



EUROPEAN ACADEMY
of Sciences and Arts

COLLOQUIUM of the Global p-XRF Network with European Academy of Sciences & Arts



Colloquia on portable X-Ray Fluorescence April 30th 2025, 06:00-07:30 pm CET

Dr. Johannes H. Sterba & Dr. Kai Riehle

"Local pottery production and imports at Monte Iato: A Chemical and an Archaeological Perspective"

Abstract:

In the methodological part of the lecture, the complexities and advantages of a bulk chemical analytical tool like Neutron Activation Analysis (NAA), in combination with extensive statistical analysis will be investigated. Specifically the relevance of high precision, high reproducibility and well known measurement errors when confronted with a (geo)chemically complex situation like on Sicily at the site of Monte Iato will be noted. Additionally, the presentation will focus on the importance of extensive and open communication between the disciplines. The archaeological part of the lecture engages with the NAA as a tool for socio-archaeological investigations of ancient communities.

This is exemplified for the site of Monte Iato in pre-Roman western Sicily, a region that can be characterized as a vibrant contact zone between Greek, Punic and indigenous groups from the Early Iron Age onwards. It will be demonstrated how the application of a toolkit of chemical, typological and contextual analytical methods of pottery finds provides insights into the specific local creative ways of engaging with an increasingly globalized Mediterranean world. In chronological terms, the focus is mainly on the Archaic period of the 6th/5th century BCE, although results from the Hellenistic period (3rd/2nd century BCE) are considered as well.

Led by the network and endorsed by the European Academy of Sciences & Arts/STEMAC Expert Group, we are organizing a series of online colloquia to explore the use of pXRF in archaeology and cultural heritage. The colloquia aim to provide a platform for knowledge exchange, featuring expert presentations from both the natural sciences and the humanities. Each session will include 30-minute talks by specialists from archaeology and natural sciences, followed by a 30-minute discussion. Topics include:

- Resources and guidance for the XRF community
- Case studies and exemplary applications
- Opportunities for knowledge exchange

Recordings of the colloquia will be available, and participants can submit case study reviews for publication in PEASA (www.peasa.eu).

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