

People, Pottery and Food in the medieval Eastern Mediterranean: the POMEDOR project

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The POMEDOR project intended to explore food and foodways as may be approached through archaeological and archaeometric studies of pottery - from transport amphorae to serving dishes, through food processing utensils, cooking wares, and wares used in food production processes. This introduction to the POMEDOR conference proceedings will present a brief overview of the results obtained in the framework of the project, based on a number of case studies in Greece, Turkey, Cyprus, Israel and Ukraine. Special attention was paid to transitional periods, when new rulers and new populations with different cultural identities and food culture came into contact: the Fatimid and Crusader Levant, the Aegean between Byzantine and Frankish rule, Anatolia from the Byzantine to the Ottoman periods, etc.

From exploratory studies on Late Byzantine transport amphorae to synthesis on the role of the harbour of Chalkis in food and pottery supply and maritime trade, it is hoped that the project may pave the ground for further multidisciplinary research on food and foodways in the medieval Eastern Mediterranean.