

Exchange, interaction, conflicts and transformations: Social and cultural changes in Europe and the Mediterranean between the Bronze and Iron Age

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Throughout the Bronze and Iron Age, European and Mediterranean prehistoric societies appear involved in complex transcultural systems of exchange networks, which eventually affected local customs and historical developments. All over the continent archaeological evidence suggests social and economical institutions, cultural expressions and technological skills to stem from multifaceted encounters between local and external influences. Examples of cultural openness and transcultural hybridization can be found for instance in settlement patterns and organization, architectural features, material culture and technology, funerary customs or ritual practices. Papers in this session should examine and discuss with specific case studies and/or from a theoretical point of view the reciprocal relation between local transformations and exchange networks. Particular attention to the following arguments is appreciated:

- * Phenomena of local selection, negotiation, incorporation, transformation or refusal of external inputs
- * Phenomena of hybridization at various levels (e.g. material culture, ritual and social practices, etc.)
- * Long or short term social and economical transformations.

The session aims to develop a debate on those issues and welcomes attention to more general arguments such as mechanisms of centre/periphery relation and colonial/indigenous dynamics, or as the concepts of frontier, border and limit. Finally it is believed that very useful insights on the issues of the session may be brought by case studies from other areas and periods than Bronze and Iron Age Europe and Mediterranean. We therefore welcome papers which widen the horizons of the session.

Please send paper abstracts of about 200 words to mealberti@yahoo.com and arksesa@hum.gu.se