Description of Funded Research Projects 1st Call for H.F.R.I. Research Projects to support Post-Doctoral Researchers



Research Project Title:

Everyday life in Cypriot communities of the 5th and 4th millennia B.C.: household and economy

Principal Investigator:

Ioannis Voskos

Popular Title:

Aspects of everyday life in Neolithic and Chalcolithic Cyprus

Scientific Field:

Humanities Studies

Host Institution:

National and Kapodistrian University of Athens



In this Project an innovative approach of selected published and unpublished material will be employed, based on the idea of socio-cultural development via internal factors of change. More specifically, we will attempt to approach several aspects of the cultural phenomenon in a holistic manner, focusing on everyday life of Cypriot social groups during the 5th and 4th millennia B.C. The temporal space of this study includes the Ceramic Neolithic phase (c. 5000-4000/3900 B.C.), the Early Chalcolithic (c. 4000/3900-3500 B.C.) and the Middle Chalcolithic periods (c. 3500-2800 B.C.). The Project includes the study of several material and intangible aspects including architecture, building techniques and spatial organisation, the technological 'chaine operatoire' in the construction of various material categories, household organisation, cooking and dietary customs, mobility patterns, palaeopathology, mortuary ritual and the economic models that were adopted for the survival of the communities. The present research will be accompanied by various scientific analyses of archaeological material resulting in an interdisciplinary character and providing important new insights of prehistoric habitation and socio-economic patterns of Cyprus. The central goal is to understand everyday life in Neolithic-Chalcolithic communities via their habitual actions. The selected case study of this Project includes a number of old and new sites lying at the Kouris valley within Limassol district. More specifically, the type-sites of "Sotira culture" (Sotira Teppes) and "Erimi culture" (Erimi Pamboula) along with the recently excavated site of Kantou Koufovounos will be examined in a holistic manner. Most of these sites contributed largely in our current state of knowledge concerning the periods under study. Intra-site analysis of the selected sites along with relative comparisons with synchronous sites in a regional and supra-regional level will lead to important results concerning the cultural trajectories of communities in the southern central part of Cyprus and the rest of the island.



Human behaviour, social/economic organization, processes of cultural change and their impact on pre-modern societies, are some of the most basic subjects in the field of Humanities Studies. The NCCP will contribute on all these important discussions providing innovative methods of investigating unstratified societies and alternative ways of approaching socio-economic development based on internal factors of change. Unilinear perceptions of evolution from simpler to more complex structures and simplistic correlations of material culture with cultural change are rejected in favor of a holistic approach that analyses in depth aspects of the dynamic role of ancient communities and the complex nature of individual and collective identities, perceptions and choices.

The inclusion of specific analytical data coming from archaeological science methods and also the creation of artefact data-bases and updated methods of representing finds/structure distribution, habitation and economic patterns will add important results and comparative data for future synthetic analyses.







Financial support offered by the Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation (HFRI) on the NCCP, not only offers the opportunity to six (6) new scientists to carry out a high quality Research Programme, but also prevents both their unemployment and a possible future migration.

The Principal Investigator, Ioannis Voskos

Funding

Amount: 167,228 €

Duration: 30 months

Foundation: H.F.R.I.





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