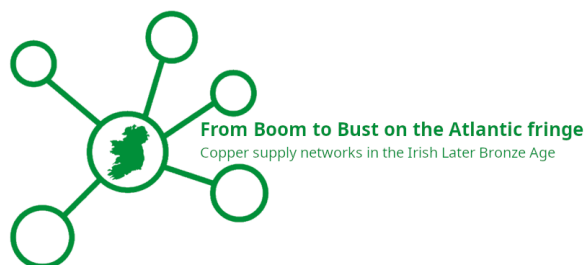


# From Boom to Bust Seminar Series



## Aegean People in Late Bronze Age Western Mediterranean: Perspectives and Limits into a Historical View

Prof. Massimo Cultraro (CNR ISPC Institute of Heritage Science, Italy)

20 January 2025, 2:00 PM | Room 205, Palácio do Vimioso, Universidade de Évora



Professor Massimo Cultraro is an archaeologist and serves as the Director of Research at the National Research Council. He is also a Professor of Prehistory and Aegean Archaeology at the University of Palermo in Italy. He earned his Ph.D. from the University of Pisa and has been a visiting professor at Brown University and the University of Göttingen. From 2005 to 2012, he led the virtual reconstruction project for the Baghdad Museum, which was recognised at the 2009 G8 Summit of Research Organisations. His excavation work includes sites in Greece, Sicily, and the Caucasus. His research focuses on sacred archaeology and the use of advanced digital technologies in cultural heritage. He has authored over 100 scientific papers and several books on topics such as Minoan power structures, Mycenaean civilisation, and Heinrich Schliemann.

**Abstract:** In recent decades, new archaeological data from various sites in the central and western Mediterranean have prompted reflection on the profound implications of the 'Levantine-Aegean-Mycenaean' phenomenon, both in terms of historical reconstruction and from a socio-economic perspective.

It is necessary to begin with a general reassessment of the archaeological context in which Mycenaean pottery has been found, focusing on four broad areas that have been used as case studies due to the richness and variety of the archaeological evidence. These are the North African coast, Sicily and its small islands (the Aeolian Archipelago, Pantelleria, and Ustica), Sardinia, and the southern part of the Iberian mainland.

The study includes the reconstruction of a diachronic sequence in the analysis of Aegean imports. Secondly, the analysis of exotic objects in terms of import and local production. The third level focuses on metallurgical evidence, specifically the introduction of new typological models and technologies, as well as the development of local bronze craft.

From a historical perspective, this reconstruction is important for defining the role and identity of these foreign prospectors and understanding the evolution of their cultural impact on local communities, including the possibilities and limitations, leading up to the continuity of the early Phoenician model at the start of the first millennium BC.