

SESSION TITLE: **Across Bell Beaker territories and beyond. Communities, social spaces and identities**

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SESSION PROPOSAL:

The identity is a fashion concept in archaeology and it is nowadays used in relation to the 'Bell Beaker phenomenon'. Identity is a social strategy created with an evident intentionality to reinforce similarities and differences at various levels of social life. It looks clear that there are different identity processes in Europe during the III and II millennium BC on several spatial scales: development of social differences, development of connections between Bell Beaker communities and non-Bell Beaker communities, both within and outside of Bell Beaker Europe or using the Bell Beakers' characteristics as a tool to express the identity. In a given society processes of forming the identity are linked with some kind of power.

Here are very important values in the society played a key role in forming the identity in many ways:

Who has the power?

How is the power-balance maintained?

Which elements can help us recognise the power situation?

Which tools (archaeological features) must be dominated to get to maintain this power?

Which social relationships must be established to consolidate this power?

What kind of networks should be interwoven to obtain permanent power?

Frontiers, peripheries, exchanges, journeys, wars, ... Identity is necessarily linked to mobility and mobility in turn is linked to identity. The way of using the different strategies establishing of identity at several territorial and temporal scales is the key factor to be able to define the 'Bell Beaker phenomenon' and to characterise it as an historical process. Therefore, we can deal with this subject in many ways. In order to justify this research project, we would like to avoid using typology as the only approach for studying the interactions outlined above and promote transdisciplinary research. We intend to answer old questions with new perspectives.

General aim: To analyse Bell Beakers characteristics as a manner of manifestation for processes of forming the identity during the III and II millennium BC, which have to be consider in different scales (space, time, economy, culture, society, etc.).

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