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Beyond the Major Islands. The Little Landscapes of the Saronic Project 2024-2025

ABSTRACT

How do small islands shape, and get shaped by, their larger maritime worlds? The *Little Landscapes of the Saronic Project* (LISP) presents a multidisciplinary investigation into the archaeology of the Saronic Gulf's smaller islands and islets, a region often overshadowed by its larger neighbors. This talk introduces the project's archaeological approach, combining pedestrian survey, digital mapping, and geomorphological analysis to explore the dynamic roles of these marginal landscapes across time. Preliminary findings reveal a pattern of episodic but strategic occupation, with Early Bronze Age settlement suggesting early agricultural and resource exploitation networks, while the Archaic to Hellenistic and Early Byzantine eras highlight shifting uses, from potential episodic visitation to rural farmsteads and defensive forts. By situating these islands within broader Mediterranean narratives of marginality and connectivity, LISP contributes to discussions on island archaeology, resource management, and the interplay between human activity and environmental constraints. This talk will outline methodological advancements, key discoveries, and future directions, emphasising the significance of small islands as microcosms of regional interaction and adaptation.

The lecture takes place on Thursday, April 16, 2026, 19h (Athens) with live presence at the Swedish Institute and online via Zoom.

To participate (in-person or via Zoom), please register at:

<https://www.sia.gr/en/events.php?eid=562#ParticipationForm>