

**SESSION TITLE:**      **Embodied Materiality: Corporeal Hybridism and Body Substitutions**

**ORGANISER:**            Goce Naumov (*Republic of Macedonia*)

**CO-ORGANISER:**      Sarah Ralph (*USA*)

**SESSION PROPOSAL:**

The body has been established as one of the primary mediums in which the essential beliefs and principles of individuals, communities and societies are established and shared. Frequently, complete or parts of human bodies are found associated with objects, thus emphasizing the symbolic roles and functions that are linked to both the body and an object. There are a wide range of anthropomorphic or zoomorphic objects and images dating from prehistory through to the present day, which highlight the variety of contexts in which the body was incorporated and combined with complex iconographic processes. Such processes involve the concepts of corporeal hybridism (when human or animal body was joined with an object) or body substitutions (when an utilitarian object represents body itself). These visual and physical representations go beyond the simple portrayal of individuals or mythical characters. In addition, they highlight the variety and complexity of relationships between aspects of the body and a particular object or objects and the shared qualities that both these forms of material culture possess.

This session intends to bring together researchers whose work emphasizes the diverse nature of both human and animal body treatment and their associations with a multitude of objects for practical or ritual use. In addition to the iconographic analysis of such objects and/or archaeological deposits, presentations will seek to understand the actual contexts in which these artifacts were engaged, as well as their role in developing the social and political relations and symbolic communication among individuals, communities and societies using such images.

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