



THE ANKARA FRIENDS OF ARIT

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ARIT LECTURE

The Late Bronze Age Thera Eruption! New Perspectives from Çeşme – Bağlararası in Western Anatolia

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(ANKÜSAM)

**Wednesday, March 16, 2025,
7:00 pm (Turkish time), Online**



The Late Bronze Age Thera eruption was one of the largest natural disasters witnessed in human history. Its impact, consequences, and timing have dominated the discourse of ancient Mediterranean studies for nearly a century. Despite the eruption's high intensity and tsunami-generating capabilities, associated tsunami deposits are reported from relatively few locations. Even more surprising is the lack of human remains linked to this event. In contrast, descriptions of pumice, ash and tephra deposits are more widely published. A well-preserved volcanic ash layer and a tsunami horizon were identified in stratified deposits at Çeşme-Bağlararası, a western Anatolian/Aegean coastal archaeological site. An articulated human skeleton discovered within the tsunami debris is an *in situ* victim related to the Late Bronze Age Thera eruption event. This talk will present the archaeological evidence at Çeşme – Bağlararası, discuss the unique preservation seen at the site and what it adds to the understanding of coastal sites more broadly.

For Zoom Registration:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/0Yur7TahTiWZRyOQJ1PnZQ>