

SESSION TITLE: Archaeologies and "soundscapes". From the prehistoric sonorous experiences to the music of the ancient world

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SESSION PROPOSAL:

People "did music" evidently utilizing not only tools especially crafted for, but also objects created for other goals, raw materials and the human body and voice themselves. This statement, if on one hand points out how hard is the research in this field, on the other opens an attractive reflection about important issues that relates about the "idea" of music from prehistory to antiquity till present times.

The positivistic and "western" view that narrowed the concept of music and associated it exclusively in connection with musical instruments, appears obsolete: reconsidering the sonorous horizon with an archaeological perspective become therefore very significant in order to understand, in more general terms, how the relationship between mental meanings, culture and technology can be complex.

Session's aims are: 1. to promote the discussion about recognition and interpretation of the first evidences of soundscape. 2. to explore the relations of the prehistoric sonorous experiences with the environment, and to point out the rise of the concept of music in the most ancient civilisations. 3. to give a brief overview of the actual state of research in music archaeology, and to invite archaeologists, who discovered ancient musical instruments, to present and discuss their finds.

We wish that this session could also be a reflection on :

1. How do we know for these archaeological items that they could have been used for a musical purpose? 2. How far can we go in our interpretation by identifying enigmatic objects on the basis of ethnographical comparisons and experimental archaeology?

Call for papers is addressed not only to archaeologists: organizers attend and welcome contributions from music experimentalists, anthropologists and musicologists.

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