

# **Archaeoacoustics - The Archaeology of Past Soundscapes in Prehistory and Protohistory.**

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After some pioneering studies in the second half of the 20th century regarding the use of sound by past societies, it's in the 90' that the interest in Archaeoacoustics reaches a significant level among researchers. Archaeoacoustics is a multidisciplinary field of research, sometimes still beset by methodological difficulties but is, as mentioned by Scarre (2006: 9), "potentially a vital part of the understanding of the lived experience of past societies". Following of an important Conference organized in 2003 at the University of Cambridge, other events about Archaeoacoustics have been organized in several different countries, with contributions that constitute today a considerable part of the specialized bibliography on this theme, complementing several additional publications that provided a broad view of Archaeoacoustics. This new discipline, which tries to recreate the soundscapes of the past, emerged from various experimental and experiential methods, and the organizers encourage these types of approaches, which sometimes may take the form of performances. In this session the organizers intend to gather researchers from different disciplines such as archaeology, experimental and experiential archaeologies, acoustics, ethnomusicology, archaeoacoustics, anthropology and psychology, among others, with the aim of better understanding the art and culture since Prehistory to Protohistory. For example, we are interested in presentations concerning early musical behaviours, shamanism, the representation of musical instruments and/or dancing scenes in rock art, "ringing stones", the acoustics of classical Greek and Roman buildings and of medieval churches, music archaeology, the effects of specific sounds on the human brain, as well as other possible approaches to the use of sound in past human contexts that interested participants may wish to propose.

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