

Globalisation paradigms and the Aegean - Iberian connections in the Late Bronze - Early Iron Age transition

For at least three decades, ideas on early contacts and trips linking Iberia and the Aegean during the Late Bronze Age - Early Iron Age transition (from an eastern Mediterranean chronological perspective) have been postulated on the basis of isolated finds with a putative Aegean provenance and perceived similarities between actual material culture in the Aegean and its representations in the south-west of the Iberian Peninsula. These contacts are thought to pre-date the settlement of the Iberian coasts by Near Eastern groups of people, but also post-date the flourish of the Late Bronze Age international trade and exchange. Conceptualising the type, frequency and impact of such putative contacts, led to the formation of hypotheses that fall under or approximate 'globalisation paradigms', which were adopted by archaeologists initially from the social/political/economic sciences. The speaker will revisit an old debate under new terms, summarizing recent evidence and theories and evaluating the most suitable models of interpretation.

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