PROGRAM

MONDAY 15 SEPTEMBER, 2025

9:00 – 10:30: Registration – Coffee

10:30 – 11:00: Opening of conference - Welcoming

11:00 – 13:00: Session 1

Methodological advancements and innovative analytical techniques

Session Chair: Dr. C.Hamon

11:00 – 11:15:

Direct evidence for Epipalaeolithic plant food processing: starch remains extracted from ground stone tools from Natufian el-Wad Terrace, Israel.

Presenting Author: Hadar Ahituv¹

Co- Authors: Reuven Yeshurun, Mina Weinstein-Evron, Danny Rosenberg

11:15 – 11:30:

Milling equipment around the village of Seglamen, Aksum, Ethiopia: an ethnoarchaeological research on their manufacturing.

Presenting Author: Diego Capra²

Co- Authors: Luisa Sernicola, Andrea Manzo

¹ Laboratory for Ancient Food Processing Technologies (LAFPT), Lab manager Dept. of Archaeology, Zinman Inst. of Archaeology, School of Archaeology, University of Haifa

² Universitat Rovira i Virgili (URV), Departament d'Història i Història de l'Art, Avinguda de Catalunya 35, 43002 Tarragona, Spain and Institut Català de Paleoecologia Humana i Evolució Social (IPHES-CERCA), Zona Educacional 4, Campus Sescelades URV (Edifici W3), 43007 Tarragona, Spain

11:30 – 11:45:

A Multi-Analytical Study of the Macro-Lithic Assemblage of Oued Beht, Morocco.

Presenting Author: Francesco Michele Rega³

Co- Authors: Toby Wilkinson, Adelaide Marsilio, Ilaria Mazzini, Youssef Bokbot, Cyprian Broodbank, Giulio Lucarini

11:45 – 12:00:

Hammerstones: how to distinguish the multiple functions of a ubiquitous macrolithic artefact type?

Presenting Author: Roberto Risch⁴

Co- Authors: Richard Thér, Marina Eguíluz, Selina Delgado-Raack

12:00– 12:15:

Function and use of Neolithic shoe-last axes in Central Europe. An experimental archaeological and morphometric approach.

Presenting Authors: Lohengrin Baunack / Julius Mayer⁵

Co- Authors: Cristoph von Tycowicz, Laura Dietrich

12:15 – 12:30:

Interdisciplinary Approaches: A Digital and Stratigraphic Analysis of Ground Stone Tools at Hell Gap National Historic Landmark.

Presenting Author: Elizabeth Marie Lynch⁶

Co- Authors: Mark Owens, Emily Cole, Jaimie Adams, Joanna Schultz, Caitlyn Streseman, Scott Jones, Tara Larson, Marcel Kornfield

³ Associazione Internazionale di Studi sul Mediterraneo e l'Oriente (ISMEO)

⁴ Department of Prehistory, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

⁵ Prehistoric Archaeology, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg

⁶ Eastern New Mexico University

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12:30 – 13:00: Discussion

13:00 – 14:45: Lunch Break!

14:45 – 16:45: Session 2

Ground stone tools and economy **Session Chair: Prof. R. Risch**

14:45 – 15:00:

Macrolithic Tools and the Economy of Late Bronze Age Communities in Southwestern Serbia.

Presenting Author: Vesna Vučković⁷

Co- Authors: Vojislav Filipović, Aleksandar Bulatović, Maja Gajić Kvašček

15:00 – 15:15:

Macrolithic Tools and Economic Organisation in the Early Bronze Age of Central Germany.

Presenting Author: Marina Eguíluz – Valentini ⁸

Co- Authors: Selina Delgado-Raack, Roberto Risch

15:15 – 15:30:

Cooperative Production in Ditched Enclosures of Copper Age Iberia: A Macrolithic Perspective.

Presenting Author: Marina Eguíluz – Valentini ⁹

Co- Authors: Selina Delgado-Raack, Marcello Peres, María Isabel Ortego, Rui do Rosario, Roberto Risch.

⁷ Laboratory for Ancient Food Processing Technologies (LAFPT), Zinman Institute of Archaeology, University of Haifa

⁸ Universidad Autónoma de Barcelona

⁹ Universidad Autónoma de Barcelona

15:30 – 15:45:

Approaching the social organization of grinding tools production: a case study from the early Neolithic of the Paris Basin.

Presenting Author: Caroline Hamon¹⁰

15:45 – 16:00:

Multi-faceted analysis of LBA grinding stones from Eastern Hungary.

Presenting Author: Annamaria Priskin¹¹

Co- Authors: Ákos Pető, Andrea Torma, Vajk Szeverényi

16:00 – 16:15:

The Assyrian Grinding Tool: The First Mass- Production Mill.

Presenting Author: David Eitam¹²

16:15 – 16:45: Discussion



¹⁰ CNRS - UMR 8215 Trajectoires

¹¹ Hungarian National Museum, National Archaeological Institute

¹² Independent researcher

TUESDAY 16 SEPTEMBER, 2025

8:00 – 9:00: Registration

9:00 – 16:55: Session 1

Regional and Diachronic perspectives

Session Chair: Prof. S. Mithen

-

9:15 – 9:30:

Two groups of macrolithic artefacts from one region - a diachronic view.

Presenting Author: Jaroslav Ridky¹³

Co- Authors: Daniel Pilar, Kristina Dolezalova

9:30 – 9:45:

Retooling Narratives on the Advent of the Cypriot Bronze Age: Ground Stone Tools and Technological Change over the Late Chalcolithic to Early Bronze Age Transition (2900-1900BC).

Presenting Author: Ellon Souter¹⁴

9:45 – 10:00:

From the Neolithic to the Roman period in the Dorset hills of southern Britain: hammerstones, querns and other tools.

Presenting Author: Ruth Shaffrey¹⁵

¹³ Institute of Archaeology of the CAS, Prague

¹⁴ Cyprus American Archaeological Research Institute

¹⁵ Oxford Archaeology

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10:00 – 10:15:

Approaches to craft and food production within the Late Chalcolithic south Caucasian settlements: Insights from ground stone tool analyses.

Presenting Author: Karolina Hruby¹⁶

Co- Authors: Mark Iserlis, Khagani Almamedov

10:15 – 10:30:

Stone Mortars: New Evidence of a widely traded Tool in North-Western Europe.

Presenting Author: Geert Verbrugghe¹⁷

10:30 – 10:50: Discussion

10:50 – 11:20: Coffee break!

11:20 – 11:35:

Handled pounders of the southern Levant.

Presenting Author: Gil Haklay¹⁸

Co- Authors: Ianir Milevski, Dina Shalem, Nimrod Getzov

11:35 – 11:50:

4,000 years of grinding and milling activities in the oases of the northwestern Arabian Peninsula.

Presenting Author: Picavet Paul¹⁹

¹⁶ Eurasia Department, German Archaeological Institute in Berlin

¹⁷ Inrap (Institut national de recherches archéologiques préventives), France

¹⁸ Israel Antiquities Authority

¹⁹ PETRA - Pierre et techniques, recherche archéologique ; UMR 6184 - HALMA (Univ. Lille, CNRS, MC)

11:50 – 12:05:

Finding the Source: Sandstone Ground Stone Tools from Neolithic Eastern Mongolia: Thin-Section Petrography as a Tool to Identify Sedimentary Rocks.

Presenting Author: Joan S. Schneider ²⁰

Co- Authors; Dash Batulzii, Susan H. Gilliland, Gantulga Bayasgala

12:05 – 12:20:

Organisation of stone axe production, usage and recycling by the post-linear communities in Central Europe.

Presenting Author: Bernadeta Kufel – Diakowska²¹

Co- Authors: Marcin Chłóń, Melchior Czarnik, Michał Borowski, Wojciech Bronowicki

12:20 – 12:35:

Studies on stone axes between Caucasus and Carpathians.

Presenting Author: Luisa Noster²²

12:35 – 13:00: Discussion

13:00 – 14:40: Lunch break!

²⁰ California State Parks, Colorado Desert District

²¹ Institute of Archaeology University of Wrocław

²² German Archaeological Institute, Eurasia Department

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14:40 – 16:15: Session 1 (continued)

Session Chair: Dr. J. Ridky

14:40 – 14:55:

At the Cutting Edge: Biographies of Orcadian Neolithic Axes.

Presenting Author: Patrick Nørskov – Pedersen²³

Co- Authors: Aimée Little, Mark Edmonds

14:55 – 15:10:

Stone Stories: Exploring the Role of Igneous, Sedimentary, and Metamorphic Rocks in Neolithic and Bronze Age Toolmaking across Northern Greece.

Presenting Author: Christos L. Stergiou²⁴

Co- Authors: Melfos, V., Papadopoulou, L., Bekiaris, T., Stroulia, A., Stratouli, G.

15:10 – 15:25:

Grinding Stone Craft Specialization during the Aksumite Period in Tigray, Ethiopia.

Presenting Author: Laurie Nixon – Darcus

15:25 – 15:40:

Rock Hollows as Cultural or Natural Landmarks? The Evidence from Central Nigeria.

Presenting Author: Okopi Ade²⁵

²³ University of Copenhagen, Department of Cross-cultural and Regional Studies & University of York, Department of Archaeology

²⁴ (1) Chemical Process & Energy Resources Institute (CPERI), Centre for Research and Technology Hellas (CERTH), 50200 Ptolemaida, Greece (2) Faculty of Geology, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (AUTH), 54124 Thessaloniki, Greece

²⁵ Department of Archaeology and Heritage Studies, University of Jos, Nigeria

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15:40 – 15:55:

Vessels or not? Classification Challenges with Hollowed-Out Macrolithic Artifacts from the Greek Neolithic.

Presenting Author: Anna Stroulia²⁶

Co- Authors: Agathe Reingruber, Vasilios Melfos, Giorgos Toufexis

15:55 – 16:15: Discussion

16:15 – 16:55:

KEYNOTE SPEECH:

'Thinking and talking about stones and what to do with them: past and present'.

Presenting Author: Steven Mithen

16:55 – 18:00: Wine Reception.



²⁶ University of Southern Indiana

WEDNESDAY 17 SEPTEMBER, 2025

8:00 – 9:00: Registration

9:00 – 16:45: Session 1

Tracing technologies: Making, using and discarding ground stone tools

Session Chair: Dr. J.S. Schneider

9:00 – 9:15:

Whetstones of the Ancient Near East: Typology, Technology and Cultural Context.

Presenting Author: David Ilan²⁷

Co- Authors: Aaron Greener

9:15 – 9:30:

What Does the Largest Assemblage of Prestige Basalt Vessels Reveal? Insights from Agamim, Ashqelon, Israel.

Presenting Author: Marina Bekker – Shamir ²⁸

Co- Authors: Yael Abadi-Reiss

9:30 – 9:45:

Are Grinding Stones Morphologies and Typologies a Product of their Functions? The case study from Akwanga, Central Nigeria.

Presenting Author: Okopi Ade²⁹

²⁷ Nelson Glueck School of Biblical Archaeology, Hebrew Union College

²⁸ Israel Antiquities Authority

²⁹ Department of Archaeology and Heritage Studies, University of Jos, Nigeria

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9:45 – 10:00:

Within the citadel: Grinding stone use patterns in different kinds of settlement areas at Kaymakçı.

Presenting Author: Kristina Doležalová³⁰

Co- Authors: Jaroslav Řídký, Daniel Pilař, Christina Luke, Christopher H. Roosevelt

10:00 – 10:30: Discussion

10:30 – 11:30: Coffee break!

11:30 – 11:45:

Pestles, pounder, picks, platters and plates: ground stone artefacts from the Early Neolithic site of WF16, southern Jordan.

Presenting Author: Steven Mithen³¹

Co- Authors: Bill Finlayson, Sam Smith

11:45 – 12:00:

Tel Shiqmona: The ground stone tools assemblage of a Specializing Israelite Iron Age II site and perspectives on technology and anthropology.

Presenting Author: Shay Shemesh³²

Co- Authors: Ayelet Gilboa, Danny Rosenberg

³⁰ Institute of Classical Archaeology, Faculty of Arts, Charles University

³¹ University of Reading

³² Laboratory for Ancient Food Processing Technologies, Zinman Institute of Archaeology, University of Haifa

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12:00– 12:15:

Persistent traditions: the grinding tool assemblage from Dikili Tash, Northeastern Greece.

Presenting Author: Danai Chondrou³³

Co- Authors: Bofill, M., Papadopoulou, L., Procopiou, H., Vargiolu, R., Zahouani, H. S.M. Valamoti

12:15 – 12:30:

Multiple tools for multiple purposes: distribution and technological practices through the study of macrolithic artefacts from the Early Helladic settlement of Koropi (Attica).

Presenting Author: Maria Mexi³⁴

12:30 – 12:45:

The perforation process employed in the production of shaft-hole axes by Neolithic and Eneolithic communities in Central Europe.

Presenting Author: Wojciech Bronowicki³⁵

Co- Authors: Marcin Chłoń, Bernadeta Kufel-Diakowska, Melchior Czarnik

12:45 – 13:15: Discussion

13:15 – 15:00: Lunch Break – Presentation of Posters

³³ Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

³⁴ EPHORATE OF ANTIQUITIES OF EAST ATTICA (MINISTRY OF CULTURE)

³⁵ University of Wrocław, Institute of Archaeology

! PRESENTATION OF POSTERS!

*** The remarkable case of an oversized Early Neolithic ground stone axe from Mavropigi (site: Fillotsairi), Greece.**

Presenting Author: Ismini Ninou³⁶

*** Illuminating Use-Wear: Innovative Applications of Microscopic RTI in Ground Stone Tool Analysis.**

Presenting Author: Robitaille Jerome³⁷

*** Social Hierarchies in the Worlds of Stone: Ethnoarchaeological Insights into Dorze Grinding Technologies.**

Presenting Author: Robitaille Jerome³⁸

15:00 – 16:45: Session 1 (Continued)

Session Chair: Prof. A. Stroulia

15:00 – 15:15:

Ground Stone Tools and the Hidden Stories of Pumice: First insights from the Early and Middle Bronze Age Settlement of Koimisis, Therasia, Greece.

Presenting Author: Georgios Varsanis³⁹

³⁶ Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

³⁷ Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń (NCU), Monrepos – Archaeological Research Centre and Museum for Human Behavioural Evolution, LEIZA

³⁸ Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń (NCU), Monrepos – Archaeological Research Centre and Museum for Human Behavioural Evolution, LEIZA

³⁹ Ephorate of Antiquities of Piraeus and Islands

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15:15 – 15:30:

Technical-Morphological Approach to Polished Stone tools: the collection from the Chalcolithic Settlement of Vila Nova de São Pedro (Azambuja, Portugal).

Presenting Author: Ana Rosa⁴⁰

Co- Authors: Mariana Diniz, César Neves, Paulo Fonseca

15:30 – 15:45:

From the mundane narrative to the integration of shaped stones into a meaningful history. A study case from Eastern Romania.

Presenting Author: Neculai Bolohan⁴¹

Co- Authors: Bogdan-Ștefan Novac, Bogdan Gabriel Rățoi, Ana Drob

15:45 – 16:00:

Mesolithic pebble tools from Rubha Port and t-Seilich, Scotland.

Presenting Author: Steven Mithen

16:00 – 16:45: Discussion

⁴⁰ Uniarq - Faculdade de Letras da Universidade de Lisboa

⁴¹ Faculty of History Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași, Romania

!2nd Session: FLASH TALKS!

16:45 – 16:50:

Archaeometric investigation of Late Bronze Age macrolithic finds of metamorphic origin from Csanádpalota – Földvár, SE-Hungary (preliminary results).

Presenting Author: Tamás Sági⁴²

Co- Authors: Máté Biro, Veronika Szilágyi, Annamaria Priskin, Vajk Szeverenyi, Bálint Peterdi

16:50 – 16:55:

Crafting the Green Gem: Investigating the Manufacturing of Turquoise Ornaments in Neolithic Central China.

Presenting Author: Weiya Li⁴³

16:55 - 17:30: Discussion

OFFICIAL DINNER!

⁴² Department of Petrology and Geochemistry, Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, Hungary

⁴³ Charles III University of Madrid; University of Science and Technology of China

THURSDAY 18 SEPTEMBER, 2025

8:00 – 9:00: Registration

9:00 – 11:00: Session 1

Food preparation and culinary practices

Session Chair: Prof. L. Nixon-Darcus

9:00 – 9:15:

Querns and mills in the Central Balkan's Roman Provinces.

Presenting Author: Mladen Jovičić⁴⁴

9:15 – 9:30:

Spatial organization and food processing in an Early Chalcolithic site near Chirpan, Southern Bulgaria.

Presenting Author: Nataliya Ivanova⁴⁵

Co- Authors: Petar Leshtakov, Yordanka Ilieva, Hanna Aleksandrova

9:30 – 9:45:

Plants and Plant Food Technology of Early Neolithic Farmers: Legumes, Cereals & Ground Stone Tools at Kharaysin (Jordan) during the Pre Pottery Neolithic.

Presenting Author: Andrea Zupancich⁴⁶

Co- Authors: Juan Muñiz, Juan José Ibáñez

⁴⁴ Institute of Archaeology, Belgrade

⁴⁵ National Archaeological Institute with Museum - Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

⁴⁶ Diet and Ancient Technology - DANTE laboratory, Sapienza University of Rome (Italy)

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9:45 – 10:00:

Out of the Kitchen: ground stone tools and residential structure.

Presenting Author: Colin Pardoe⁴⁷

Co- Authors: Elspeth Hayes, Richard Fullagar

10:00 – 10:15:

Grinding stones, starch grains and food culture in Africa.

Presenting Author: Emuobosa A. Orijemie⁴⁸

Co- Authors: Richard Kehinde

10:15 – 10:30:

Grinding Installations in Pre- and Protohistoric Eurasia.

Presenting Author: Ana Tetrushvili⁴⁹

Co- Authors: Davit Dolaberidze

10:30 – 11:00: Discussion

11:00 – 12:00: Coffee break!

⁴⁷ Honorary affiliation at Archaeology & Natural History, the Australian National University

⁴⁸ University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria

⁴⁹ European University

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12:00 – 13:45: Session 2

Social and symbolic aspects
Session Chair: Prof. D. Rosenberg

12:00 – 12:15:

The hidden side of the tool. On the importance of grinding tools in rites of passage.

Presenting Author: Florent Jodry⁵⁰

12:15 – 12:30:

Querns in Context – the social significance of Iron Age quern-stones.

Presenting Author: Louise Søndergaard⁵¹

12:30 – 12:45:

The shift in the meaning of Chalcolithic elaborated basalt vessels: Sacred versus secular.

Presenting Author: Yael Abadi-Reiss⁵²

12:45 – 13:00:

Exploring Socioeconomic Insights Through Confocal Microscopy in Ethnoarchaeology.

Presenting Author: Jerome Robitaille⁵³

⁵⁰ INRAP

⁵¹ Aarhus University

⁵² Israel Antiquities Authority

⁵³ Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń (NCU), Monrepos – Archaeological Research Centre and Museum for Human Behavioural Evolution, LEIZA

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13:00 – 13:15:

Crafting value: exploring stone axe aesthetics in Neolithic communities in neolithic Northern Greece.

Presenting Author: Tasos Bekiaris / Christina Tsoraki⁵⁴

13:15 – 13:45: Discussion

13:45 – 14:15: **CLOSING – END OF CONFERENCE**

⁵⁴ Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

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