

# HEARTHES, OVENS AND COOKING SPACES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN FROM THE LATE PREHISTORY TO THE MIDDLE AGES



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## Session #39

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**Combustion structures** (hearths and ovens) are key features in the **domestic spaces** of past societies. They are linked to basic daily activities, especially cooking, lighting, or space heating, and their presence largely determines the organisation of daily life. The location of hearths and ovens (inside or outside the house), their different functions and purposes, their relationship with objects and other structures, or their private or public character are matters to be considered in studying households and domestic spaces.

Recently, the application of different **analytical techniques** has made it possible to investigate various issues related to these structures in greater depth, such as construction techniques and materials, fuels and possible associated activities.

Without excluding this type of approach, we intend to delve into **social or anthropological aspects** related to the use of hearths and ovens by comparing them with current or recent societies. Therefore, methodologies such as **ethnoarchaeology or historical and documentary studies** are welcome, as they provide valuable information on aspects that we cannot always detect archaeologically (use of certain utensils and objects related to cooking, private or collective use of the structures, especially in the case of ovens, etc.).

The aim of this session is thus to approach the study of domestic fire installations from different perspectives, focusing particularly on the use of the structures in different geographical areas and over a long period of time.

The Call for Contributions is  
open until 6 February 2025

<https://www.e-a-a.org/ea2025>

**Keywords:** combustion structures, fire, households, domestic spaces, pyroarchaeology