

International Congress

***Fishing and Greek colonisation in the Black Sea during  
Antiquity :  
a geographical and regional approach***



Maison Méditerranéenne des Sciences de l'Homme, Aix-en-Provence, France

26th-27th March 2020

## **FIRST CALL OF PAPERS**

All researchers working in connection with the exploitation of the fishery resources of the Black Sea, through archaeological and epigraphical data, ancient sources and life sciences, are invited to submit a proposal by choosing one of the four sessions. We will host papers on archaeology and history of techniques (field data, material relating to fishing activities, port facilities, conservation structures, etc.), archaeozoology (archaeoichthyology, archaeoconchylology), environmental history (long-lived evolution of Black Sea fish stocks, changes in biodiversity, coastal geomorphological evolution) and social history (anthropological, economic, political or cultural interactions in relation to the issue of the Black Sea's ancient fishery resources exploitation and the local eating habits). Approaches from life sciences (marine biology, ichthyology) and social sciences such as archaeology and geography will be particularly encouraged.

## **SCHEDULE AND MODALITIES OF SUBMISSION**

The call for papers will be open **from 10<sup>th</sup> October to 15<sup>th</sup> December 2019**. Candidates have to send the application form, choosing one of the sessions.

Each paper proposal should include a title, full name and affiliation of the author(s), as well as a summary (maximum 400 words). Participants may not propose more than two communications. English is the official language.

A chair and a discussant will lead the sessions.

**The deadline for submission is the 15<sup>th</sup> December 2019.**

## **PARTNERS INVOLVED IN THE PROJECT**

Centre Camille Jullian (UMR 7299), CNRS-Aix-Marseille University, France

Musée du Louvre, Département des Antiquités Grecques, Etrusques et Romaines, Paris, France

Institute of South-Eastern European Studies, Romanian Academy, Bucharest, Romania

National Institute of Archaeology and Museum, Bulgarian Academy of Science, Sofia, Bulgaria

## SCIENTIFIC OBJECTIVES

According to Polybius (IV, 38), goods exported from the Black Sea included salted fish, suggesting that fishing played an important role in the colonisation process along the Pontic shores, possibly from a very early date (Dupont 2007). However, in addition to the question of the containers used for this trade, raised by J. Lund (2005) and V. Gabrielsen (2005), there is also the issue of eventual discrepancies between sources and archaeological data. Perhaps due to the hazardous preservation of archaeological structures, or simply to a geographic imbalance in research, studies have until now revealed evidence of fish drying and salting mainly in the northern Pontic region, during a period that came after the testimony of Polybius.

Nonetheless, careful analysis of ancient sources reveals the full range of complex factors involved in fishing in a region where species were zoned and subject to seasonal migration. A dichotomy between northern and southern Black Sea coasts, in addition to the distinctive characteristics of the deltas punctuating the north and northwest shores, may have had an impact on the resources produced, as enlightened by the Franco-Romanian archaeological mission around Orgame at the settlements of the Golovița lagoon (Baralis *et al.* 2017). Varied local resources, such as highly migratory species, may indeed explain different fishing management strategies, which in turn would have shaped local and regional exchange networks, including those stretching over greater distances to connect Pontic colonies with the Aegean world.

Some fifteen years after the very promising symposium held at the University of Aarhus (2003), it is time to re-examine this key issue for the understanding of the colonial process in the Pontic region, particularly in light of the recent synthesis by T. Bekker-Nielsen (2016) and the latest studies carried out in the northern Black Sea region and Danube delta. The goal of this symposium is to shed light on the latest data, with a special focus on regional specificities resulting from the characteristics of species exploited within the perimeters of each site, in accordance with the aims of ichthyofaunal studies. Such research does sometimes produce results that contradict textual and epigraphic data, opening up new avenues for the analysis of local networks, where the participation of local populations has not always been taken into account (Gavriliuk 2005). In the framework of the research programme on the Greek colonisation in the Black Sea area (Musée du Louvre -Centre Camille Jullian, CNRS-Aix-Marseille University), we would like to bring together ichthyofaunal analyses, studies or reinterpretation of production structures and publication of archaeological material linked to fish exploitation and trade, all too often neglected and more often than not left unpublished. Through these various contributions, we wish to enrich the debate around fish-related trade and its potential role in Greek colonial process in the Black Sea and the Straights.

## SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

- Alexandru Avram (Le Mans University, France / Institute of archaeology "Vasile Pârvan", Bucharest, Romania)
- Alexandre Baralis (Musée du Louvre, Paris, France)
- Tonnes Bekker-Nielsen (University of South Denmark)
- Owen Doonan (California State University – Northridge, USA)
- Vasilica Lungu (Institute of South-Eastern European Studies, Romanian Academy, Bucharest, Romania)
- Arturo Morales (Laboratory of archaeozoology, Department of biology, Autonomous University of Madrid, Spain)
- Myriam Sternberg (Centre Camille Jullian, CNRS-Aix-Marseille University, France)

## ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

- Alexandre Baralis (Musée du Louvre, Paris, France),
- Myriam Sternberg (Centre Camille Jullian, CNRS-Aix-Marseille University, France)
- Tatiana André (Aix-Marseille University, France)
- Lucas Bonjour (Aix-Marseille University, France)

## SESSIONS

**Session 1 :** *New approaches for estimating the role of fishing activities in the ancient Black Sea economy : archaeo-ichthyology, archaeo-conchyliology, isotopic and DNA analysis, study of the evolution of marine stocks and changes in biodiversity*

**Session 2 :** *Coastal occupations during Antiquity : adaptation of human population to coastal environment, geography and geomorphological changes, exploitation of local resources.*

**Session 3 :** *New data on Indigenous, Greek and Roman's fishing production structures, tools and transport means on Black Sea coast (salting vats , fishponds , vessels...).*

**Session 4 :** *Contacts network and exchanges of fishery products in Greek colonization contexts and during Roman time*

## PARTICIPATION FORM

Please return the completed form by the **deadline of December 15th, 2019** to:

[alexandre.baralis@louvre.fr](mailto:alexandre.baralis@louvre.fr) and [msternberg@msh-aix.fr](mailto:msternberg@msh-aix.fr)

*Title and Name* -----

*First Name* -----

*Affiliation* -----

*Address* -----

*Telephone* -----

*E-mail* -----

I will participate with a paper ( )

I will attend with a poster ( )

*Title of paper* -----

*Session* -----

*Key-words (5)* -----

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*Summary : 400 words max.*

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I am interested in participating in the Post-Congress excursion the 27<sup>th</sup> March to the Museum of History and the Roman Docks Museum in Marseilles ( )

**A Second Circular will be sent the 15<sup>th</sup> January 2020 to those who have confirmed their participation.**

## CONTACTS

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<https://www.louvre.fr/>

<http://ccj.cnrs.fr/>