

# Commensality Rituals in the Prehistoric Societies of Europe

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In recent years, research on the social context of ritual meal consumption has experienced a great advance in the Prehistory of Europe. The organization of the 14<sup>th</sup> EAA in Malta creates an excellent platform to discuss the theoretical and methodological perspectives that have guided and guide investigation on these social practices.

Therefore *Commensality Rituals in European Prehistoric Societies* will be mainly aimed at analysing and discussing the different social, symbolical and ideological dimensions of these ritual practices. Contribution on the following issues will be welcome:

- Rituals of commensality and the social order. How the *status quo* is exhibited and accepted or challenged in these ritual practices.
- Gender, age and social positions in rituals of commensality. The concealment and highlighting of differences related to these categories.
- Polysemic foods, beverages and foodways.
- Commensality as reunion.
- Commensality as social inclusion/exclusion.
- Commensality and critical events.
- Commensality and economic issues.

The session seeks, thus, to discuss the critical implications of all the previous aspects in understanding different social dynamics in Mediterranean prehistory.

Please email abstracts of 200 words to the session organizers.