



7th IARPotHP CONFERENCE
HELLENISTIC POTTERY
IN CONTEXT

October 6th-9th 2025

Brussels, Université libre de Bruxelles, ULB & Royal Museums of Arts and History

PROGRAM



7th IARPotHP CONFERENCE

HELLENISTIC POTTERY IN CONTEXT:
A WORLD OF DYNAMIC INTERACTIONS
BETWEEN PEOPLE AND POTTERY

BRUSSELS, 6th-9th of OCTOBER 2025

The Organizing Committee

Dr. Alexandros Laftsidis (CReA-Patrimoine, Université libre de Bruxelles)
Dr. Natacha Massar (Royal Museums of Art and History)
Prof. Athena Tsingarida (CReA-Patrimoine, Université libre de Bruxelles & EBSA)

The Scientific Committee

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The geographical expansion, increased mobility, and cosmopolitan spirit evident in the Hellenistic period created for the first time a truly globalized world. In this world people from “old Greece”, the newly-conquered areas, as well as the western Mediterranean, became receivers of exogenous, overarching cultural trends against the backdrop of their own local cultural backgrounds. This made for a particularly complex and ever-evolving cultural reality/identities, which archaeology strives to unlock and understand. Pottery, arguably the most abundant find in any excavation, can offer invaluable insights and facilitate such an effort, if treated accordingly. Provided that ceramic vessels are – more often than not – culturally charged, playing an integral role in a plethora of social and religious events, their rigorous examination and a clarification of the way they were employed can shed light on these events. In this regard, we believe that focusing on the “contexts” of pottery (production and geographical contexts and contexts of use) can be a very constructive way forward. The papers accepted in this conference concentrate on the above notions in an effort to reconstruct the dynamic cultural reality of Hellenistic societies at both a regional and inter-regional level.

TOPICS OF THE CONFERENCE

1. Production contexts

Pottery production has received a lot of interest in recent years. Although there have been publications on this subject relating to the Hellenistic period, there is still much ground to be covered. This rich area of research can offer insights into production installations, the locations and conditions of manufacture, spatial and professional organization of pottery workshops, the place of manufacture in urban and rural landscapes and economy, as well as in the way this aspect of production was embedded in other economic and social networks. We therefore invite participants to propose papers which focus on any of the above themes, as well as on other issues relating to pottery production, such as the tools used, the *chaîne opératoire*, special pottery products, the combination of different product categories (e.g. vases and lamps), supply and demand, as well as the impact of clientele on various aspects of manufacture.

2. Contexts of use

Pottery was made to be used, and even reused. It is the many facets of this topic that we propose to explore in this section. The functions of pottery in relation to their contexts of use, the different sets found in residential, funerary, production or sacred contexts, all fit into this topic, as well as how different shapes were utilized in isolation or in varying combinations. The distribution and positioning of pottery in specific spaces can help define the function of these areas. This aspect of the study of pottery can shed light on social organization, daily or extraordinary practices which involve vases, as well as local economies or religious practices. The composition of assemblages can also provide information on the behavior of producers and consumers and the production of certain ceramics for specific contexts of use. The issues of repair and reuse of pottery, and the conditions in which this happened, are also of interest.

3. Regional interactions and identities

Scholars have long argued for the capacity of virtually any ancient settlement/city to be a pottery production center, albeit with varying qualitative and quantitative traits. At the same time, pottery has been among one of the most frequently traded commodities throughout the Hellenistic world. Under this theme, we invite questions about the impact of location on the two other themes of production and consumption of pottery. This can range from the micro level (a specific location in the city/settlement) to the regional. Papers in this section aim to define local ceramic identities, local practices, local shapes and their contexts of use, specific combinations of local and imported pottery and how this could vary depending on location, period, and the identity of the users. Particularly welcome is the comprehensive examination of locally-produced pottery and imports, especially when informed by quantitative evaluations and scientific analysis, as they are expected to clarify the ceramic character of a site or a (micro-) region, highlight the presence and extent of commercial networks, and evaluate the ever-present entanglement of the “global” with the “local”.

PROGRAM

MONDAY, OCTOBER 6

(ULB, Solbosch Campus, Bâtiment S – Salle Dupréel)

8:30-9:00 Registration
9:00-9:30 Welcome speeches

Session I.1 9:30-10:50

Chair **Zoi Kotitsa** (Independent Researcher)

Topic 1 **Production contexts**

9:30-9:50 **Slava Vasileva**
Painters of palmettes: floral decoration on Late Classical polychrome lekythoi from Apollonia Pontica

9:50-10:10 **Alessandra Granata**
The production of Hellenistic Medallion Bowls in Sicily: a comparison of sites

10:10-10:30 **Tania Protopsalti, Ioannis Bellas**
Production and Import of relief-decorated vessels from Thessaloniki

10:30-10:50 **Vasileia Dimitrakopoulou, Natacha Massar**
The decoration of mould made bowls: instruments, craftspeople and work practices

10:50-11:20 Coffee break

Session I.2 11:20-13:00

Chair **Athena Tsingarida** (CReA-Patrimoine, ULB & EBSA)

Topic 1 **Production contexts**

11:20-11:40 **Filippo Trotta**
Hellenistic pottery productions in Central Apulia: a group of pyxides in mixed technique

11:40-12:00 **Eleni Zimi, Eleni Triantafyllidi**
The technology of Hellenistic pottery from Messini: macroscopic and elemental analyses

12:00-12:20 **Caterina Ingoglia, Davide Tanasi, Eleonora Cantatore**
Advances in the study of Hellenistic pottery in the Syracusan territory

12:20-12:40 **Vicky Vlachou, Nota Kourou**
Cycladic utilitarian ceramics and insular economies. A view from Xobourgo on Tenos

12:40-13:00 **Zofia Chomonicik**
Choices between tradition and innovation: storage vessels production in Nea Paphos

13:00-14:30 Lunch break



Session I.3 14:30-15:50

Chair **Natacha Massar** (Royal Museums of Arts & History)

Topic 2 **Contexts of use**

- 14:30-14:50 **Nicole Constantine**
The Lagynos: a social history
- 14:50-15:10 **Jean Sébastien Gros**
Moldmade bowls from Delos: new insights into Laumonier's legacy
- 15:10-15:30 **Annette Peignard-Giros**
Vases à parfums dans des contextes déliens
- 15:30-15:50 **Carmine De Mizio**
Pisa, ex-Area Scheibler: tales from the Hellenistic pottery
- 15:50-16:20 Coffee break

Session I.4 16:20-17:40

Chair **Natalia Vogeikoff-Brogan** (American School of Classical Studies at Athens)

Topic 2 **Contexts of use**

- 16:20-16:40 **Anna Panti**
Hellenistic tableware from a house in ancient Lete
- 16:40-17:00 **Daniele Zumerle**
Black-glaze and plain ware in context: dating problems from a Late Classical-Early Hellenistic suburb of Hephaistia (Lemnos)
- 17:00-17:20 **Roderick Geerts, Nicholas Bartos**
The Ptolemaic pottery assemblage from the hydraulic complex at the Red Sea port of Berenike (Egypt)
- 17:20-17:40 **Vasilica Lungu**
Storing and pouring vessels in Tepesar tower, between Mylasa and Labraunda

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7

(ULB, Solbosch Campus, Bâtiment S – Salle Dupréel)

Session II.1 9:00-10:20

Chair **Jean Vanden Broeck-Parant** (Université Catholique de Louvain)

Topic 2 **Contexts of use**

- 9:00-9:20 **Natalia Vogeikoff-Brogan**
Hierapytna's northern expansion: a Hellenistic beacon tower at Mochlos (Crete)

9:20-9:40	Nadia Aleotti <i>Pottery from the Hellenistic votive deposit from the "Palace" of Çuka e Ajtoit (Southern Albania). A case of ceramic productions intended for sacred contexts in northern Epirus?</i>
9:40-10:00	Chrysanthi Kallini, Stratis Papadopoulos <i>Ancient Pistyros - Hellenistic pottery from the area of the temple</i>
10:00-10:20	Francesca Diosono, Marta Bragado Fernández, Agnese L. Fischetti, Alessandro Froio, Isabella Giannino, Loredana Lancini, Noemi Maltalenti, Lidia Stefani, Luna Vicario <i>Production and use of fine wares in the Sanctuary of Diana at Nemi (Rome)</i>
10:20-10:50	Coffee break

Session II.2 10:50-12:30

Chair Sarah James (University of Colorado, Boulder)

Topic 2 Contexts of use

10:50-11:10	Andreas Leventis <i>A West Slope-type funerary hydria from Acharnai (Attica): transformations of a 'refined' shape in a funerary context</i>
11:10-11:30	Irina Bykova, Giovanni Mastronuzzi, Valeria Melissano, Giacomo Vizzino <i>Ceramica fine in contesti funerari di età ellenistica nella Puglia meridionale</i>
11:30-11:50	Christiane Römer-Strehl, Stefan Schmidt <i>Food for the dead? Ceramics in the context of a Late Hellenistic burial furnishing from Alexandria</i>
11:50-12:10	Maria Lazopoulou, Kleopatra Kathariou <i>Hellenistic pottery from the cemetery of Achlada in the Regional Unit of Florina: typology, funerary contexts and socio-economic differentiations</i>
12:10-12:30	Zoi Kotitsa <i>Why gray pottery? A view from Early Hellenistic graves in Pydna</i>
12:30-14:00	Lunch break

Session II.3 14:00-15:20

Chair Alexandros Laftsidis (CREA-Patrimoine, Université libre de Bruxelles)

Topic 3 Regional interactions and identities

14:00-14:20	Carlo De Mitri, Rita Auriemma <i>Queer pottery trade market: non-conforming ceramic vessels in the Late Hellenistic-Early Roman periods</i>
14:20-14:40	Julia Bowers <i>Hellenistic ceramics across the Adriatic: regional interactions and patterns of use</i>
14:40-15:00	Sarah James <i>Shaping a regional koine: Hellenistic pottery and cultural distinctiveness in the Eastern Corinthian Gulf</i>

15:00-15:20	Kristina Junker <i>Pottery, place, and identity: regional ceramic traditions and connectivity in Hellenistic North-East Bactria</i>
15:20-15:50	Coffee break

Session II.4 15:50-17:30

Chair **Vasilica Lungu** (Institute of South-East European Studies, Romanian Academy)

Topic 3 Regional interactions and identities

15:50-16:10	Alexandros Laftsidis <i>Extra sacros locos: Late Classical and Hellenistic pottery from the "Samothrace Archaeological Survey 1985-1987"</i>
16:10-16:30	Elpiniki Naoum <i>Approaching the network of relief pottery workshop of Pella: issues of ceramic production, distribution and consumption in Hellenistic Macedonia</i>
16:30-16:50	Amany Shabaan <i>Pottery from a Ptolemaic settlement in the Mareotide region: the site of Kôm Metawah</i>
16:50-17:10	Dries Daems <i>Exploring terra incognita: the Hellenistic pottery from Türkmen-Karahöyük (south-central Anatolia)</i>

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8

(ULB, Solbosch Campus, Bâtiment S – Salle Dupréel)

Session III.1 9:00-10:20

Chair **Gabriele Puschnigg** (Austrian Academy of Sciences)

Panel Parthian Pottery in Context

9:00-9:20	Jacopo Bruno <i>Ceramic Traditions of the Parthian Period in Old Nisa and the Ahal Region (Turkmenistan)</i>
9:20-9:40	Maria Daghmehchi, Meysam Labbaf-Khaniki, Rocco Rante <i>Parthian pottery from Viranshahr: an inquiry into their integration within broader regional context</i>
9:40-10:00	Valentina Gallerani <i>Trying to understand the Parthian element in a Hellenistic world: the case of Europolis</i>
10:00-10:20	Christiane Römer-Strehl <i>Early Parthian Pottery in the contact zone between the Euphrates and the Tigris</i>
10:20-10:50	Coffee break

Session III.2 10:50-12:50

Chair **Jacopo Bruno** (Institute of Iranian Studies, Austrian Academy of Sciences)

Panel **Parthian Pottery in Context (continued)**

- 10:50-11:10 **Gabriele Puschnigg**
Parthian pottery from the Shirvan region (Iraqi Kurdistan): regional context and trans-local perspectives
- 11:10-11:30 **Andrea Squitieri, Alessandra Cellerino, Enrico Foietta**
A recently uncovered Parthian chamber tomb in Assur: its context and pottery assemblage
- 11:30-11:50 **Dean Mahmoud**
Between Adiabene and the highlands: pottery and material culture of the Sulaymaniyah region during the Parthian period
- 11:50-12:10 **Rocco Palermo, Eleonora Franco**
Kings die, pots survive: ceramicscapes of Northern Mesopotamia in the late 1st millennium BCE
- 12:10-12:30 **Jeyhun Eminli**
Amphora-rhyta and their distribution in the southeastern highlands of Azerbaijan in the Hellenistic and Early Roman periods
- 12:30-12:50 **General discussion**
- 12:50-14:00 Lunch break

14:00-14:30 **Poster session**

Session III.3 14:30-15:30

Chair **Laurent Tholbecq** (CReA-Patrimoine, Université libre de Bruxelles)

Topic 3 **Regional interactions and identities**

- 14:30-14:50 **Małgorzata Kajzer, Kamila Niziołek, Paweł Lech**
What the HELlenistic stuff! Recent discoveries from the Polish excavations in Nea Paphos, Cyprus
- 14:50-15:10 **Melanie Godsey, Brandon Olson, Thomas Landvatter**
Contextualizing the Early Hellenistic ceramic corpus on Cyprus: change over time at Pyla-Vigla
- 15:10-15:30 **Sonja Willems, Bruno Overlaet, Patrick Monsieur**
In or out of context? A new way to assessing pottery from plundered graves at Mleiha (United Arab Emirates)
- 15:30-16:00 Coffee break

Session III.4 16:00-17:00

Chair Paola Puppo (Independent Researcher)

Topic 3 Regional interactions and identities

- 16:00-16:20 **Marie Drielsma**
The last Sicilian lamps: wheel-made black-glazed lamps between tradition and innovation
- 16:20-16:40 **Florence Liard**
The symposion in Aeolic context: imitations of silverware between local and global traditions at Late Hellenistic Mytilene (Lesbos)
- 16:40-17:00 **Anne-Sophie Martz**
Hellenistic pottery from Delphi and Amphissa
- 17:10-19:00 **General Assembly (members only)**

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9

(Royal Museums of Art and History, Parc du Cinquanteenaire)

9:30-9:40 Welcoming speech

Session IV.1 9:40-10:40

Chair Christiane Römer-Strehl (University of Tübingen)

Topic 3 Regional interactions and identities

- 9:40-10:00 **Caterina Ingoglia, Stefania Fornaro**
From Greek to western productions: the case-study of black-gloss ceramics of the Hellenistic age from Gela
- 10:00-10:20 **Paola Puppo**
The diffusion of ESA in Sicily: status quaestionis and new research perspectives
- 10:20-10:40 **Regina Klöckl-Zorić, Johannes H. Sterba**
Eastern Sigillata A and the northern Peloponnese: better buy local?
- 10:40-11:10 Coffee break

Session IV.2 11:10-12:10

Chair Eleni Zimi (University of Peloponnese)

Topic 3 Regional interactions and identities

- 11:10-11:30 **Viktoriia Kotenko**
Local painted tableware from Late Hellenistic Myrmekion

11:30-11:50	Caterina Ingoglia, Eleonora Cantatore <i>Transport amphorae from "Pozzo 1" of Helorus (Noto, Sicily)</i>
11:50-12:10	Kathleen Lynch <i>iDig Pottery: an app for Athenian pottery identification</i>
12:10-13:50	Lunch break

Session IV.3 13:50-15:00

Chair **Annette Peignard-Giros** (Université Lumière Lyon 2)

Topic 3 **Regional interactions and identities**

13:50-14:10	Inga Gluszek <i>Red-slip ware in Hellenistic north-western Black Sea cities: questions about regional identity and local manufacture</i>
14:10-14:30	Eleni Mentessidou <i>Beyond the Black Sea: Sinope, Magenta ware, and the dynamics of Hellenistic cultural exchange</i>
14:30-15:00	Conclusions
15:00-15:30	Coffee break
15:30-17:00	Tour of the collection of Greek and Roman antiquities of the Royal Museums of Art and History

Posters

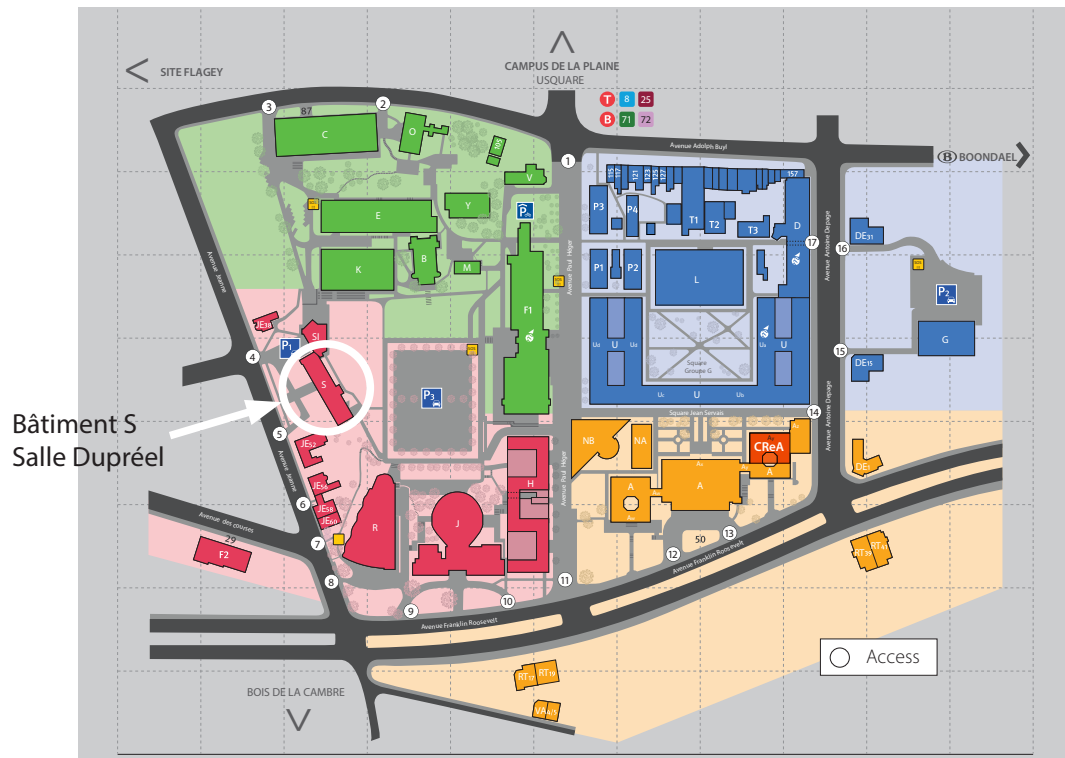
Giorgia Chatzidakis, Francesca D'Ambola
Hellenistic pottery from the Acropolis of Butrint: data from Butrint Project 2019-2024

Lucilla D'Alessandro, Carlo Molle, Ilenia Nardone
Una possibile produzione di contenitori per la pece lungo il corso del Garigliano (Lazio, Italia)

Lucilla D'Alessandro, Martina Rodinò
Vasellame ceramico e ritualità al Santuario di Esculapio di Fregellae

Mutsumi Okabe
The lifecycle and use-contexts of terracotta figurines: a case study from a Greco-Roman catacomb at the site of North Saqqara, Egypt

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