

**Anniversary Conference
„A 20 Year Network of Archaeological Working Women“**

**Prehistoric and Ancient Goddesses
Facts – Interpretation – Adoption**

25 - 27 March 2011

Heilbronn, Germany

Call for Papers

On the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of our network, we would like to announce a conference. Preceding conferences dealt with life reconstruction of prehistoric or ancient women or about current female archaeologists. In contrast, this conference will focus exclusively on goddesses of prehistoric and early historical goddesses. The conference will be organised in cooperation with the City Museum of Heilbronn's Department of Archaeology.

As there is a large amount of written and iconographic sources on goddesses in Mediterranean cultures, they have been a focus of interest for a long time. Thus, Mediterranean goddesses are a well researched topic in the relating archaeologies.

On the other hand, cultures without written sources reveal little information about their deities. One often cannot go further than spot a Goddess within a specific object like a figurine without any further traces as to her identity.

The conferences main topic shall be the archaeological approach to goddess worship. The regional and chronological frame covers the Near East and Europe from Palaeolithic era until late Antiquity in order to compare different regional findings.

Following topics and questions could be taken up by the papers:

- **How to proof the existence of a Goddess within and without written sources:** Which tools or material help us to reconstruct goddess worship? To what extent can iconographic remains (Statues, Idols, cave paintings etc.) be interpreted?
- **Discussing the temporal dimension:** Which changes occur within the use of related objects or depiction over time? Can one recognise any shifts of a goddess' sphere and to what extend could these shifts be reconstructed?
- **Regional Context:** How can you reconstruct the spreading goddess worship? How does the adoption and acculturation of a goddess cult into the receiving society occur?
- **Representatives of a cult:** How can you reconstruct a rite, archaeologically? Is there any difference in cult practice of Gods and Goddesses? Do women and men show a different behaviour in worship practice?
- **Adoption of goddess cults in early modern and contemporary times:** What kind of adoption of goddesses from prehistory and antiquity has there been since the Renaissance in European societies?

We welcome papers from all archaeological subjects, as well as contributions from historical and comparative religious disciplines.

The average time per paper is 20 minutes for the speaker and 10 minutes for discussion. The conference languages will be German and English. Unfortunately, at this time we cannot cover participants' travel and accommodation costs.

Speakers, please let us know which kind of presentation media you would need (digital projector/ slide projector/ overhead projector) along with your registration. If the response to the call for papers is overly abundant, the advisory board reserves the right to make a selection.

Please send the title of your paper including a summary (max. 300 words) until 31st July 2010 to:

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