



## Palaeolithic Seminar 2023 - 2024

The Palaeolithic Seminar is embarking on a new cycle, co-organised by the University of Crete and the Ephorate of Palaeoanthropology and Speleology in the Ministry of Culture. Lectures are being organized on the occasion of the exhibition *The Origins of Sculpture: Archaeological Finds from the Old World and Lesbos 2.5 million to 50,000 Years Before Present*, currently being presented at the Benaki Museum of Greek Culture (27-09-2023 to 07-01-2024) by the University of Crete, the Benaki Museum and the Region of Crete, in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture.

The seminar will bring speakers from around the world to Athens, including experts in archaeology, palaeontology, and cognitive science, to present the journey taken by sculpture from its very early steps in the Paleolithic period. These lectures will not only trigger a reconsideration of the origins of human culture but will also highlight the dynamic cognitive processes that accompanied our ancestral species on their journey of aesthetic exploration and the achievement of form.

Professor Wynn and Professor Papadopoulos will trace the meeting points between archaeology and cognitive science. Professor Galanidou and Dr. Zipfel will talk about the archaeological sites where some of the earliest and most astonishing finds of the exhibition have come to light, challenging us to approach archaeological finds as examples of aesthetic awakening.

Lectures are open to the public, free of charge. To attend the seminar pre-book your seat here: [Pre-booking](#)

### Location

Amphitheater, Benaki Museum of Greek Culture  
1 Koumbari St. & Vas. Sofias Ave., 106 74 Athens



HELLENIC REPUBLIC  
Ministry of Culture

### Coordination

Professor Nena Galanidou, University of Crete

Dr. Andreas Darlas, Ephorate of Palaeoanthropology and Speleology, Ministry of Culture





## Programme

*The handaxe aesthetic*

**Professor Thomas Wynn**, University of Colorado, USA

Thursday 26/10/2023, at 19:00

*From the First Tools to Symbolic Thought and Social Distinction*

**Professor Nena Galanidou**, University of Crete

Thursday 9/11/2023, at 19:00

*A Journey in Ancient Greek Sculpture from 3000 BC to 31 AD*

**Professor Petros Themelis**, University of Crete

~~Thursday 23/11/2023, at 19:00~~ **CANCELLED**

*What's new with the old Levant? Advances in the study of the Israel Paleolithic*

**Professor Gonen Sharon**, Tel Hai University, Israel

Thursday 7/12/2023, at 19:00

*The Brain as a Work and Tool of Culture*

**Professor George Papadopoulos**, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

Thursday 14/12/2023, at 19:00

*The "australopithecine pebble of many faces" and its place in the Cradle of Humankind, South Africa*

**Dr Bernhard Zipfel**, University of Witwatersrand, South Africa

Thursday 11/1/2024, at 19:00



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