

DR THEODORA MOUTSIOU

Principal Investigator PLACe

Adjunct Senior Research Fellow James Cook University, Cairns, Australia

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PERSONAL INFORMATION

Date of birth: March 28, 1981

Nationality: Greek

EDUCATION

- 2011 **PhD in Palaeolithic Archaeology**, thesis: *The Obsidian Evidence for the Scale of Social Life during the Palaeolithic*, Department of Geography, Royal Holloway, University of London, UK
(Supervisor: Professor Clive Gamble)
- 2005 **MA (Distinction) in the Archaeology of Human Origins**, Department of Archaeology, University of Southampton, UK
- 2003 **BA (Distinction) in History and Archaeology (Specialisation Archaeology)**, Department of History and Archaeology, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, GREECE

CURRENT POSITION

- 2019 – **Special Scientist**, SaRoCy project, Cyprus University of Technology (project leader) and Archaeological Research Unit, University of Cyprus (project partner), CYPRUS
- 2020 – **Project Coordinator and Principal Investigator**, PLACe project, Archaeological Research Unit, University of Cyprus, CYPRUS

PREVIOUS POSITIONS

- 2018 – 2021 **Special Scientist**, Principal Investigator PLEICY project, Archaeological Research Unit, University of Cyprus, CYPRUS
- 2017 – 2018 **Special Scientist**, (MedSTACH project), Archaeological Research Unit, University of Cyprus, CYPRUS
- 2015 – 2017 **Post-doctoral Researcher** (Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellow), Archaeological Research Unit, University of Cyprus, CYPRUS
- 2013 – 2015 **Conservation Technician**, Natural History Museum, London, UK

FIELD EXPERIENCE

- 2019-2021 **Field Supervisor**, Reconnaissance surveys, Cyprus
- 2019 **Field Supervisor**, Weipa, Far North Queensland, Australia
- 2019 **Field Archaeologist**, Lizard Island Archaeological Project, Far North Queensland, Australia
- 2014 – 2019 **Senior Collaborator, Trench Supervisor and Geological Prospection Leader**, Stélida, Naxos, Greece, Lower-Upper Palaeolithic and Mesolithic)
- 2013 **Field Archaeologist**, Apollonia, Makedonia, Greece, survey, Palaeolithic
- 2006 – 2011 **Trench Supervisor**, Lakonis, Gytheio, Greece, cave site, Middle-Initial Upper Palaeolithic
- 2009 **Field Archaeologist**, Nissi Beach, Agia Napa, Cyprus, open air site, Mesolithic
- 2006 **Field Archaeologist**, GtJi15 (Marmonet Drift) and GvJh12 (Ntuka River 4), Kenya, open air site, Middle Stone Age
- 2005 **Field Archaeologist, Lithics Collection Leader**, Kalamakia, Areopoli, Greece, cave site, Middle Palaeolithic
- 2004 **Field Archaeologist**, Petrota, Komotini, Greece, survey, Palaeolithic
- 2003 **Field Archaeologist**, Yunatsite, Bulgaria, open air site, Chalcolithic
- 2003 **Field Archaeologist**, Makri, Evros, Greece, open air site, Neolithic

- 2000 – 2002 **Field Archaeologist**, Paliampela, Katerini, Greece, open air site, Neolithic
2000 **Field Archaeologist**, Arhontiko, Pella, Greece, open air site, Bronze Age

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

- 2018 **DIDAKTOR** – Post-doctoral Researcher, Research Promotion Foundation, Cyprus
2018 Young Researcher of the Year (Social Sciences and Humanities) 2018 Award, Research Promotion Foundation, Cyprus
2018 Best Poster Award, Europa Conference, York, UK
2015 Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowship (grant number), University of Cyprus, Cyprus
2016 Quaternary Research Fund, Quaternary Research Association, UK
2010 British Academy, British Centenary Research Project ‘Lucy to Language: the archaeology of the social brain’, UK
2006 Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) scholarship for PhD research, UK
2003 Lilian Voudouris Foundation scholarship for MA studies abroad, Greece
1999 Aristotle University of Thessaloniki scholarships (annually from 1999 to 2003) for academic achievements, Greece

TEACHING ACTIVITIES

- 2019 **Visiting Lecturer**, *The Social Value of Raw Materials*, Weipa Fieldschool, Far North Queensland, James Cook University, Australia
2018 **Visiting Lecturer**, *Lithics, Brains and Behaviour*, Department of History and Archaeology, University of Cyprus, Cyprus
2016 **Course Developer and Lecturer**, *The Earliest Prehistory of the Eastern Mediterranean*, Department of History and Archaeology, University of Cyprus, Cyprus
2016 **Visiting Lecturer**, *Introduction to Lithic Technology*, Department of History and Archaeology, University of Cyprus, Cyprus
2016 **Visiting Lecturer**, *The Colonisation of the Eastern Mediterranean Islands*, James Cook University, Cairns, Australia
2013 **Visiting Lecturer**, *Wonderful Things: Obsidian Mirror and Obsidian Microcore*, Department of Archaeology, University of Southampton, UK

ORGANISATION OF SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS

- 2018 **Session Organiser**, *Session 787: Issues in Mediterranean Seascapes: from the Terminal Pleistocene to the Early-Middle Holocene – exotics, social interactions and environment*, 24th Annual Meeting of the European Association of Archaeologists (EAA), 7th September, Barcelona, Spain
2018 **Chair and Symposium Co-organiser**, *Designing a Cross-Institutional Science, Engineering and Technology Centre of Excellence for Archaeology and Cultural Heritage in the Eastern Mediterranean: Prospects, Opportunities and Challenges*, Nicosia, 31st August, Cyprus
2016 **Conference Co-Organiser**, *8th Conference on PPN Chipped and Ground Stone Industries of the Near East*, Nicosia, November 23th -27th 2016, Cyprus

REVIEWING ACTIVITIES

- 2018 – **Expert Evaluator**, European Union Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions
2018 – **Scientific Evaluator** for research proposals, Polish Academy of Sciences, Poland
2016 – **Reviewer** for peer-reviewed conference proceedings and journal papers (Antiquity, Quaternary International) in fields of archaeology and archaeological sciences
2016 – **Evaluator** for European Commission Research and Innovation grants (Humanities)
2016 – **Consultant** in European Commission Research and Innovation programmes

MEMBERSHIPS OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES

- 2019 – Member, Association of Cypriot Archaeologists (ACA)
2018 – Member, Computer Applications & Quantitative Methods in Archaeology (CAA-GR)
2018 – Member, The Prehistoric Society
2015 – Member, The Canadian Institute in Greece (CIG)
2013 – Member, Quaternary Research Association (QRA)
2005 – Member, International Association for Obsidian Studies (IAOS)
2003 – Member, Centre for the Archaeology of Human Origins (CAHO)
2003 – Member, European Association of Archaeologists (EAA)

PUBLICATIONS (SELECTED)

Monographs

Moutsiou, T. (2014). *The Obsidian Evidence for the Scale of Social Life during the Palaeolithic*. British Archaeological Reports International Series 2613. Oxford: Archaeopress.

Scholarly book chapters

Moutsiou, T. (2020). Colour in the Palaeolithic. In Wadburton, D. and Thavapalan, S. (Eds.), *The Value of Colour in Antiquity*. Berlin: Edition TOPOI.

Carter, T., Contreras, D., Holcomb, J., Mihailoviç, D., Skarpelis, N., Campeau, K., Moutsiou, T. and Athanasoulis, D. (2017). *The Stélida Naxos Archaeological Project: New Studies of an Early Prehistoric Lithic Quarry in the Cyclades*. Canadian Institute in Greece 40th Anniversary Conference Proceedings.

Refereed Journal Articles

Moutsiou, T., Reepmeyer, C., Kassianidou, V., Zomeni, Z., Agapiou, A. (forthcoming). Modelling the Pleistocene colonisation of Eastern Mediterranean islandscapes. *PlosOne*.

Moutsiou, T. (2021). Climate, environment and cognition in the colonisation of the Eastern Mediterranean islands during the Pleistocene. *Quaternary International* 577, 1-14.

Moutsiou, T. and Agapiou, A. (2019). A least cost pathway analysis of obsidian circulation in Early Holocene – early Middle Holocene Cyprus. *Journal of Archaeological Science Reports* 26: 101881.

Moutsiou, T. and Kassianidou, V. (2019). Geochemical Characterisation of Carnelian beads from Aceramic Neolithic Cyprus using portable X-ray fluorescence spectrometry (pXRF). *Journal of Archaeological Science: Reports* 25: 257-265.

Moutsiou, T. (2019). A compositional study (pXRF) of Early Holocene obsidian assemblages from Cyprus, Eastern Mediterranean. *Open Archaeology* 5(1): 155-166.

Moutsiou, T. (2018). The obsidian evidence for trans-maritime interactions in the Eastern Mediterranean: The view from Aceramic Neolithic Cyprus. *Journal of Mediterranean Archaeology* 31(2): 232-251.

Pearce, E. and Moutsiou, T. (2014). Using obsidian transfer distances to explore social network maintenance in late Pleistocene hunter-gatherers. *Journal of Anthropological Archaeology* 36: 12-20.

Carter, T., Contreras, D.A., Mihailoviç, D.D., Moutsiou, T., Skarpelis, N. and Doyle, S. (2014). *The Stélida Naxos Archaeological Project: New Data on the Mesolithic and Middle Palaeolithic Cyclades*. *Antiquity, Project Gallery* 341.

Gamble, C. and Moutsiou, T. (2011). The time revolution of 1859 and the stratification of the primeval mind. *Notes and Records of the Royal Society* 65 (1): 43-63.

Refereed conference papers

Moutsiou, T. (2019). Raw material circulation and the Early Holocene social landscape of Cyprus. In: Astruc, L., McCartney, C., Briois, F., Kassianidou, V. (Eds.), *Studies in Mediterranean Archaeology Volume 150, Near Eastern Lithic Technologies on the Move. Interactions and Contexts in Neolithic Traditions*, 8th International Conference on PPN Chipped and Ground Stone Industries of the Near East, Nicosia, November 23rd–27th 2016, pp. 119-132.

Moutsiou, T. (2017). Long-distance obsidian distribution and the organization of Palaeolithic societies. In Pereira, T., X., Terradas, and N., Bicho (Eds.), *Raw materials exploitation in Prehistory: sourcing, processing and distribution*, pp. 305-319. Cambridge: Cambridge Scholars Publishing.

Moutsiou, T. (2012). Changing scales of obsidian movement and social networking, In: Ruebens, K., Bynoe, R. and I., Romanowska (Eds.), *Unravelling the Palaeolithic: ten years of research at the Centre for the Archaeology of Human Origins (CAHO, University of Southampton)* pp.85-96. Southampton: University of Southampton Series in Archaeology No 8.

Other

Moutsiou, T. (2016). Η αρχαιολογία στην Κύπρο (Archaeology in Cyprus). *Νέα Εστία (Nea Estia)* 1871: 352-357.

PRESENTATIONS (SELECTED)

Moutsiou, T. et al. (2021). Poster presentation. Obsidian Maritime Interconnections in Early Holocene Eastern Mediterranean. International Obsidian Conference, Berkeley, California, USA.

Moutsiou, T. and Reepmeyer, C. (2019). Finding Palaeolithic Sites on Cyprus. INVITED speaker. James Cook University TARL Seminar Series, Cairns, Australia

Moutsiou, T. (2019). Least Cost Pathway Analysis of obsidian circulation and social communication in Early Holocene Cyprus. International Obsidian Conference, Hungary.

Moutsiou, T. and Agapiou, A. (2019). Least cost pathway analysis of obsidian circulation in early Holocene Cyprus, Computer Applications & Quantitative Methods in Archaeology (CAA-GR), Limassol, Cyprus.

Moutsiou, T. (2018) Rare raw materials in Aceramic Neolithic Cyprus: New data on early Eastern Mediterranean interactions, Second Annual Meeting ‘The Archaeological Research of the Archaeological Research Unit’, Nicosia, Cyprus

Moutsiou, T. (2017) Raw material movement in Early Holocene Mediterranean seascapes: the view from Cyprus, INVITED speaker. James Cook University TARL Seminar Series, Cairns, Australia

Moutsiou, T. (2017) Poster presentation. Using pXRF to address raw material choices and social interactions in Early Holocene lithic assemblages from Cyprus. Society for American Archaeology (SAA) Annual Meeting, Vancouver, Canada

Moutsiou, T. (2016) Social Networking and Raw Material Selectivity in Early Prehistoric Mediterranean Seascapes (PRENET): Preliminary results, 8th International Conference on PPN Chipped and Ground Stone Industries of the Near East (PPN8) ‘Near Eastern Lithic Technologies on the Move: Interactions and Contexts of Development of Neolithic Traditions, Nicosia, Cyprus

Moutsiou, T. (2016) The Colonisation of the Eastern Mediterranean Islands. INVITED speaker. James Cook University, Cairns, Australia (lecture)

Moutsiou, T. (2016) Introduction to Lithic Technology. INVITED speaker. University of Nicosia, Cyprus (lecture)

Moutsiou, T. (2016) The Obsidian Evidence for the Scale of Social Life during the Palaeolithic. INVITED speaker. James Cook University TARL Seminar Series, Cairns, Australia

Moutsiou, T. (2016) The Effect of Latitude on Raw Material Transfers and Human Social Behaviour: the case of Palaeolithic Obsidian. International Obsidian Conference, Lipari, Italy

Moutsiou, T. (2016) Obsidian Circulation on Palaeolithic Social Landscapes: inferring behaviour through raw material use, INVITED speaker, Nicosia, Cyprus

Moutsiou, T. (2016) Long Distance Obsidian Distribution and the Organisation of Palaeolithic Societies, Raw Materials Conference, Faro, Portugal

Moutsiou, T. (2016) Social Networking and Raw Material Selectivity in Early Prehistoric Mediterranean Seascapes: the European Programme PRENET, First Annual Meeting ‘The Archaeological Research of the Archaeological Research Unit’, Nicosia, Cyprus

Moutsiou, T. (2015) Palaeolithic Obsidian: from raw material to symbol of social value, INVITED speaker, Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, San Francisco, USA

Moutsiou, T. (2014). Palaeolithic Obsidian, Hominin Behaviour and Cognition, INVITED speaker Centre for Obsidian and Lithic Studies, Meiji University, Japan

Moutsiou, T. (2013) Podcast Presentation. Wonderful things: obsidian mirror and obsidian microcore, INVITED speaker for Wonderful Things: World History in 40 Objects course, University of Southampton, UK (lecture)

Technical skills

pXRF (portable X-ray Fluorescence Spectrometry)
 JMP and R (Statistical and Quantitative Analysis Packages)
 ArcGIS (Geographic Information Systems)
 MS Office (Databases, Word, Web-browsing, Presentations)
 Petrography (Preparation and analysis of lithic thin sections)

Research policies

Epigeum Research Integrity (Arts and Humanities) Certificate

Documentary Foundation Course

Raindance (Documentary Foundation Certificate)

Languages

Greek (mother tongue), English (proficient), Spanish (basic), Italian (basic), French (basic), Japanese (basic)

Outside Interests

Speleology (Exploration and mapping of caves)

Research Grants Obtained

Prehistoric Landscapes of Cyprus (PLACe)

Project Coordinator and Principal Investigator, CULTURE AWARD-YR0418/05 funded by European Regional Funds and Research Promotion Foundation of Cyprus

The PLACe project aims at addressing the missing human presence on the island during the Pleistocene by generating a high quality and high-resolution record of the palaeo-environmental and climatic conditions the first humans would have encountered after reaching Cyprus. Multiproxy reconstructions and field-related analytical techniques (coring, dating) will allow us a much-needed insight into (a) the spatio-temporal details of the environmental/climate conditions that would have formed the backdrop of early human activities, and (b) the impact of Pleistocene insular environments on human behaviour and vice versa.

Methodology: Field survey, geophysics, coring, dating, lithic analysis

Delineating Probable Sea Routes between Cyprus and its Surrounding Coastal Areas at the Start of the Holocene: A Simulation Approach (SaRoCy)

Special Scientist, EXCELLENCE /0198/0143, funded by European Regional Funds and Research Promotion Foundation of Cyprus, <http://sarocy.cut.ac.cy/>

Project seeks to offer novel insights, based on physical/environmental modelling and computer simulation, into the possible prehistoric maritime pathways between Cyprus and other Eastern Mediterranean coastal regions at the boundary between Terminal Pleistocene / early Holocene (Epipaleolithic / early Neolithic), a critical period for understanding the origins of the early visitors in Cyprus in connection with the Neolithic transition.

Methodology: Simulation, archaeological literature, geochemistry

Water Routes in Human Island Dispersals: Modeling the Pleistocene Exploitation of Cyprus (PLEICY)

Principal Investigator, DIDAKTOR - POST-DOC/0916/0185, funded by European Regional Funds and Research Promotion Foundation of Cyprus, <https://ucy.ac.cy/pleicy>

Project PLEICY seeks to investigate the peculiar absence of Palaeolithic archaeology from the island of Cyprus by using predictive modeling to establish the potential early routes and prime exploitation locales during the earliest human visitations to the island. This two-year research project aims to lay the foundations for a systematic and long-term engagement with the earliest past of the island of Cyprus, which has the potential to contribute significant new knowledge to the field of island archaeology globally.

Methodology: GIS predictive modelling, field survey, archives, lithic analysis

Synchrotron-based XRF Analysis of Picrolite from Cyprus: Sourcing and Characterization of Prehistoric Artefacts

Project Coordinator and Principal Investigator, 20181478 funded by European Regional Funds and Research Promotion Foundation of Cyprus

The PLACe project aims at addressing the missing human presence on the island during the Pleistocene by generating a high quality and high-resolution record of the palaeo-environmental and climatic conditions the first humans would have encountered after reaching Cyprus. Multiproxy reconstructions and field-related analytical techniques (coring, dating) will allow us a much-needed insight into (a) the spatio-temporal details of the environmental/climate conditions that would have formed the backdrop of early human activities, and (b) the impact of Pleistocene insular environments on human behaviour and vice versa.

Methodology: Field survey, SR-XRF imaging/mapping analysis, XANES

Eastern Mediterranean Science and Technology Centre for Archaeology and Cultural Heritage (MedSTACH)

Special Scientist, WIDESPREAD, European Union, <https://medstach.eu/>

Project MedSTACH aims to establish Cyprus as an excellence hub in archaeology and cultural heritage in the Eastern Mediterranean region, capitalising on multidisciplinary research and

technological innovation. To this end, key Cypriot public academic institutions and national policy makers and stakeholders are teaming up with leading international research and academic institutions to lay the groundwork towards creating the Eastern Mediterranean Science and Technology Centre for Archaeology and Cultural Heritage (acronym MedSTACH).

Social Networking and Raw Material Selectivity in Early Prehistoric Mediterranean Seascapes (PRENET)

Experienced Researcher, Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowship Agreement No. 656148, European Union, <http://ucy.ac.cy/prenet/>

The aim of the project is to investigate the geographical extent, directionality and intensity of social communication in the early prehistory of the Eastern Mediterranean seascape and the cognitive/behavioural factors behind the observed patterns. The specific scientific objectives of the proposal are: (1) the investigation of social interactions in the Eastern Mediterranean through the examination of raw material movement in early prehistoric Cyprus, and (2) the determination of cognitive/behavioural elements behind our ancestors' choices of specific raw material, through the study of raw material selectivity.

Methodology: archaeological literature, museum analyses, pXRF

The Stelida Naxos Archaeological Project (SNAP)

Senior Collaborator, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) Insight Grant, <https://stelida.mcmaster.ca>

A geo-archaeological project directed by Dr. Tristan Carter of McMaster University with permission from the Ephorate of Antiquities of Cypclades of the Hellenic Republic's Ministry of Culture and Sports under the auspices of the Canadian Institute in Greece (CIG). The main aims of the project are: (1) to characterise and date the prehistoric exploitation of the Stelida hill chert source and, (2) to make a significant contribution to our knowledge of the earlier prehistoric Cyclades, especially in the broader context of other recent discoveries of Palaeolithic activity on the Aegean Basin.

Methodology: Field survey and excavation, geo-archaeological survey, pXRF

From Lucy to Language: The Archaeology of the Social Brain

Doctoral Researcher, British Academy, <https://www.thebritishacademy.ac.uk/projects/academy-research-projects-lucy-language-archaeology-social-brain/>

A project that brought psychology and archaeology together in a concerted attempt to look at the social and cognitive evolution of humans. The PhD project focused on the investigation of the use and mobility of obsidian during the Palaeolithic as a proxy for the evolution of human social behaviour and cognition.

Methodology: Field survey and excavation, lithic analysis, evolutionary theory