

## **Investigating Amber Artefacts Life Cycles: From Traditional to Multi-Proxy Research Approaches**

### **Keywords**

Amber, tools, techniques, chaîne opératoire, reduction sequence, technology, use-wear analysis, Prehistory, archaeology.

### **Abstract**

Amber is an evolving field of study, and the trade of amber is an important aspect of European, Mediterranean, and Near Eastern prehistory and protohistory. The archaeological evidence related to the collection and processing of amber is limited, but it allows us to understand the general outlines of the amber life-cycle in various cultural contexts and its changes over the centuries.

This session aims to integrate the traditional typological-stylistic approach to the study of amber with the adoption of concepts related to the *chaîne opératoire* or *reduction sequence* theories to define the production of amber objects within cultural, contextual, and agency frameworks. Contributions to this session present long-term analyses, statistical and typological approaches, regional studies, or single key sites bringing light on amber processing.

The focus is on processes, tools, facilities, and various stages of production, encompassing finished objects, semi-finished products, waste, and failures, starting from the recovery of raw material, through transformations, uses, reuses, and abandonment.

This session also provides an opportunity to highlight key findings from contemporary investigative methods - both traditional and innovative. These might include analyses of manufacturing and use-wear, experimental archaeology, and comparative studies with later contexts or associated artisanal practices linked to amber processing, such as gemstone carving, woodworking, and other organic material craftsmanship.

### **Main Organizer**

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