



Erasmus+ Programme

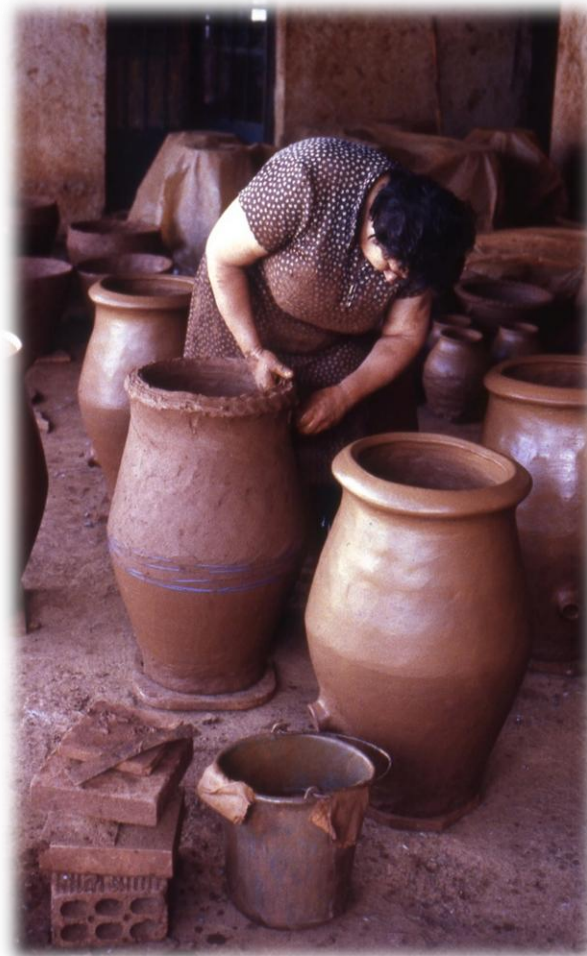
Multilateral Inter-Institutional Agreement

Blended Intensive Programme (BIP)

Cyprus Experimental Field School (CEF):

From Cultural Heritage to Materials Science –

The Female Potters of Cyprus



CONSORTIUM

Institutions
Coordinating university Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, France
Open University of Cyprus, Cyprus
University of Thessaly, Greece
University of Crete, Greece
University of the Aegean, Greece
University of the Peloponnese, Greece
University of Patras, Greece
University of Warsaw, Poland (approval pending)
University of Florence, Italy
Receiving institution: The Cyprus Institute, Science and Technology in Archaeology and Culture Research Center (STARC)

TOPICS COVERED

- Educational innovation
- Documentation of technological knowledge in traditional pottery production in Cyprus, especially concerning Cypriot female potters
- The materiality of multitasking in women's spheres of practice in Cyprus
- Apprenticeship with traditional potters
- Testable inference models from ethnoarchaeology to archaeology
- Building communities of practice between archaeology and cultural heritage
- First acquaintance with current macroscopic and science-based/archaeometric analyses.



AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The primary aim of this Erasmus+ Blended Intensive Programme (BIP) is to provide a fully immersive experience of dynamic pottery cultures from apprenticeship through to vessel use and also in material science analyses; to give students the requisite skills, in consultation with potting elders, to apply this knowledge to explore how multistage hand-built pots were made and used in the past. One of the core aims of our project is to remove the obscuring lens between the observed and the observer: ethnoarchaeology as cultural heritage.

This BIP investigates the potting technology of traditional Cypriot female potters and contextualizes the materiality of multitasking in women's spheres of practice in Cyprus. In our Programme, the archives of ethnoarchaeologist Dr Gloria London, who has documented the Cypriot female potters since 1986, serve as a nucleus from which one may thoroughly document the dynamic context of their practices.

This is an experimental programme working with the traditional potters in Cyprus as the primary experts. This BIP involves both researching ceramics made by female potters using various techniques, the local landscapes and resources, and working as apprentices to replicate traditional vessels.



Our experimental field school comprises:

- a. Apprenticeship, i.e. the opportunity for students to be trained by traditional potters in making utilitarian pots
- b. Lectures and interviews on the manufacture and function of pots and food consumption
- c. Introduction to ceramic analysis for provenance and technology,
to meet the following objectives:



- i) to highlight the significance of a thorough research ‘strategy’ for our ethnoarchaeological project;
- ii) to introduce students to the methodologies and techniques applied in our research: ethnoarchaeology, communities of practice, cultural heritage and archaeological science
- iii) to investigate pottery manufacture, potters’ fabrics and technology used
and
- iv) to provide a first acquaintance with optical polarizing light microscopy and thin sections of pottery made by the female Cypriot potters whom the project documents.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Documenting and obtaining first-hand experience with manufacturing processes through the various stages, i.e. raw material selection and preparation, primary techniques used for forming hand-built vessels and surface treatments.
- Comprehending why the *chaîne opératoire* (operational sequence) concept is important for understanding the nature and range of technological choices and changes, technological and stylistic transmission and “communities of practice”.
- Identifying markers of techniques of manufacture preserved on finished traditional and ancient ceramic wares.
- Understanding interlinked connections between geology, landscape and pottery fabrics.
- Acquiring basic practical knowledge by working both in the field and in the laboratory.
- Understanding the aims of macroscopic and science-based/archaeometric analyses in archaeology and ethnoarchaeology.
- Understanding the value of ethnoarchaeology to provide testable models against which to compare the potential social implications of ancient pottery production and consumption.
- Revealing the ways in which foodways are used by local communities to craft cohesive identities.
- Participation in the realms of lived experience, seeing potters working together, thus reshaping our understanding of the operation of ancient and traditional household economies, and placing emphasis on the ways in which “ordinary” people participated in, experienced, and influenced sociocultural systems.
- Learning how to work collaboratively with skilled communities, how to ask better questions of archaeological material remains, and to showcase the intangible cultural crafting heritage, present and past, of those communities.

TEACHING STAFF

The organizers of the programme:

Dr Habil. Xenia Charalambidou

Institute for Mediterranean Studies, Foundation for Research and Technology (FORTH - IMS) / Université Paris 1, Panthéon Sorbonne.

Xenia Charalambidou holds a B.A. from the Department of History and Archaeology at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (EKPA), an M.A. from the University of Oxford and a PhD in Classical Archaeology at EKPA. She has held post-doctoral research fellowships with EPKA, the University of Thessaly, the University of Warsaw and the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. Recently, she successfully completed her Habilitation at Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne.

Xenia has worked as a ceramics specialist on international collaborative projects encompassing settlement, cemetery and sanctuary sites of the Mediterranean. Her research has focused on the utility of combining macroscopic and materials science approaches to shed light on the complex social role of pots and potters. As part of her collaborative materials science research Xenia has been a Research Associate at the Fitch Laboratory of the British School at Athens (2010-), and the Institute of Nanoscience and Nanotechnology, National Centre for Scientific Research “Demokritos” (2022-).

In recent years she has been investigating connections between mother-cities, colonial establishments and the native milieu in Greece and in Southern Italy-Sicily during the Early Iron Age and the Archaic period, with an emphasis on ceramic technology, production and consumption, transfer of technological and cultural knowledge, local workshops and artisans’ mobility. Her research combines macroscopic and science-based analyses (ceramic petrography, chemical analysis, SEM), being informed by ethnoarchaeology as part of her study in the Mediterranean.

She has taught at the Universities of Thessaly, Warsaw, the Open University of Cyprus, the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam and the Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne and has published extensively (more than fifty scientific articles, four co-edited volumes and a forthcoming monograph) on ancient Mediterranean societies, ceramic production and technology.

Full Bibliography: <https://forth.academia.edu/XeniaPolyxeniCharalambidou>

Dr Gloria London

Gloria London has been a foundational contributor to the disciplines of ceramic technology, ethnoarchaeology and the archaeology of gender. Since 1969, she has worked on excavations and surveys in Israel and Jordan.

She earned B.A.'s in Geography and Prehistory (1973) and an M.A. in Archaeology (1975) at Tel Aviv University. She studied petrography at the University of Southampton (U.K.) with D.P.S. Peacock, pottery technology at Leiden University with H.J. Franken and potter J. Kalsbeek, followed by PhD studies (1985 University of Arizona).

As the first of W.A. Longacre's students to carry out ceramic ethnoarchaeological fieldwork in the Philippines, London lived among craft specialists in Luzon Island. To test her findings, in 1986, she initiated ethnoarchaeological research in Cyprus to investigate the complexity of the ancient industry and the role of female potters. Of her 100 publications, a quarter concern the potters of Cyprus, including the forthcoming book, "Echoes from the Past".

Full Bibliography: <https://glorialondon.github.io/>

Beatrice McLoughlin

Research Fellow, Australian Archaeological Institute at Athens.

Research archivist and finds manager for the AAIA excavations since 1993, overseeing the transition from paper and film to collaborative multimedia digital databases.

Finding digital solutions for researchers working on the settlement excavations of both Torone and Zagora have honed her understanding of the challenges and opportunities of creating collaborative digital spaces to allow traditional humanities scholars, scientists, and the community owners of cultural heritage to work together for mutual benefit.

Her research is centred on ceramic technology, from the perspective of potters and users of coarse wares, and the critical use of ethnographic / cultural heritage research as a driver for challenging the existing preconceptions and inferences we use to construct the past.



Potters:

Kornos

Vassoulla Adamou

Loukia Kaourani

Louisa Constantinou

Agios Demetrios

Maria and Chryso Krokou



With additional lectures and/or guided tours by:

Dr Thilo Rehren

A. G. Leventis Professor for Archaeological Sciences, Science and Technology in Archaeology and Culture Research Center (STARC), The Cyprus Institute

Dr Evi Margaritis

Associate Professor, The Cyprus Institute, STARC

Dr Alain Duploux

Professeur d'archéologie grecque École d'histoire de l'art et d'archéologie de la Sorbonne

Dr Ioannis Iliopoulos

Professor, Department of Geology, University of Patras

Dr Anastasia Chourmouziadi

Professor of Museum Theory & Exhibition Design
Department of Cultural Technology and Communication
University of the Aegean

Dr Maria Xanthopoulou

Assistant Professor, Director, MSc Programme Cultural Heritage Materials and Technologies (CultTech),
University of the Peloponnese

Dr Maria Emanuela Alberti

Professoressa Associata di Civiltà egee
Dipartimento SAGAS, Università degli Studi di Firenze

Dr Anna Georgiadou

Postdoctoral Researcher, Archaeological Research
Unit, Department of History and Archaeology,
University of Cyprus

Students' profile & target audiences

Postgraduate/PhD and Undergraduate students

in Greek Archaeology; Mediterranean Archaeology; Ethnoarchaeology/Ethnography; Cultural Heritage; Humanities and Digital Media; History; Geology

Expected number of students: 15-20

Language of instruction: English (B2 required)

Validity period of the agreement:

Timeframe	Academic Year
Start of validity	[2026/2027]
End of validity	[2026/2027]

ECTS: 4

Learning and Teaching Methods:

Students will be taught by the traditional potters and will attend seminars and lectures from international researchers and professors, plus engage in group work.

Duration:

Virtual mobility of the BIP

One (1) Virtual component before, and one (1) Virtual component after the BIP

Physical mobility of the BIP

7th to 14th September 2026

(arrival: 6th September; departure: 14th or 15th September),

8 working days

Locations:

- 1) The Cyprus Institute, Science and Technology in Archaeology and Culture Research Center (STARC)
20 K. Kavafi Street, 2121 Aglantzia, Nicosia
- 2) Kornos village
- 3) Agios Demetrios (Marathasa) village

ERASMUS+ Funding:

Participants need to be nominated by their Universities, and secure Erasmus+ BIP funding for short-term Student Mobility for Studies (SMS).

The Erasmus+ Programme provides funding for physical mobility only.

The financial contribution consists of:

Mobility grant of 70-79 EUR (€) per day

up to the 14th day of activity

Students are granted two additional days for travelling.

No further supplements or refunds for travel costs are provided.

CONTACT US - INFORMATION

xenia.charalambidou@gmail.com

erasmusagreement@univ-paris1.fr

Calendar

Application deadline: Partner institutions are requested to submit the application files of participating students to alain.duploux@univ-paris1.fr and xenia.charalambidou@gmail.com by 15 June 2026.

Nomination deadline: The home university must forward the files of the selected students to the Erasmus Coordinator at the Cyprus Institute, ma.constantinou@cyi.ac.cy by 30 June 2026.

Minimum Selection criteria:

- Proof of English language proficiency on level B2
- Willingness to come to Cyprus for onsite workshops
- Availability during the period of physical mobility
- Motivation letter

Accommodation

Accommodation options available to students:

NICOSIA

Denis Hotel,

Diagorou 19, 2123 Aglantzia, Nicosia

Tel. +357 22 330 315

Single room: 55 EUR (€), incl. breakfast

Double room: 65 EUR (€), incl. breakfast

Triple room: 100 EUR (€), incl. breakfast

KORNOS

Single, double, triple and quadruple rooms at the Cosmopolis MultiVenue within the village of Kornos

Single room: 60 EUR (€), incl. breakfast

Double room: 70 EUR (€), incl. breakfast

Triple room: 90 EUR (€), incl. breakfast

Quadruple room: 110 EUR (€), incl. breakfast

A. Description of the BIP

- **Virtual component:** 1 September 2026 and 25 September 2026
- **Physical component:** from 6 September 2026 to 14 September 2026, in Cyprus, departure possible on 14 or 15 September

B. Structure of the physical component:

- 6 September: Arrival
- 7–8 September: Lectures and lab sessions at STARC, Cyprus Institute
- 9–11 September: Fieldwork in Kornos
- 12 September: Fieldwork in Agios Demetrios
- 13 September: Archaeological excursion (Cyprus Museum, Nicosia).
- 14 September: Final session at STARC, Cyprus Institute and departure (or 15 September)



Course Schedule [Syllabus]

VIRTUAL COMPONENT 1

Online meeting (Tuesday 1/9)

Welcoming by Dr Xenia Charalambidou

Academic Coordinator

- Information about the Erasmus+ BIP
- Technical information will also be provided

Lectures by

Dr Gloria London:

Ethnoarchaeology in the field: what, how, why, and where?

Beatrice McLoughlin:

Ethnoarchaeology and Intangible Cultural Heritage in the 21st century.

Prof. Artemi Karnava:

Black-glazed pottery with Cypro-syllabic inscriptions from Classical Marion in Cyprus: matters of trade and ownership

FIELD PROGRAMME, CYPRUS

Monday 7/9, STARC – Cyprus Institute, Nicosia

10.00-10.30 Prof. Thilo Rehren

Guided tour at STARC

10.30-11.30 Dr Xenia Charalambidou

Welcoming

The research strategy and methodology of the Programme

11.30-12.30 Beatrice McLoughlin

Applied ethnoarchaeology: How the women potters of Cyprus inform my questions about the potters at the Early Iron Age settlement site of Zagora, Cyclades.

12.30-14.00 Lunch

14.00-15.00 Dr Gloria London:

Video: Women Potters of Cyprus.

15.00-16.00 Prof. Alain Duploux

Archaeostories: Possessing and mastering the past. The Classical heritage in transition

16.00-17.00 Prof. Anastasia Chourmouziadi

To be announced

17.00-18.00 Prof. Maria Emanuela Alberti

Cooking practices and cooking vessels in the Aegean, Cyprus and Sardinia during the Late Bronze Age

Tuesday 8/9, STARC – Cyprus Institute, Nicosia

9.00-10.00 Dr Gloria London

What a pottery production location looks like, where it could be located, who makes pots, the kilns and storage facilities.

10.00-11.00 Dr Xenia Charalambidou and Beatrice McLoughlin

An introduction to macroscopic pottery research: new approaches and methodologies

11.00-12.00 Prof. Ioannis Iliopoulos

From Ophiolites to Clays: The Geology of Cyprus

12.00-13.00 Evi Margaritis

Food production, processing and consumption in Cyprus in antiquity

13.00-14.30 Lunch

14.30-17.00 Dr Xenia Charalambidou

Macroscopic observations of the sampled pottery made by female Cypriot potters - Documenting and obtaining experience with manufacturing processes through the various stages

An introduction to optical microscopy - Examining thin sections of pottery made by the female Cypriot potters whom the project documents.

17.00-18.00 Prof. Maria Xanthopoulou

Pottery circulation in the Eastern Mediterranean: the example of Itanos (East Crete) in the 7th-8th centuries AD.

Wednesday 9/9, Kornos village

Organization: Xenia Charalambidou and Beatrice McLoughlin

7.30

Departure from Nicosia to Kornos

11.00-12.00

Kornos Pottery Cooperative: Observation by students of the potters' regular work

12.00-13.30

Traditional clay preparation at Kornos Pottery Cooperative.

Experiment: Making a ceramic cooking pot (casserole/ttavas); making a juglet (kouza) or incense burner.

13.30-14.30

Lunch

14.30-15.30

Traditional clay preparation at Kornos Pottery Cooperative.

Making a ceramic cooking pot; making a juglet or incense burner.

15.30-16.30

Observe potters' regular work.

16.30-17.30

Discussion with potters about the function of the pots they manufacture, food production, processing and consumption in the village, and the ways in which foodways were/are used by local communities.

Thursday 10/9, Kornos village

Organization: Xenia Charalambidou and Beatrice McLoughlin

9.30-13.30

Repeat as above given that it usually takes two days to shape and finish each pot (Kornos Pottery Cooperative). Making a ceramic juglet at Louiza Constantinou's studio.

13.30-14.30

Lunch

14.30-17.00

Visit to the old Kornos church to observe the walls with the pots and discuss their use.

Meeting Elli Michael and learning how to prepare a cooking pot prior to use.

Friday 11/9, Kornos village

9.30-13.30

Observation of potters' regular work; continuing with experimental pots at Kornos Pottery Cooperation and at Louiza Constantinou's studio.

13.30-14.30

Lunch

14.30-16.30

Finishing stage 2 of experimental pots.

18.30

Return to Nicosia

Saturday 12/9, Agios Demetrios village

7.30

Departure to Agios Demetrios

10.00-12.30

Arrival at Agios Demetrios. Observation of Agios Demetrios potters, their clay preparation and shaping of pots

12.30-14.00

Visit clay sources in the village, kilns and the pots at the Heritage Collection of Pottery at Agios Demetrios

14.00-16.30

Lunch

16.30

Departure to Nicosia

Sunday 13/9, Nicosia

10.00-13.00

Stroll in Nicosia, visit the Cyprus Museum (guide tour by Dr Anna Georgiadou and Dr Xenia Charalambidou)

13.00 onwards

Free afternoon

Monday 14/9, The Cyprus Institute STARC, Nicosia

10.00-11.00 Prof. Thilo Rehren

Concluding thoughts

11.00-13.00

Discussion with students coordinated by Xenia Charalambidou and Beatrice McLoughlin

13.00-14.30

Lunch

VIRTUAL COMPONENT 2

Online meeting (Friday 25/9)

Dr Xenia Charalambidou

Academic Coordinator

With Gloria London and Beatrice McLoughlin

Outcomes / Feedback

Discussion / Reflection