

International Conference

Transport Amphorae in the Hellenistic and Roman Periods: Materials, Technologies and Connected Data

16–18 March 2027

Université Bordeaux Montaigne – Archéopôle, Bordeaux, France

Call for Papers

The international conference **Transport Amphorae in the Hellenistic and Roman Periods: Materials, Technologies and Connected Data** will take place in Bordeaux from **16 to 18 March 2027**.

The conference marks the conclusion of the MATEGEE programme (2023–2027), funded by the French National Research Agency (ANR-23-CE27-0014), which investigates amphora-production strategies in the Aegean during the Hellenistic and Roman periods.

Through an interdisciplinary approach combining **archaeology, archaeometry and epigraphy**, MATEGEE examines the technical, economic and social factors that shaped the production and circulation of transport amphorae. The project focuses on seven major Aegean production centres—**Thasos, Lesbos, Chios, Samos, Cos, Cnidus and Rhodes**—between the **4th century BC and the 3rd century AD**.

Its research addresses two principal questions: the reconstruction of amphora-manufacturing processes through the characterisation of raw materials, ceramic recipes and production techniques; and the organisation and location of workshops, including the respective roles of geological resources and social, economic and institutional factors in shaping production.

A central methodological component of MATEGEE has been the integration of existing and newly generated archaeological and archaeometric datasets, alongside the digitisation of major thin-section reference collections held by **CEAlex, HeRMA and the Fitch Laboratory**.

The programme has also developed a dedicated **online research platform** for bringing together archaeological, petrographic, mineralogical, chemical and related documentation. Particular emphasis has been placed on the **organisation, comparability, interoperability, dissemination and reuse of research data**, with the aim of facilitating collaboration between laboratories, archaeological projects and research traditions.

The Bordeaux conference will present key results of MATEGEE while opening discussion to a broader international community. It seeks to explore how new analytical methods, digital infrastructures and shared datasets can contribute to the study of amphora production, circulation and use.

We therefore invite papers presenting research from the Aegean and the wider Mediterranean, as well as relevant comparative contexts. Contributions introducing **new datasets, analytical approaches, reference collections, databases, digital tools or methodological frameworks** are particularly welcome.

The conference aims to encourage discussion around a series of broader questions: How can archaeological and archaeometric datasets produced by different teams and laboratories be made more comparable? How can analytical results be documented and structured so that they remain reusable? How can petrographic, chemical, typological, epigraphic and contextual data be connected? And how can digital resources contribute to more collaborative and transparent approaches to amphora research?

Conference Themes

1. Databases, reference collections and digital resources

Contributions may address the construction, documentation, interoperability, integration, visualisation, dissemination or reuse of archaeological, archaeometric and epigraphic datasets.

Topics may include:

- archaeological and archaeometric databases;
- digitised thin-section and ceramic reference collections;
- data standards and metadata;
- interoperability and linked datasets;
- legacy data and data reuse;
- digital mapping and visualisation;
- FAIR and open-data approaches;
- collaborative digital research infrastructures.

2. Archaeometric characterisation and manufacturing technologies

This theme encompasses research into the material and technological dimensions of amphora production, including:

- provenance and raw-material studies;
- petrographic, mineralogical and chemical analyses;
- ceramic recipes and technological practices;
- chaîne opératoire approaches;
- workshop organisation;
- identification and differentiation of production centres;
- micro-regional variability;
- technological transfer, continuity and innovation.

Contributions integrating archaeological, archaeometric, geological, historical or epigraphic evidence are especially encouraged.

3. Amphora contents, uses and circulation

Papers may explore the relationship between containers, commodities, production, consumption and exchange through:

- archaeological and epigraphic evidence for amphora contents;
- organic residue and biomolecular analyses;
- relationships between fabrics, forms and commodities;
- reuse and secondary use;
- production and distribution patterns;
- circulation and Mediterranean exchange networks.

Comparative Perspectives

Although MATEGEE focuses on Aegean amphora production in the Hellenistic and Roman periods, comparative studies extending beyond the Aegean are strongly encouraged.

Research concerning other Mediterranean regions, neighbouring areas or other chronological periods is welcome where it contributes to methodological discussion or provides useful comparative perspectives on ceramic production, archaeometric characterisation, digital data or exchange.

Participation

The conference will combine **invited contributions with papers selected through this Call for Papers**.

Speakers will participate in person in Bordeaux.

Online access will be available, upon registration, for audience members only.

The registration fee is €80.

Registration is free for students.

Submission of Proposals

Proposals should include:

- paper title;
- abstract of [300–400 words];
- author name(s) and institutional affiliation(s);
- contact details;
- up to five keywords.

Proposals may be submitted in **English or French**.

Submission deadline: 31 November 2026

Notification of acceptance: 8 January 2027

Presentation duration: [20 minutes + 10 minutes discussion]

Submission: *conference website (coming soon):* <https://mategee.sciencesconf.org>

Please indicate the conference theme to which your proposal is most closely related.

Organising Committee

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