



In order to facilitate communication across subjects and disciplines the BAF has adopted an epistemological approach. This means that the talks were organised into panels based on some of the greater conceptual or methodological issues they touch upon. To ensure that the discussions are as fruitful as possible, we invite to prepare talks in consideration of the following guiding questions:

P1: Reconstructing missing evidence

- How transferable are problem-specific solutions?
- Is it possible to break paradigms through new methods and fields of knowledge?

P2: Contextualising symbolism

- How much variation is there in the codification of symbols from one system or culture to another?
- How do you go about reconstructing the activity or concept symbolised in a given representation?

P3: Localising influence and identity

- How important is territoriality to the construction of identity and influence?
- To what extent is identity subjective and how determining are spatio-temporal factors?

P4: Identifying ancient paradigms

- What are paradigms for you and how do they fit with your data?
- Can you identify reasons for transmitting or adapting paradigms over cultural, social or political borders in ancient and modern times?

P5: Assessing transition

- Are there any indicators (archaeological/art-historical/philological) that concepts or phenomena of time (transition/change/collapse) were perceived by the populations and social groups involved?
- How does our knowledge of long-term changes influence our perception of local or unique events.

P6: Reconsidering the past

- Can extreme scepticism lead to the loss of valuable data?
- How does "our" way of thinking compare with the way of thinking of other groups (past or present) and how can they be harmonised?