

## Protohistory Rediscovered: Bead Production, Technology and Use

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### Abstract

Protohistory - the period between Prehistory and the onset of complete historical record-keeping - is an era of Eurasian technological, economic, and social change. Beads are one of the most diagnostic materials of the time, and the way beads were produced, distributed, and used gives an outstanding insight into technology, specialization of craft, mobility, identity, and the long-distance exchange networks.

The purpose of this session is to reexamine Protohistoric societies by using multidisciplinary methods, which could combine archaeology, archaeometallurgy, bead technology, landscape studies, environmental reconstruction research, mobility research, and digital methods. The particular focus will be put on the materials of beads (steatite, carnelian, agate, faience, glass, shell, and metal); the manufacturing cycles; the heat-treatment technologies; the methods of drilling (e.g., the double-cone drilling, the wear traces of perforation); the organisation of craft; and the inter-regional trade of beads between entities such as South Asia, the Near East, Central Asia, and Europe.

Key words :Protohistory, Bead technology, Craft production, Early metallurgy, Exchange networks, Mobility, Provenance analysis, Social complexity