Defining Tin Ore Provenance for the Bronze Age Mediterranean with Sn and Pb Isotopes: a New Look

by

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This talk examines the Bronze Age sources of tin used in the production of bronze in Anatolia [Turkey] and Central Asia. First, a summary is provided of the three major tin sources in the Taurus Mountains, Turkey: Bolkardağ, EBA Kestel Mine and Hisarcık near Kayseri. Second, a reassessment is presented of the tin in ingots from the Uluburun shipwreck (14th c. BC) by comprehensively integrating Lead Isotope Analysis (LIA), trace element analysis, and tin isotopy with archaeological observations for the first time. Third, a more precise location is given for the Central Asian sources, namely in the Tienshan and Altai Mountains. This multifaceted approach allows us to elucidate the Taurus networks from the poorly understood and parallel Central Asian tin production systems. We are now set to re-interpret Early, Middle and Late Bronze Age trade networks as bi-modal. These data reshape current understandings of Anatolian and Central Asian tin production while providing a demonstrable link between Central Asian sources and Mediterranean markets that has previously eluded researchers.

The lecture will take place on Zoom. Registration:
https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMkfu6hqzotHtfyQTA28uxawRg0mn1rZvi3