



Pottery under the microscope: Taking stock of pottery fabric studies in Malta

09:45 Introduction (Maxine Anastasi)

Session 1 (The MaltaPot Project) *Chair: Maxine Anastasi*

10:00 Project introduction (Catriona Brogan)
10:15 Method and analyses (Catriona Brogan)
10:30 Provenancing early Neolithic pottery: issues and ways forward (Gianmarco Alberti)
10:45 Fabrics of the Maltese Neolithic: first results (Catriona Brogan)
11:15 Questions
11:30 Coffee break

Session 2 (Around and after MaltaPot) *Chair: Nicholas C. Vella*

12:00 Beyond MaltaPot (John C. Betts)
12:15 Expanding MaltaPot: The Cofipoms project (Emma Richard-Trémeau)
12:30 The Phoenician Shipwreck Project: a study of the fabrics (Maxine Anastasi & Claudio Capelli)
12:45 Research in the time of COVID-19: Outreach and citizen science (John C. Betts)
13:00 Discussions and questions
13:30 Break for lunch

Session 3 (Round table discussion) *Chair: John C. Betts*

14:30 Taking stock: fabric characterisation studies in the Maltese islands (Open discussion)
16:15 Concluding thoughts (Maxine Anastasi & John C. Betts)
16:30 End

 Wednesday 28 April 2021 | 9.45-16.30

 Online via ZOOM [registration required]

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The Department of Classics and Archaeology, at the University of Malta, is pleased to host a webinar and round table discussion on the topic of fabric characterisation of Maltese pottery. The eagerly anticipated first results of the MaltaPot project—a recently completed Marie Skłodowska Curie-funded project, and other projects led by the Department—will be presented, followed by a virtual 'round table' discussion on the current and future direction of characterisation studies on Maltese pottery.

Between 2018-2020, the Department of Classics and Archaeology led the MaltaPot project in support of a successful Marie Skłodowska Curie award granted by Horizon 2020 EU funds. The project focused on the implementation of characterisation techniques on pottery sherds attributed to the Early Neolithic periods, in particular the Ghar Dalam, Grey and Red Skorba, and Żebbuġ phases of Maltese prehistory. Besides developing local expertise and embarking on a broad collaborative effort to bring together local and international specialists, the project aimed to explore the provenance and agency behind the sourcing, manufacture and use of Malta's earliest, and least understood, ceramic industries. Further information and details about the project can be found [here](#).

The webinar and round table discussion aims to bring together those with an active research interest in the study of pottery fabrics from the Maltese islands; to share in the dissemination of the latest research results; and to encourage broader discussion on the current state of microscopic, petrographic and chemical research on Maltese pottery fabrics from all periods. The session is also intended as a forum to explore further potential objectives for the continuation of high-impact research on pottery from across the Maltese islands, and identify areas of potential collaboration, promising research directions, and the strengthening of researcher networks.

