

AEGEAN LECTURES

Friday 26 January 2018, 19:00

Swedish Institute at Athens (Mitseon 9, Acropolis Metro station)

Aegeus and the Swedish Institute at Athens invite you to the lecture:

The northeastern Aegean bone industries as case study of local cultural dynamics

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The lecture will discuss variety in technological behavior and scope in northeastern Aegean Neolithic sites and attempt to balance the common tendency to regard change in the material culture of this region as the dull outcome of economic and social developments elsewhere in the Aegean and the Balkans. Notwithstanding the importance of broader trends, variations in the exploitation of natural resources, including animal bone, suggest that several different factors, including environmental, economic and psychological ones, were partaking in shaping and altering use patterns. The presentation will be a summary of methodological considerations that arose during the study of bone industries, rather than an exhaustive treatment.

Until the early 2000s, the northeastern Aegean region provided fragmentary or ambiguous data about mobility, societal

change and technological creativity. The best-known Neolithic phase was the Late Neolithic. The area was deemed as largely depopulated during the preceding periods as well as the Final Neolithic, after which this part of the Aegean, except perhaps the islands near the Troad, would stay apart from the movement toward increasing social stratification and political centralization observed in neighboring regions. Recent research yielded evidence on early Neolithic occupation of the entire northeastern Aegean and shifting settlement patterns during the Final Neolithic and the earliest Bronze Age. This allows of a movement from the description of gross or generic features to a finer grained examination of how or why the design of artifacts, choice of materials and production procedures remained the same or changed across space and over time.