

Theme 4

Pottery in Anatolia

CONTEXTUALIZING CERAMICS, ARCHAEOLOGY AND STRATIGRAPHICAL SEQUENCES: THE KÜÇÜKYALI ARKEOPARK PROJECT, A CASE STUDY FROM THE ASIAN HINTERLAND OF CONSTANTINOPLE (ISTANBUL)

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Communication Type: Poster

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With its massive retaining walls, the remains of a huge cistern, a cross-in-square church and an impressive tower, the archaeological site of Küçükalyalı (Maltepe, Istanbul) shows a very representative character that can be understood within a high ranking Middle Byzantine patronage. The site is currently identified as the monastery of Satyros founded by the patriarch Ignatios between 867 and 877. From a perspective of ceramics research, the Küçükalyalı excavations offer a unique opportunity to enhance the knowledge about medieval pottery from the former Byzantine capital. The poster will present Table Ware and Amphora findings from the Late Antique to the Late Byzantine period in connection with the archaeology and stratigraphy of the site.

While most of the other relevant excavations in Istanbul took place inside its historical peninsula, Küçükalyalı is situated in the city's Asian hinterland, bearing distinctive features, which are certainly reflected in its ceramics' spectrum. The bulk of the finds can be dated to the Middle and particularly Late Byzantine periods and the major goal is to contextualize Küçükalyalı within Constantinopolitan ceramic research and to locate the site within the wider medieval distribution and exchange patterns between the Aegean, the Black Sea and the Eastern Mediterranean.