61st Public Lecture Series | Spring Semester 2024

The Archaeological Research Unit of the University of Cyprus invites you to a hybrid public lecture (ZOOM & the ARU building) on Monday, April 15th 2024, at 19:30 (EET)

by

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titled:

Eggstraordinary objects:
Ostrich eggs as luxury items in the ancient Mediterranean

Summary:
Decorated ostrich eggs were traded as luxury items from the Middle East to the western Mediterranean during the second and first millennia BCE. The eggs were engraved, painted, and occasionally embellished with ivory, precious metals and faience fittings. While archaeologists note their presence as unusual vessels in funerary and dedicatory contexts, little is known about how or from where they were sourced, decorated and traded. Researchers at Bristol University, Durham University, and the British Museum have established techniques to identify where the eggs originated and how they were decorated, while researchers from the Universities of Bristol, Cranfield, and Newcastle in the UK, along with colleagues from the Universities of Ghent and Leuven, have assessed comparative methods to identify pigments. This talk shares the results of our studies, revealing the complexity of the production, trade, and economic and social values of luxury organic items between competing cultures of the ancient Mediterranean world.

All Monday lectures are free and open to the public, but registration is required for access to the Zoom lecture.
For registration, please, click here: https://ucy.zoom.us/meeting/register/u5ApcOuspj0UgLX6lbhvr_AKohg2Vln_Kb