

# COMMONALITY AND DIVERSITY IN THE HELLENISTIC WORLD

International workshop hosted by the CReA-Patrimoine (ULB)  
on May 2023  
organized by Alexandros Laftsidis

Alexander's campaign resulted in the creation of the first truly globalized world, which enabled the flow of tangible and intangible cultural goods in an unprecedented way. The increased level of connectivity led to the emergence of new patterns of cultural similarity over wide geographical areas, often termed material culture "koinai," which operated vis-à-vis distinctively local cultural trajectories. These commonalities are frequently observed for different facets of the Hellenistic culture, such as architecture, sculpture, and pottery. The aim of this workshop is to bring together evidence from all different aspects of material culture, aiming at the better understanding of the Hellenistic world, as a world of commonality and local diversity. Participants are invited to present new or older (reconsidered) evidence concerning any aspect of Hellenistic material culture.

The workshop will focus on two main topics, which can be approached together in the individual papers. The first concerns the mechanics involved in the emergence of these material "koinai." Can the extensive mobility of artists and craftsmen alone account for the range of commonalities frequently observed, or were other factors also at play? Was this mobility free or somehow regulated? Was the course towards the emergence of these "koinai" a top-down or rather a bottom-up process? Studies on different types of material culture are expected to provide differentiated responses and shed more light on the various manifestations of the Hellenistic culture.

The second topic is the search of identities. Especially welcome in that respect are papers that focus on the local particularities/divergences from the material "koinai." Taken from social psychology, "convergence" to or "divergence" from new material culture trends can paint a local identity more or less receptive to exogenous elements, frequently because of an adherence to a local traditional culture. Moreover, can local particularities reflect differentiated responses of local populations to social, religious, and/or economic issues? The goal is to demonstrate the complex and dynamic character of the Hellenistic world and to generate new insights into Hellenistic communities by approaching old and new evidence with innovative and fresh inquiries.

This workshop will be hosted by the CReA-Patrimoine of the Université libre de Bruxelles on May 2023. Participants will be notified in a timely manner of any changes to the format of the workshop.

The language of the workshop will be English only. Each paper should not exceed 20 minutes and will be followed by a discussion. There will be the possibility for a provision of accommodation of up to two nights and refund of travel expenses for a limited number of participants, who cannot rely on the financial support of their respective institutions. Interested participants should state this clearly in their paper proposals.

If you wish to present a paper, please, send a title, a short abstract (max. 300 words), as well as your contact information by October 15th 2022 to [alexandros.laftsidis@ulb.be](mailto:alexandros.laftsidis@ulb.be)

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