

**Modelling Gaia  
towards an Actor-Network modelling framework in archaeology**

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*The use of stone molds for terracotta figurines and lamps in Late Roman Palestine*

Mold technique for serial production results with multiplicity and uniformity of products. A clay mold is casted by covering an archetype or model by a layer of clay, to get a precise impression, or by casting it in plaster. Casting terracotta figurines in molds is evident in the Levant from the Middle Bronze Age, reaching its peak in the 1st millennium BCE. During the Greco-Roman period, workshops producing both terracotta lamps and figurines operated in Egypt and the Levant. From the 3rd century CE onward, workshops in Roman Palestine used soft limestone molds instead of terracotta or plaster molds. Stone molds require awkward craftsmanship, carving the model in negative into the soft stone, instead of easily casting it from an archetype. Any fault in the carving would have damaged the mold irreversibly. The new technique caused also a change of style, from the three-dimensional and naturalistic to the flat and stylized. This paper will examine the change of production methods in Late Roman Palestine, its possible correlation with the prioritization of lamps over figurines, the cultural and religious change it may have embodied, and the impact of technique on style.

*Modelling Gaia: towards an Actor-Network modelling framework in archaeology*

Agent-based models have become powerful instruments to explore archaeological questions. Yet, one of the main challenges remains to avoid too much prestructuring of agent behaviour in such models. Discussion examples on Mesopotamia and Jordan, this paper explores how the Gaia approach as provided by the French scholar Latour allows an elegant, robust and theoretically convincing modelling framework. A major decision appears to be how to assign agency to non-humans as well, next to human model agents.

*The shift from Phoenician to Greek maritime trade during the Late Iron Age: New insights based on the provenance of silver hoards in the Southern Levant*

Silver hoards unearthed in the Southern Levant provide evidence for far-reaching trade. The shifting silver ore sources to the Levant throughout the Bronze and Iron Ages reveal hitherto