



SYMPOSION

IRON AGE MEDITERRANEAN CHRONOLOGY

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Following the collapse of the empires of the Late Bronze Age and the demise of palatial and city-state systems in the Aegean and the Levant (ca. 1200 BCE), new patterns of mobility and cultural exchange systems emerged across the Mediterranean that resulted in political, cultural, and economic fragmentation. This symposium, Iron Age Mediterranean Chronology, aims to establish a shared cross-regional chronological framework that will facilitate the study of interactions among the eastern Mediterranean, Aegean, Italian, Iberian, and various North African and southern European cultures. Recent advancements in regional archaeology and new data emerging in the Mediterranean require a systematic re-evaluation of this interaction. This symposium addresses the discrepancies and disputes in Iron Age chronology arising from insufficient correlation between regional chronological systems.

The symposium will explore Iron Age Mediterranean chronology through various themes:

1. Critical Examination of Relative Chronology Construction:

Summarize, re-evaluate, and critique the evidence and methods used over the past century to construct regional, chronological frameworks across the Mediterranean, including material culture typologies, analytical studies, and methods of quantification/statistical analyses considered within their stratigraphic sequences and mortuary contexts.

2. Cross-Cultural Examination of Regional Chronological Systems:

Investigate available evidence and methods for synchronizing regional relative chronologies, including contexts that exemplify the interplay between 'local' and 'non-local' elements in material culture.

3. Integration of Archaeometric, Archaeological, and Historical Evidence:

Cross-disciplinary analysis of archaeometric results, including those from new analytical techniques and typological and historical data within regional frameworks, to establish absolute chronologies.

This symposium aims to produce a comprehensive and interdisciplinary study and publication of regional chronological systems across the Mediterranean. The comparative analysis of these systems will represent a significant step toward a more precise and consistent definition of Iron Age Mediterranean chronology.

Co-sponsored by the *Austrian Science Fund (FWF)* &
the *Society for Eastern Mediterranean Archaeology and Heritage Studies*.

