

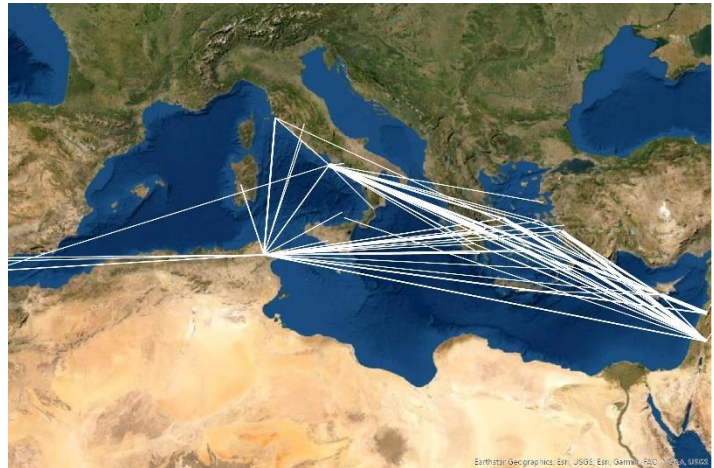
Network Thinking: Theory and Practice in Pottery Studies

online guest lecture by Daniela Greger
(University of Lausanne, Swiss National Research Foundation)

Reconstructing Euboean Trade: Conception, Issues, and Peculiarities of a Pottery-Based Network Analysis

The Euboean role in Early Iron Age trade is a controversial subject: while the islanders have often been characterized as prone seafarers and enterprising tradesmen, the extent of their active participation in the commercial exchanges on a Mediterranean scale has been called into question. The root of the problem lies in the limited archaeological evidence for commercial activity and its often biased exploitation. Euboean commercial interactions have mostly been studied in isolation, yet they were embedded in a larger trade network. They were strongly interdependent with the activities of all other participants, as the Euboean connections could both gain and lose interest through changes in the network structure. To fully understand the extent and development of the island's commercial activities, it is therefore necessary to reconstruct the trade network on a larger scale and to analyse the structural position of Euboea within the network context.

In the absence of written evidence, imported pottery provides perhaps the most exploitable dataset to reconstruct the Early Iron Age trade network on the Eastern and Central Mediterranean scale. Ceramics are usually well preserved and published; additionally, the identification of origins has made great advances in recent years. Nevertheless, processing pottery statistics through network analytical tools is not always straightforward, especially for datasets with a high degree of uncertainty. The aim of this talk is to present the methodological issues specific to pottery-based trade networks based on an Eastern and Central Mediterranean exchange network spanning the 8th and 7th century B.C., while outlining both the benefits and limits of network analytical approaches to improve our understanding of Euboean commercial activities.



26th April 2023, 18:00 (s.t.)

Zoom link: <https://hu-berlin.zoom.us/j/61408580848?pwd=eVlvdjlpmbzRUQlJoME5qYXJsWDZYQT09>

Meeting-ID: 614 0858 0848
Password: 275736