

## *Ornaments from the Ocean.*

### **Vogues from the East to the West in the Chalcolithic and in the Bronze Age**

Round Table – Special Session of the Prehistoric Society of France (SPF), with the support of the Association for the Promotion of Studies on the Bronze Age (APRAB)

**Tuesday 25 and Wednesday 26 March 2025**

**Maison des Sciences de l'Homme et de la Société Sud-Est, Université Côte d'Azur, Nice**

*Ornaments from the Ocean*, made from hard raw materials of animal origin, may include objects made of mollusk shell, coral, vertebrae and teeth of fish and marine mammal. The objective of this scientific meeting is to understand how these artifacts, known since the Paleolithic and particularly present in the Neolithic, persist with the advent of metals among Chalcolithic and Bronze Age societies.

The choice to set a wider geographical frame from the East to the West will allow us follow trends at a broader scale. Throughout this extended region, metals arrived at different times. It will thus be possible to evaluate the appropriation or, inversely, exclusion of these raw materials, prized during earlier periods, in the long-term and in parallel to the dominance of metals in craftsmanship.

Multiple aspects, both cultural and biogeographical, will be explored in order to gain a complete appreciation of the role that marine ornaments played in coastal and inland Bronze Age societies. They range from the modes of procurement and circulation (through exchange or trade networks) to the appropriation of these raw materials and techno-functional aspects, as well as to the symbolism attributed to species, forms, and to finished objects.

More specific questions will also be discussed. Are body ornaments made of marine materials pertinent tools for perceiving protohistoric mobilities and identities, both individual and collective? Which species were selected, for whom and for what use? How were they worn, deposited, discarded or recycled? In a period where metals are widely distributed and used in the making of adornments, why is this type of marine-origin material still used and in what context? Are Neolithic traditions preserved or transformed in the Metal Ages? Does the symbolism of the ocean, the sea, and the wild nature have a central meaning alongside ornaments made of metal? How do these objects coexist within a same ornament set, how are they arranged? These are some of the questions to explore.

This round table aims to bring together researchers who rarely have the opportunity to meet. A wide range of disciplines can contribute, including archaeologists specialized in body adornments, zooarchaeologists, use-wear specialists, as well as field archaeologists and experts in the Metal Ages. The aim is to present to the academic and scientific audience the great variability of approaches that can be employed to grasp the complex sphere of marine adornment, but also to compare the results provided by various disciplines.

This round table is co-organized by two research units that share common cultural and environmental approaches, the CEPAM-CNRS-Université Côte d'Azur (Cultures et Environnements, Préhistoire, Antiquité, Moyen Âge) and the AASPE-MNHN (Archéozoologie, Archéobotanique), Sociétés, Pratiques, et Environnements – French National Museum of Natural History).

We welcome presentations of regional syntheses (25 minutes) or case studies (15 minutes). Poster presentations are also accepted. The languages of the round table are English and French. Proposals are expected no later than October 15, 2024.

**Please send your proposals for oral presentations/posters at:**

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