

4–6 February 2025

Polo San Rossore, Via Risorgimento 19, Room B1

PISA

International Conference

EMBEDDED IN CLAY

Identity and Performance in Figurines and Ceramic Objects from Ancient Societies

Ancient Nile Valley, Eastern Mediterranean and Western Asia

c. 2000–1200 BC

Conference organised in the framework of the **PRIN 2022 PNRR** Project
*P.I.P.E. – Profiling the Identity of the Producers of Ancient Egypt and Nubia
through the aura of clay figurines*

<https://prinproject.wixsite.com/pipe-project>



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PROGRAMME

Tuesday 4 February

- 15.00-15.15** **Welcome** by **Sonia Maffei** (Director of the Department of Forms and Knowledge, University of Pisa)
- 15.15-15.30 **Gianluca Miniaci, Massimo Vidale, Vanessa Forte** (Università di Pisa, Università di Padova, Sapienza Università di Roma) – *The P.I.P.E. Project*
- 15.30-15.50 **Georgia Long** (Università di Pisa) – *All Made of the Same Clay: Profiling Identities through the Archaeological Contexts of Clay Figurines*
- 15.50-16.10 **Beatriz Noria-Serrano** (Università di Pisa) – *Negotiating Identity: Female (?) Embodiment and Abstraction in Egyptian Plaque Figurines*
- 16.10-16.30 **Hannah Page** (Università di Padova) – *Symbolic Materials: Exploring Identity and Performance through Raw Material Choice for Egyptian Middle Bronze Age Clay Figurines*
- 16:30-17:00** **Break**
- 17:00-18:00** **KEYNOTE: Richard Lesure** (University of California, Los Angeles) – *Confronting Theory with Evidence in the Interpretation of Ancient Figurines*
- 19.00** **Conference Aperitivo**

Wednesday 5 February

SESSION 1: identity and performance in clay artefacts through the lens of ARCHAEOOMETRY

- 9.00** **Start of session 1, morning**
- 9.10-9.30 **Giulia D'Ercole & Julia Budka** (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München) – *Archaeometry as a Means for Multiplying Material Identities. Case Studies Based on Ceramic Vessels and Clay Figurines from the Middle Nile Valley during the Bronze Age Period*
- 9.30-9.50 **Athena Van Der Perre & Dennis Braekmans** (KU Leuven & Universiteit Leiden) – *Figurines as Proxies for Craft and Ritual Activities? A Review of the Saqqara Execration Figurines*
- 9.50-10.10 **Gabriele Gattiglia & Claudia Sciuto** (Università di Pisa) – *Materiality in Motion: AUTOMATA's Algorithmic Turn in Archaeometric Research*
- 10.15-11.00** **Coffee break**
- 11.00-11.20 **Lara Maritan** (Università di Padova) – *A Matter of Choices: Disclosing the Production Technology of Terracotta Figurines at Barikot (northern Pakistan)*
- 11.20-11.40 **Vanessa Forte** (Sapienza Università di Roma) – *Identity and Materiality: Bronze Age Egyptian Clay Figurines in a Multiscale and Interdisciplinary Perspective*
- 11.40-12.00 **Aysel Arslan** (Netherlands Institute in Turkey) – *Unveiling the Makers: A Dermatoglyphic Study of Clay Objects from Neolithic Anatolia*
- 12.00-12.20 **Leonie Hoff** (University of Oxford) – *Touching the Past: Greek and Egyptian Figurine Makers from Ptolemaic Thonis-Heracleion*
- 12:30-14.00** **Lunch**
- 14.00 **Session 1, afternoon**
- 14.10-14.30 **Anna Rauba-Bukowska & Maciej Dębiec** (Polish Academy of Sciences & University of Rzeszów) – *Universal Patterns, Individually Made: Workshop Practices in Light of Archaeometric Research*
- 14.30-14.50 **Filippo Mi & Jessica Izak** (Université de Strasbourg & DAI Berlin) – *Fragile Clay, Sturdy Grains: An Interdisciplinary Investigation of the Gebelein granary Model S. 15802*
- 14.50-15.00** **Break**
- 15.00-16.30** **Questions and Round Table #1**
- 20.00** **Conference Dinner**



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Thursday 6 February

SESSION 2: identity and performance in clay artefacts through the lens of ARCHAEOLOGY

- 9.00** **Start of session 2, morning**
- 9.10-9.30 [Argyris Fassoulas \(Université Paris Nanterre\)](#) – *Making Clay Figurines in the Neolithic Aegean: The Example of Thessalian Plain (central Greece)*
- 9.30-9.50 [Christine Morris & Alan Peatfield \(Trinity College Dublin & University College Dublin\)](#) – *Life Histories of Clay Figurines from Minoan Peak Sanctuaries*
- 9.50-10.10 [Isabelle Vella-Gregory \(University College London\)](#) – *The Role of Figurines in Place-Making: A Case Study from Jebel Moya, Sudan*
- 10.15-11.00** **Coffee break**
- 11.00-11.20 [Gianluca Miniaci \(Univerità di Pisa\)](#) – *Performing Healing Rituals with Clay Figurines from Middle Bronze Age Egypt (c. 2000-1550 BC)*
- 11.20-11.40 [Marwa Soliman \(Mansoura University\)](#) – *From Play to Ritual: Investigating Mud Toys Made by Children in Ancient Egyptian Contexts*
- 11.40-12.00 [Victoria Jensen \(University of California, Berkeley\)](#) – *Investigating the Development of Attenuated, Abstract Female Figurines in 11nd Millennium BC Egypt and their Relation to Figurines from Surrounding Cultures*
- 12.00-12.20 [Hossam Hegazy \(The Egyptian Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities\)](#) – *Religious Identity in Ancient Egyptian Ushabti Figurines*
- 12:30-14.00** **Lunch**
- 14.00 **Session 2, afternoon**
- 14.10-14.30 [Massimo Vidale \(Università di Padova\)](#) – *Unbaked Clay Images of Early Bronze Age Iran: from Conjectures to Contexts*
- 14.30-14.50 [Enrica Inversi \(Freie Universität Berlin & British Museum London\)](#) – *Broken, Repaired, Disposed of and Neglected. Taking a Closer Look at the Social Lives of Old Babylonian Figurines*
- 14.50-15.00** **Break**
- 15.00-16.30** **Questions and Round Table #2**
- 16.30-17.00 Closing remarks
- 20.00** **Pizza**



Conference Location

Polo San Rossore, Via Risorgimento 19, Room B1 (first floor)
56126 Pisa

This conference is organised in the framework of the **PRIN 2022 PNRR** Project *P.I.P.E – Profiling the Identity of the Producers of Ancient Egypt and Nubia through the Aura of Clay Figurines*. PI's: Gianluca Miniaci (Dipartimento di Civiltà e Forme del Sapere, Università di Pisa) and Massimo Vidale (Dipartimento dei Beni Culturali, Università di Padova)

Scientific committee: Gianluca Miniaci, Massimo Vidale, Vanessa Forte, Beatriz Noria-Serrano, Georgia Long, Hannah Page

Organising committee: Gianluca Miniaci, Beatriz Noria-Serrano, Georgia Long, Hannah Page, Giuseppe Fachetti, Simone Galuccio, Angela Maria Crudele, Chiara Libardoni, Martina Berluti

