



International Seminar
Lisbon, 6th-7th June 2024

Practices, meanings, and uses of material culture in local societies. The consumption of ceramics in SW Europe.

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FOREWORD

This meeting is organised within the framework of the research project "Archaeology of local societies in Southern Europe: identities, collectives and territorialities (5th-11th centuries)" PID2020-112506GB-C41 funded by the Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation (<https://enproyectosocloc.wordpress.com>), and in collaboration with the Institute for Medieval Studies (IEM – NOVA FCSH).

The aim of this meeting is to study the behaviours, practices, and uses of material culture, taking local societies as a conceptual and operational perspective. The notion of local societies is ambiguous because it has been used with different contents and meanings. In our research project, the concept is defined in a triple dimension: (a) as an arena of dense interaction between local communities and surrounding societies and powers, in which exchange mechanisms and specific patterns of rationality are articulated; (b) as a socio-political space of variable geometry over time that determines the degree of localisation of practices and social life; (c) as an instrument to establish meaningful comparisons between different geographies and time frames.

In particular, it is intended to take into consideration ceramic materials, which constitute the most abundant and frequent item in archaeological sites. These materials have been analysed mainly from the perspective of production, distribution, and interchange mechanisms. In this way, it has been possible to construct solid narratives and modelling of past economies taking into consideration everyday commodities. However, less frequent are the works that start from the contexts of consumption and the perspective of the cultural biography of the objects. This meeting aims to analyse aspects related to the identity and sense of belonging of individuals and groups, strategies of distinction, the social value of objects, and the way in which material culture defines status and levels of social stratification. Some of the questions to be addressed include how to differentiate the necessary from the superfluous? when, how and why forms of ceramic replacement are different within local societies? how do everyday objects contribute to shaping social life? to what extent are ceramics representative of large-scale economic, cultural and social dynamics? are there differences in the forms of ceramic consumption of subaltern and elite groups? how do intermediate groups or local elites employ material culture to obtain, negotiate and consolidate their position?

We want to develop these issues from a European comparative framework, considering data and models proposed for different regions and allowing us to analyse different local practices and dynamics. We would also like to have specialists working on local consumption dynamics at times that transcend the chronological framework of the project, as well as perspectives from other scientific areas.

PROGRAMME*

6. JUNE

09:30	Registration
09:45	Opening Session
10:00	Juan Antonio Quirós Castillo (UPV/EHU) Introduction .
10:30	Sara Prata; Fabián Cuesta-Gómez (IEM–NOVA FCSH) Use, reuse, and refuse of pottery in local societies. A diachronic approach to archaeological contexts from Alto Alentejo (Portugal) .
11:00	Coffee-break
11:30	Antonio Blanco González (USAL) Entanglements with ceramics at home: the social practices and cultural rationales of consuming and discarding wares in Iron Age Central Iberia .
12:00	Lisa Backhouse (Independent researcher) Conceptualising socio-cultural relations: ceramic consumption in early medieval Kent, SE England .
12:30	Debate
13:00	Lunch
14:30	Alfonso Vigil-Escalera (Independent researcher) La producción y el consumo de vajilla cerámica modelada a mano/torno lento y de teja como subsistema en la dinámica campo-ciudad .
15:00	Carlos Tejerizo García (USAL) From glocalization to locality: production, distribution, and consumption patterns in the transition to the early Middle Ages in central and northwestern rural Iberia .
15:30	Gabriel Mazoni Venturini de Souza (IEM – NOVA FCSH) The Early Medieval pottery from Idanha-a-Velha (Portugal): production and consumption in Egítania between the 5th and the 12th centuries .
16:00	Debate

7. JUNE

10:00	Paola Orecchioni (U. di Roma Tor Vergata) Consumi ceramici e identità sociale tra Due e Trecento: Sicilia e Toscana a confronto .
10:30	Rodrigo Banha da Silva (CHAM–NOVA FCSH) Pottery in an Historical Archaeology: assessment of local productions and ceramic imports in Early Modern Lisbon .
11:00	Coffee-break
11:30	Marta Rosales (ICS–U. Lisboa) Pessoas e objectos em movimento. A cultura material das migrações contemporâneas .
12:00	Catarina Tente (IEM–NOVA FCSH) Conclusions .
12:30	Debate & Final remarks

* ADMISSION IN THIS EVENT IS **FREE** BUT **REQUIRES REGISTRATION**