

30th Annual Meeting of the European Association of Archaeologists (EAA), Rome 28-31 August 2024



CALL FOR PAPERS

ON FIRE! Ancient Pyrotechnologies in Productive and Ritual Eastern Mediterranean and Near Eastern Contexts

Call for Papers for **Session #661**: 'ON FIRE! Ancient Pyrotechnologies in Productive and Ritual Eastern Mediterranean and Near Eastern Contexts', to be held at the 30th Annual Meeting of the European Association of Archaeologists (EAA), 'Persisting with Change', Rome 28-31 August 2024, is now open.

Theme **2. Archaeological Sciences, Humanities and the Digital era: Bridging the Gaps**
Session Format: **Regular Session** (15-minute oral presentations)

Fire is a natural element that is the product of an oxidation reaction at high temperatures. With fire hominids started to interface as part of the exploitation of a seasonal natural resource and since then has become a quintessential part of human life. Moreover, the interaction between man and fire is sensorial: heat and light become elements linked to the life of man, who at the end of the Middle and Upper Palaeolithic endowed himself with a technology that guarantees the possibility of transforming elements, primarily food. Fire therefore acquires hybrid characteristics: extremely functional to life, it becomes a cultural element, created by man to satisfy the needs of lighting, heat, defence, cooking, production. Far from a purely physical and natural conceptualization, fire is an agency that intervenes and participates in the construction of the cultural world, a prerogative of the human species alone. The creation of the fire-artifact places its conceptualization within a cultural field, which arises from the creative intent of man in his social context to which he belongs. The monopoly acquired on planet Earth thanks to the long process of domestication of fire results in the creation of pyro-centric cultures capable of synthesizing foods and raw materials for the construction of objects. Indeed, with fire and by the means of fire, the species homo has become properly and metaphorically faber, not only as a creator, but also by developing ever new ways of processing raw foodstuffs, not only by cooking it, but above all by transforming it and producing new aliments.

It is within these premises that the session aims at investigating the use of fire for both productive and ritual purposes in a wide geographical area (i.e., the Eastern Mediterranean and the Near East) from prehistoric times until the first millennium BCE.

Keywords:

Fire, Pyrotechnology, Eastern Mediterranean, Near East, Archaeology of Production, Ritual

Those interested in participating can send an **abstract** (Title: max 20 words; abstract: min. 150 words and max 300 words) by **Thursday 8th February 2024**. Abstracts have to be submitted via the **online form** available after logging in at submissions.e-a-a.org/ea2024/. Current and past **EAA Members** can log in using their EAA credentials (EAA ID, username, password). **New Members** need to first create an EAA account at e-a-a.org. Results of paper proposal evaluation will be announced by 25 March 2024.

The Annual Meeting will be **hybrid**, allowing both onsite and online participation.

Session Organisers:

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