



# CALL FOR PAPERS

## International conference

### **“*Cyprum quondam novem regnorum sedem...*: a multidisciplinary approach to Cyprus’ Iron Age political and territorial fragmentation”**

4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of October 2024

Cultural Centre of the Municipality of Idalion (Dali), Cyprus

During the first half of the first millennium BCE, Cyprus was divided in about ten autonomous polities, attested by primary sources (inscriptions and coins) as well as by secondary sources (Greek and Near Eastern texts). While the time of their emergence remains disputed, their disappearance can be dated towards the end of the 4th c. BCE when the unified island became a province of Ptolemaic Egypt.

Paradoxically, the political fragmentation of the island, which has characterized its long history, has hardly been analysed in its concrete aspects: the territories of the various kingdoms, their limits, their mode of organisation (most notably their relationship with the capital-cities) and their diachronic evolution. The French-German project *Kition-Idalion-Tamassos: cities and territories within Cypriot kingdoms during the first millennium BCE* (KIT, 2022-2025) has the objective to investigate a regional case study through a multidisciplinary approach, by focusing on the polities of Kition, Idalion and Tamassos.

After two years of intense research on these three polities, we would like to share and discuss various aspects related to the territoriality of Cypriot Iron Age polities with colleagues working on similar aspects and research questions in Cyprus or neighbouring areas.

We propose to approach the overall question under three main aspects (others not excluded):

#### *1: Analysis of historical sources*

Historical sources, both literary and epigraphic, as well as numismatic evidence greatly contribute to our knowledge of Cypriot Iron Age polities as for their historical development as well as the economic, political, religious and social processes involved. Specific issues can be addressed, relying on the analysis of anthroponyms, theonyms, toponyms, as well as more general historical and political topics. While focusing on the Iron Age, we welcome also papers touching on the transition between Late Bronze Age/Iron Age and Hellenistic data, highlighting in this way the *longue durée* perspective of the conference.

#### *2: Material culture studies*

Among the aims of the conference is the characterisation of Cyprus polities’ material culture through time, in order to track possible changes and influences. This encompasses mainly ceramics and sculptures (terracotta and stone), but can be widened according to data sets available. The material can come from a variety of contexts (tombs, sanctuaries, settlements), and from the end of the Late Bronze Age to the early Hellenistic period. Contextual



studies of material culture can lead from a production-related to a cultural approach. For example, votive and cultic practices, the spatial and architectural layout of sanctuaries and necropoleis can offer important clues that may allow a possible distinction between different regional habits. This includes approaches to Cypriot material culture using archaeometric analyses.

### 3: Landscape archaeological approaches

Despite the shortcomings of the available historical sources as for the spatial organisation and definition of the territories of Cypriot Iron Age polities, GIS-based research of the complex cultural landscape of Cyprus in the island's *longue durée* is very promising. Aiming at placing the Iron Age polities into their immediate cultural landscape contexts, our ongoing studies on the three polities of Kition, Idalion and Tamassos show already encouraging results for investigating the political economies of other kingdoms in a similar way. We welcome papers dealing with similar researches as well as all kinds of landscape archaeological methods – including new innovative methodological or theoretical approaches or geomorphological studies – focusing on specific Cypriot territories or neighbouring regions from the end of the Late Bronze Age to the early Hellenistic period.

We invite colleagues dealing with these or closely related aspects in Cyprus or neighbouring areas to submit abstracts up to **300 words** until **25 March 2024** to:  
**KITconference2024@gmail.com**

The conference will take place on 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of October 2024 at the Cultural Centre of the Municipality of Idalion (Dali) in Cyprus in presence exclusively. Contributors will have 30 minutes to present their paper, followed by a discussion. Papers and contributions should be held in English, the official conference language.

A limited financial support for travelling expenses can be provided to early career researchers, not necessarily covering all costs.

Notice of acceptance will be sent by **15 April 2024**. It is planned to publish the proceedings of the conference and we would like to stick with a dense calendar in order to do so. Further details will be communicated during the conference.

## Summary

- what:** “*Cyprum quondam novem regnorum sedem...*: a multidisciplinary approach to Cyprus’ Iron Age political and territorial fragmentation”
- when:** 4 and 5 October 2024
- where:** Idalion/Dali, Cyprus
- abstracts due until:** 25 March 2024
- notice of acceptance:** 15 April 2024
- contact:** KITconference2024@gmail.com



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