



**COMMISSION FOR BYZANTINE ARCHAEOLOGY (CBA)
ACTIVITIES REPORT (August 2022 – April 2024)**

1	ELECTION OF COMMISSION'S BOARD IN VENICE
1.1	Following the invitation of the Bureau of the International Association of Byzantine Studies, the coordinator of the <i>Commission for Byzantine Archaeology</i> (CBA) arranged a first official Meeting with all Commission members in the framework of the 24th International Congress of Byzantine Studies in Venice and Padua on 24/08/2022, at 13:00. The members committed to continue working together to set more firm foundations for the functioning of this new Commission, as well as meet its aims, which include the promotion of our discipline globally. One of the issues included in the CBA's agenda during its first meeting in Venice was the election of its Chair, Deputy Chair and Secretary.
1.2	CBA now includes the following approved (regular and honorary) members, in alphabetical order: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Effie Athanassopoulos – <i>Secretary</i> (USA)2. Marica Cassis (Canada)3. Jim Crow (UK)4. Owen Doonan (USA)5. Sharon Gerstel (USA)6. Fotini Kondyli (USA)7. Sabine Ladstätter (Austria)8. Platon Petridis – <i>Deputy Chair</i> (Greece)9. Jean-Michel Spieser – <i>Honorary member</i> (France)10. Christina Tsigonaki (Greece)11. Nikos Tsivikis (Greece; previously Germany)12. Myrto Veikou (Greece; previously Sweden)13. Athanasios Vionis – <i>Chair</i> (Cyprus)14. Joanita Vroom (Netherlands)15. Enrico Zanini (Italy)
2	FUNDING FOR YOUNG RESEARCHERS
2.1	One of the strategic goals of the Commission since its establishment has been the investigation of potential sources to fund cutting-edge postdoctoral research, fostering collaboration between colleagues (to act as mentors) from different academic institutions. The plan is to support young scientists to attain important skills for advancing their professional journeys through the postdoctoral study of Byzantine culture, on topics such as the built and natural environment, material culture, technology, cultural heritage management, etc. Initiated by the coordinator, four different international companies (from Israel, Italy, France, the USA) have been approached.
2.2	Although two of the companies did not approve our request, the CBA members are determined to continue their quest to raise the probability of positive outcomes.
3	DIALOGUE WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATIONS
3.1	CBA seeks to promote the dialogue with other fields of archaeology that address the medieval Mediterranean, European and Near Eastern world, opening the channels for wider interregional studies.
3.2	One of the first ventures to network with colleagues from other European countries and promote CBA's aims and active research was the <i>European Association of Archaeologists</i> . In the framework of the EAA 29th Annual Meeting in Belfast (30/08-02/09/2023), three of our members, namely Myrto Veikou (University of Patras), Joanita Vroom (University of Leiden) and Nikos Tsivikis (Institute for Mediterranean Studies, FORTH) organised Session 113 "Byzantine heritage in peril: the safety of archaeological sites (heritage, conservation, preservation, non-destructive methodologies)". This was a highly successful Meeting, addressing contemporary challenges in Byzantine Archaeology and the management of archaeological sites and monuments.

3.3	Another venue to promote ongoing cutting-edge research in Byzantine Archaeology was <i>RURALIA</i> , an international association for the archaeology of medieval and post-medieval settlement and rural life. <i>RURALIA</i> “provides a conference of current research questions in rural archaeology from most participating European countries to strengthen the exchange of knowledge in, and the development of, archaeologically comparable studies, and to make archaeological results available to other disciplines.” Current archaeological research on Byzantine Greece and Cyprus was presented by the CBA Chair in the 15th <i>RURALIA</i> Scientific Meeting in Fredrikstad, Norway (04-10/09/2023). CBA will also be present via its Chair in the forthcoming <i>RURALIA</i> Board Meeting in Bad Hofgastein, Austria (10-12/05/2024).
3.4	The presence of the CBA in international networks and associations was further enhanced by the participation of its Chair in the Scientific Board of the forthcoming EAA 30th Annual Conference, to take place in Rome (28-31/08/2024). Moreover, M. Cassis (CBA member) has taken over as Treasurer of the Canadian Committee of Byzantinists.
3.5	In the framework of the EAA 30th Annual Meeting in Rome (28-31/08/2024), Athanasios Vionis (University of Cyprus) and Faidon Moudopoulos (Catalan Institute of Classical Archaeology) are organising Session 669 “Ottoman-era/Historical Archaeology: materials and methods”. The Session seeks to explore the legacy of Byzantium into the post-Byzantine era and to assess results emerging from the related field of Historical Archaeology in Eastern and Southern Europe and the Eastern Mediterranean.
4	DIGITAL COMMUNICATION
4.1	The creation of a digital communication platform for announcing activities and opportunities related to Byzantine Archaeology has also been one of the Commission’s primary aims. A database with the names and email addresses of 300 specialists in Byzantine Archaeology has been created. Colleagues from several countries undertaking research on Byzantine/medieval landscapes, material culture, theory and applied sciences are included in this list, which, although currently not exhaustive, it is regularly updated.
5	PUBLIC AWARENESS & DISSEMINATION
5.1	Raising public awareness and disseminating scientific/scholarly results to local communities are of utmost importance in promoting the archaeological study of Byzantium and protecting Byzantine cultural heritage at both national and international levels. The CBA members explored during their 2022 Meeting in Venice the possibility of getting more actively involved in engaging with the local communities and the public by providing specialist advice to stakeholders and research teams.
5.2	One such example is the finalisation of the Unlocking Sacred Landscapes project, the website and smart-phone app which functions under the auspices of the CBA. This online portal provides a remote tour to selected Byzantine and early modern monuments and sites in Cyprus.
6	COLLABORATION WITH THE COMMISSION FOR THE HISTORY OF BYZANTINE ART
6.1	The Commission for the History of Byzantine Art proposed (during our 2022 Meeting in Venice) a collaboration with CBA in the framework of the Chalke Gate , an ambitious project and online digital portal dedicated to Byzantine art and material culture. The reaction of all CBA members was positive, and communication was established between the two Commissions so that information related to archaeological institutions, projects, monuments, sites etc. would also be accommodated in the portal.
6.2	CBA started contributing to the feeding of the portal in May 2023. Funding was granted by the University of Cyprus in 2023 for a young researcher (Dr Ourania Perdiki), specialised in Byzantine Art and Archaeology, to work on the gathering of information and the composition of entries related to Cyprus, Italy, and France. More than 80 entries (of archaeological interest) have been accommodated in the portal, such as Museums and libraries, digital collections, archaeological sites and monuments, academic research programmes, archaeological field projects, cultural heritage/governmental organisations, archaeological institutes, research centres and postgraduate study-programmes.

Research and publication activities by members of the CBA

1	Research Projects
1.1	<i>Water in Istanbul, Rising the Challenge</i> , with the British Institute at Ankara, funded by the British Academy, Global Challenges Research Fund (2021-2023) [J. Crow : director]
1.2	<i>Apalirou Environs Project</i> , Naxos (2016-2019) and <i>Excavations at Kato Choria</i> , Naxos (2020-today) [J. Crow : director]
1.3	<i>Study of the architecture and pottery of an Early Byzantine Domus at Thasos Island</i> [P. Petridis : director]
1.4	<i>Apollonis / Dariah-GR, Creation of a Multilingual Dictionary on Pottery</i> [P. Petridis : director]
1.5	<i>Eleutherna-Sector II Excavations</i> , conducted under the auspices of the Department of History and Archaeology, University of Crete (2010-today) [Ch. Tsigonaki : director]
1.6	<i>Oros Oxa Archaeological Survey</i> , conducted under the auspices of the Institute of Mediterranean Studies/Foundation for Research and Technology-Hellas and the Archaeological Ephorate of Lassithi (2017-today) [Ch. Tsigonaki : co-director]
1.7	<i>Retracing Connections – Byzantine Storyworlds in Greek, Arabic, Georgian, and Old Slavonic (c. 950–c. 1100)</i> , Department of Linguistics and Philology, Uppsala University, P/L Prof. Ingela Nilsson, funded by the Stiftelsen Riksbankens Jubileumsfond (RJ) (M. Veikou : researcher)
1.8	<i>Medieval Smyrna/Izmir: The Transformation of a City and its Hinterland from Byzantine to Ottoman Times (MESMY)</i> , Austrian Academy of Sciences (ÖAW), PL Pr. Andreas Külzer, funded by the Austrian Research Fund (FWF) [M. Veikou : research collaborator]
1.9	<i>Settled and Sacred Landscapes of Cyprus (SeSaLaC)</i> , Department of History and Archaeology & Archaeological Research Unit, University of Cyprus (UCY), surface survey project and excavations in the Xeros River valley (Larnaca district, Cyprus), funded by the University of Cyprus (2014-today), the Cyprus Research and Innovation Foundation (2018-2021), Dumbarton Oaks (2015-2016), DFG (2016) and A.G. Leventis Foundation (2015-2018) [A.K. Vionis : director]
1.10	<i>Innovative Training Network: Plasters and Ceramics (MSCA PlaCe-ITN)</i> , the Cyprus Institute (CyI, coordinating institution), the University of Cyprus (UCY, partner institution), funded by the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Innovative Training Network, European Commission (2021-2025) [A.K. Vionis : coordinator on behalf of UCY]
1.11	<i>Beyond Chalkida: Landscape and Socio-Economic Transformations of its Hinterland from Byzantine to Ottoman Times (HMC)</i> , field project in Euboea, central Greece, in collaboration with the Ephorate of Antiquities of Euboea (represented by Dr Alexandra Kostarelli), the Hellenic Society for Near Eastern Studies (HSNES) in Chalkida (represented by Dr Konstantinos Politis and Dr Andrew Blackler) and the Netherlands Institute at Athens (NIA) [J. Vroom : coordinator]
1.12	<i>Archaeological research on the Byzantine, Medieval and Ottoman ceramic finds for the ‘Athenian Agora Excavations’</i> , Athens, Greece, under auspices of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens (invited by Prof. J. McK. Camp II and Prof. J. Papadopoulos) [J. Vroom : coordinator]
1.13	<i>Excavations in the Early Byzantine District close to the Pythion in Gortyn</i> , Crete [E. Zanini : director]
1.14	<i>Excavations in the site of Vignale</i> , Tuscany, Italy: investigation of a Roman villa (also used as a mansion) that continued in use until Late Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages [E. Zanini : director]

2	Publications
2.1	<p>Crow, J. 2024. Water and the Urban Environment of Constantinople and Thessloniki, in J. Preiser-Kapeller and A. Izdebski (eds.), <i>A Companion to the Environmental History of Byzantium</i>. Leiden, 203-226</p> <p>Crow, J. 2024. Fortresses in a Dark Age: A Preliminary Appraisal', in S. Tougher (ed.), <i>Constantinople Queen of Cities, Festschrift for Paul Magdalino</i>. Leiden, 134-155</p> <p>Crow, J. 2022. Waters for the Capital: Hydraulic Infrastructure and Use in Byzantine Constantinople, in S. Bassett (ed.), <i>The Cambridge Companion to Constantinople. Cambridge Companions to the Ancient World</i>. Cambridge, 67-86</p> <p>Crow, J. 2021. The monastery of Christ the Saviour in Sourmaina and the Hagiographical Dossier of St Eugenios, in L. James, O. Nicholson and R. Scott (eds.), <i>After the Text: Byzantine Enquiries in Honour of Margaret Mullett</i>, Birmingham Byzantine and Ottoman Studies. London, 289-302</p> <p>Crow, J. 2021. Travels of an Exarch: Smaragdus and the Anastasian Wall, in T.J. MacMaster and N.S.M. Matheou (eds.), <i>Italy and the East Roman World in the Medieval Mediterranean: Empire, Cities and Elites, 476-1204</i>, Birmingham Byzantine and Ottoman Studies. London 97-108</p> <p>Bobas, C., Muller, A. and Petridis, P. 2022. <i>Mondes Méditerranéens. Perceptions et transformations de l'espace</i>. Bruxelles</p> <p>Petridis, P. 2022. The Domestic Setting – The Public Setting, in D. Andrianou (ed.), <i>A Cultural History of Furniture in Antiquity</i>, vol. 1. London 91-116 and 117-138</p> <p>Petridis, P. 2022. Olla et Domus: Interpreting the History of Late Roman Houses Based on the Study of Pottery and Vice Versa, in J. Vuković and V. Bikić (eds.), <i>Pottery Function and Use: A Diachronic Perspective</i>. Belgrade, 323-336.</p> <p>Petridis, P., Yangaki, A.G., Liaros, N. and Bia, E.-E. (eds.) 2021. <i>12th Congress AIECM3 on Medieval and Modern period Mediterranean Ceramics. Proceedings</i>. Athens</p> <p>Petridis, P. 2021. Tesserae Thasiae: Early Byzantine Houses from the Island of Thasos and Their Integration at a Universal Model, in I. Baldini and C. Sfameni (eds.), <i>Abitare nel Mediterraneo Tardoantico, Atti del III Convegno Internazionale del CISEM, Bologna 28-31 ottobre 2019</i>, <i>Insulae Diomedea</i> 42. Bologna, 85-92</p> <p>Tsigonaki, Ch. 2022. Gortyn, Eleutherna, and their Neighbourhoods: The Politics of Transformation (Forth to Early Ninth Centuries), in F. Kondyli and B. Anderson (eds.), <i>The Byzantine Neighbourhood. Urban Space and Political Action</i>, Birmingham Byzantine and Ottoman Studies 31. London, 175-213</p> <p>Kalpaxis, A., Tsigonaki, Ch., Spanou, N. and Bitis, I. 2021. Of Gods and Men: Continuities and Disruptions in the Sacred Topography of the Acropolis at Eleutherna. <i>Annuario della Scuola Archeologica di Atene e delle Missioni Italiane in Oriente</i> 99.1, 143-192</p> <p>Karanastasi, A., Tzigounaki, A. and Tsigonaki, Ch. (eds.) 2020. <i>Archaeological Work in Crete 4, Proceedings of the 4rd Meeting, Rethymnon, 24-27 November 2016, vol. 1-2</i>, Faculty of Letters Publications, University of Crete / Ministry of Culture and Sports - Ephorate of Antiquities of Rethymnon. Chania.</p> <p>Tsigonaki, Ch. 2020. La basilique du Léchaion. L'étude des sculptures architecturales, in D. Moreau, C. Snively, A. Guiglia, I. Baldini, L. Milanović, I. Popović, N. Beaudry and O. Heinrich Tamáska (eds.), <i>Archaeology of a World of Changes, Late Roman and Early Byzantine architecture, sculpture and landscapes. Selected Papers from the 23rd International Congress of Byzantine Studies (Belgrade, 22-27 August 2016) – In memoriam Claudia Barsanti</i>. BAR International Series 2973. Oxford, 243-252</p> <p>Tsigonaki, Ch. 2019. Crete, A Border at the Sea: Defensive Works and Landscape - Mindscape Changes (Seventh – Eighth centuries), in M.Á. Cau Ontiveros and C. Mas Florit (eds.), <i>Change and Resilience: The Occupation of Mediterranean Islands in Late Antiquity</i>, Joukowsky Institute Publication Volume 9, Oxford-Philadelphia, 163-192</p> <p>Veikou, M., 2024. Sea of Agency: Islands and Coasts of the Byzantine Aegean in Environmental Perspective, in J. Preiser-Kapeller and A. Izdebski (eds.), <i>A Companion to the Environmental History of Byzantium</i>. Leiden, 346-380</p> <p>Veikou, M., 2023. <i>Spatial Paths to Holiness – Literary 'Lived Spaces' in Eleventh-Century Byzantine Saints' Lives</i>, <i>Studia Byzantina Upsaliensia</i> 22. Uppsala</p>

- Veikou, M., 2023. Theorizing Byzantine Urbanity – The City Constituting Memory, Memory Constituting the City, in L. Zavagno and N. Bakirtzis (eds.), *Routledge Companion to the Byzantine City: from Justinian to Mehmet II (ca. 500–ca.1500)*. London, 37-55
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- Veikou, M. and Nilsson, I. (eds.), 2022. *Spatialities of Byzantine Culture from the Human Body to the Universe*, The Medieval Mediterranean 133. Leiden-New York
- Vionis, A.K., Papantoniou, G. and Savvides, N. 2023. Landscape Archaeology in a Contested Space: Public Engagement and Outreach in the Xeros River Valley in Cyprus. *Journal of Greek Archaeology* 8, 299-324
- Vionis, A.K. 2022. The Construction of Sacred Landscapes and Maritime Identities in the Post-Medieval Cyclades Islands: The Case of Paros. *Religions* [open access], 13.2, 164
- Vionis, A.K. 2022. A Boom-Bust Cycle in Cyprus at the End of Antiquity: Landscape Perspectives for Settlement Transformation, in P. Panayides and I. Jacobs (eds.), *Cyprus in the Long Late Antiquity*. Oxford, 161-176
- Vionis, A.K. 2020. Bridging the Early Medieval ‘Ceramic Gap’ in the Aegean and the Eastern Mediterranean (7th-9th c.): Local and Global Phenomena. *Journal on Hellenistic and Roman Material Culture* 9, 291-325
- Papantoniou, G. and Vionis, A.K. 2020. Popular Religion and Material Responses to Pandemic: The Christian Cult of the *Epitaphios* during the COVID-19 Crisis in Greece and Cyprus. *Ethnoarchaeology* 12.2 [golden open access], 85-117
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- Vroom, J. 2022. Shifting Byzantine Networks: New Light on Chalcis (Euripos/Negroponte) as a Centre of Production and Trade in Greece, in E. Fiori and M. Trizio (eds.), *The 24th International Congress of Byzantine Studies*, Volume 1: *Proceedings of the Plenary Sessions*. Venice, 453-487
- Vroom, J. 2022. A Byzantine Space Oddity: The Cultural Geography of Foodways and Cuisine in the Eastern Mediterranean (700-1500), in M. Veikou and I. Nilsson (eds.), *Spatialities of Byzantine Culture from the Human Body to the Universe*, The Medieval Mediterranean 133. Leiden-New York, 171-211.
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- Zanini, E., Giorgi, E., Lapacciana, N., Luppino, L., Picciola, S. and Scoz, J. 2022. Ricerche sulle fasi tardoantiche e protobizantine del Pythion di Gortina di Creta. *Annuario della Scuola Archeologica Italiana di Atene* 100.2, 59-87