



Embodied Identities:

Figural and Symbolic Representation of the Self in Anatolia

Workshop organized under the auspices of:



7-8 June, 2014 09:00-18:00

Program

Apart in Life Together in Death: Pagans and Christians in the ancient necropolis at Kymisala in southern Rhodes. Issues of identities and mortuary practices in the Eastern Mediterranean.

Kymisala, one of the largest and most important *demoi* of ancient Kamiros, is located on the southwest coast of the island of Rhodes. The excavation in the central necropolis of Kymisala, which is conducted by the Department of Mediterranean Studies of the University of the Aegean, has brought to light important finds documenting the continuous habitation of the territory from the seventh century BC until Late Antiquity.

The paper will present the impressive finds from tomb 10, one of the few tombs excavated in 2010 that had not been looted. The finds (pottery-coins) recovered from it indicate that the earliest use of the tomb is dated in the Early Hellenistic period, while the grave was reused as an ossuary in Late Antiquity. From study of the anthropological material it is estimated that the tomb housed at least fifty-six burials, not only of adults but also of children and babies. The use of the ancient tomb as a Christian ossuary necessitated the makeshift construction of partitions separating the space of the old burials from the new ones. The need for self-determination through the new religion imposed interesting mortuary practices and a new conception in the use of the space, which offer important data regarding the issue of the promotion of identities in the Eastern Mediterranean during Late Antiquity.

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