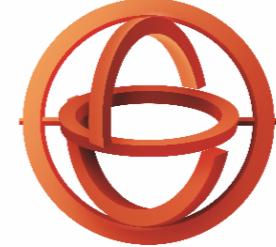


## Description of Funded Research Projects

1<sup>st</sup> Call for H.F.R.I. Research Projects  
to support Post-Doctoral Researchers



**H.F.R.I.**  
Hellenic Foundation for  
Research & Innovation

Research Project Title:

**From hunter-gatherers to early  
farmers in Greece**

**Principal Investigator:**  
**Paraskevi Elefanti**



**Popular Title:**  
**Neonatal Phagocyte Enhancement in Sepsis**

**Scientific Field:**  
**Humanities Studies**

**Host Institution:**  
**National and Kapodistrian University of Athens,  
Dep. of History and Archaeology**

The Mesolithic represents a brief slice of time sandwiched between the Upper Palaeolithic and Neolithic. It begins at the end of the Younger Dryas and is characterised by improving conditions after the extremes of the Last Glacial Maximum. Our understanding of the Mesolithic in Greece was based until recently on a small number of key sites, but there is now a growing body of evidence from the mainland and islands of the Aegean which is beginning to fill these gaps in our knowledge. The picture that these present, is of a preference for coastal environments, although there are also small numbers of sites located in inland and upland areas. A number of models have been put forward to explain the nature of the Mesolithic in Greece, both in terms of its evolution from the Late Upper Palaeolithic as well as the transition to the Neolithic. These all tend to agree that the Greek Mesolithic was atypical compared to the rest of Europe or the Levant.

Our ability to define the Greek Mesolithic is currently limited by the small number of excavated and dated sites, but also the difficulty in comparing those from different areas. Our project sets out to profile the period from the perspective of settlement, subsistence and technology. We will do this through a series of comparative studies from key excavated sites in Greece, based on chipped stone, raw materials, radiocarbon dates and other environmental indicators. Our project draws on the strengths of five specialists, three with expertise in Palaeolithic and Mesolithic chipped stone, one a radiocarbon dating specialist and a geologist experienced in raw material sourcing. Our project will be delivered in three years and is based at the Department of History-Archaeology of the University of Athens.

The Palaeolithic and Mesolithic are key to our understanding of modern human history, with many of the cultural manifestations we now take for granted developed during these two periods. Our project sets out to shed light on the Mesolithic in particular. Our key question is, was the Mesolithic a prequel to the Neolithic or a sequel to the Palaeolithic hunter-gather way of life? Archaeological research cannot easily be defined in monetary terms. Our aim is to provide a clearer picture of region wide variability in material culture during the Mesolithic.

By documenting this variability as well as expanding the number of dated contexts, we will provide a more robust comparative framework for other sites to be compared, as well as the mixed collections of chipped stone artefacts generated during the many surface surveys carried out in the region. It is hoped that our work will enable a better understanding of the relationship between early Holocene hunter-gatherers and farmers and that this can be presented in more accessible ways, through museum displays, popular literature and perhaps school textbooks.

To me, H.F.R.I. funding would mean...

“



Funding from the Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation (HFRI) has allowed me to set out a concise three-year multidisciplinary research project with well-defined aims and methodology, with the participation of researchers from Greece and abroad. Under any other circumstances, this project would not have been possible in Greece. Having the opportunity to lead such a funded research project will allow me to enhance my academic profile and to continue working in Greece. It will also allow me to take part in research more widely, through the presentation of our work at international meetings and conferences.

*The Principal Investigator,  
Paraskevi Elefanti*

## Funding

Amount: **169,819 €**

Duration: **36 months**

Foundation: **H.F.R.I.**



## CONTACT

127, Vasilissis Sofias Avenue  
115 21 Athens, Greece  
[info@elidek.gr](mailto:info@elidek.gr)  
[www.elidek.gr](http://www.elidek.gr)

