

Textile production and trade in Europe during the second millennium BC

This workshop will examine the significance of textile production and trade in Europe and the Mediterranean during the second millennium BC. In order to achieve the most comprehensive understanding possible of the issues at play the workshop seeks to explore topics which include the analyses of both archaeological and textual evidence.

The main questions that we wish to examine are:

- How common was textile production in Bronze Age Europe and the Mediterranean? How important was it?
- Did the concept of specialisation exist, e.g. in the form of workshops/households?
- How important was the role of textiles (wool, yarn or finished products) in local economies? To what extent did this vary between different areas?
- Comparing available written sources from the Mediterranean and the Near East and corresponding archaeological material, what can be inferred about the scale and significance of trade and specialisation of textile production in other parts of Europe during the Bronze Age?
- Can scientific analyses/methods help us to understand the questions of specialisation and trade of textiles?

The proposed programme is therefore divided into two parts: the first has a specific focus on textile production and specialisation and the second on trade and mobility as each relates to textiles. Each session begins with a series of papers and concludes with small group discussions in which the theme will be considered in greater depth. The proposed topics for the invited speakers are therefore intended to represent work in progress and provide food for thought rather than reports on finished work.

This workshop is an initiative taken within the research project “The Rise of Bronze Age Societies: Travel, Transmission and Transformation” (for more information see: <http://the-rise.se>). The main aim is to assemble researchers working on textile production and trade during the Bronze Age in Europe and the Mediterranean to facilitate critical discussion on the current state of research in the field and to discern and outline potential directions for future work.

Thursday, 12 March

15:30-16:00 Welcome of the participants

16:00-16:10 **Kristian Kristiansen** - Textile research and The Rise project

16:10-16:35 **Karin Frei** - Textile trade and the evidence of strontium isotope analyses

16:35-17:00 **Serena Sabatini** – Textile production and specialisation at Montale, Italy and Midea, Greece: a comparative study

17:00-17:25 **Sophie Bergerbrant** – Szazhalombatta a centre for textile production?

17:45-18:45 Open keynote address - **Marie Louise Nosch** and **Eva Andersson Strand**– New advances in studying textile economies in the Mediterranean

19.00 Dinner

Friday, 13 March

Theme 1: Was there specialisation in textile production in Europe and the Mediterranean during the second millennium BC?

Chair: **Helene Whittaker**

09:00-09:30 **Joanne Cutler** –Economic and technological significance of Cretan textile manufacturing tools

09:30-10:00 **Małgorzata Siennicka** - Textile production and specialisation at Tyrins

10:00-10:15 Coffee break

10:15-10:45 **Agnete Wisti Lassen** – Textile manufacture in old Assyrian texts

10:45-11:15 **Vanya Petrova** – Specialisation in textile production in the Balkans

11:15-11:30 **Helene Whittaker** – Summary: to what extent can we talk about specialisation in textile production?

Chairs: **Sophie Bergerbrant** and **Lena Larsson Lovén**

11:30-12:30 Joined discussion/workshop

12:30-13:45 Lunch

Theme 2: To what extent can we talk about textile trade? Archaeological, textual and scientific evidence

Chair: **Lorenz Rahmstorf**

13:45-14:15 **Cécile Michel** – Textile and wool trade in old Assyrian and Babylonian texts

14:15-14:45 **Maria Emanuela Alberti** - Trade in textile in the Aegean

14:45-15:15 Coffee

15:15-15:45 **Margarita Gleba** - Evidence of textile trade and specialisation to the north and south of the Alps

15:45-16:15 **Toby C. Wilkinson** - Textile trade in Bronze Age Eurasia

16:15-16:30 **Lorenz Rahmstorf** – Summary. To what extent can we talk about textile trade in Europe and the Mediterranean?

Chairs: **Serena Sabatini** and **Ann-Louise Schallin**

16:30-17:15 Joint discussion/workshop

Concluding sessions

Chair: Kristian Kristiansen

17:15 – 18:00 Summing up and final discussion