

METALLON

The Exploitation of Subsurface
Resources in Ancient Greece

16 Oct.
2025

**M. H. Wiener Laboratory, ASCSA
Conference Room**

54 Souidias Street
Kolonaki, Athens

**On-site (in Athens)
or remote (online)**

Further information:
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PROGRAM

**Workshop organized
as part of the Innovative
Action of the GPR Human Past**



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09h00 Welcome

09h30 Opening Words

P. Karkanis (Wiener Laboratory, ASCSA)

09h40 Introduction

C. Chezeaux (University of Lausanne)

J. Gravier (Bordeaux Montaigne University)

09h50 Keynote

E. Filippaki (NCSR Demokritos)

10h20 Techniques and Methods of Extraction

10h25 Archaeometallurgical Research in Northeastern Greece: Case Studies from Prehistory and Antiquity

N. Nerantzis (University of the Peloponnese)

10h50 Coffee Break

11h05 Quarrying of Stones in Ancient Greece: The Case of Limestone Resources

M. de Vals (Sorbonne University)

11h30 Environmental Impact and Landscape Transformations

11h35 Eretria and Its Quarries: Marginal Resources at the Core of Ancient Territorial Dynamics

C. Chezeaux (University of Lausanne)

**12h00 From the Mine to the Forge:
Iron Exploitation across the Eretrian Territory**
J. Gravier (Bordeaux Montaigne University)

12h30 Lunch Break

14h00 Resources, Economy, and Circulation of Materials

**14h05 The Good and the Bad Stone:
An Underground Story**
T. Vettor (Sorbonne University)

**14h30 Retracing Networks of Metal Resources Distribution:
The Case of Argilos**
J. Lefebvre (University of Montreal)

**14h55 Becoming a Rock Star: The Shift from Local Stones to
Serpentinite in Minoan Stone Vase Production**
K. Regnier (Catholic University of Louvain)

15h20 Conclusion of the Workshop



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The Greek term metallon may refer to either a mine or a quarry, whether used for the extraction of rock, ore, or salt. In this sense, it does not denote the nature of the resources themselves, but rather their shared origin: the subsurface. This common provenance opens the door to a cross-disciplinary reflection on the exploitation and management of such resources in ancient Greece.

In recent decades, the study of the past has seen a growing interest in environmental questions. A key dimension of this research concerns the relationship between ancient societies and their environment: how did human groups interact with their surroundings to meet their needs, build infrastructure, or produce everyday objects? In this field, the rise of interdisciplinary approaches – at the intersection of archaeological sciences and historical inquiry – combined with recent methodological advances, has led to major developments in the field.

The METALLON workshop aims to present the current state of knowledge on the exploitation of subsurface resources in ancient Greece. Through a variety of approaches and case studies, it seeks to explore the technical, social, and environmental dimensions of these practices. How can we identify and characterize extracted materials – clay, metal, stone – and what can they reveal about the choices made by the societies that utilized them? What extraction methods were employed across different chronological and regional contexts? What can the circulation of these resources tell us about the economic, political, and territorial dynamics of the Aegean world? What impact did these activities have on the environment, and what transformations of the landscape did they generate? Ultimately, temporality is a central thread of this inquiry: how were extractive practices embedded within the *longue durée*, between continuity, rupture, and adaptation?



Key words: Ancient Greece; Aegean world; Raw materials; Extraction; Human-environment interactions; Territorial dynamics; Landscape transformations; Tipping points.

Organizers: Julien Gravier (Ausonius / Bordeaux Montaigne University)
Chloé Chezeaux (ESAG / University of Lausanne).