



“Echoes of Silica”

Life Cycle of Ancient Glass

Production, Use, Recycling and Material Resonance

0:00

44:00



Keywords:

Material culture & meaning | Ancient glass | Production & craft technology |
Reuse, recycling & transformation | Trade networks | Archaeometric & experimental methods

Ancient glass, born from the transformation of silica and fluxes, provides a revealing lens for understanding the ancient world. Its defining traits – transparency and opacity, chromatic variety, and fragility – resonate deeply with human experience, accompanying rituals, daily life, and funerary practices alike.

This session invites scholars to broaden their perspectives on the study of glass by exploring its entire life-cycle: from the glassmaking fusion of sand into raw glass and the transformation of the latter into objects by glassworking, to their circulation, use, breakage, recycling, and final deposition. We welcome papers that explore the **biography** of glass as a material, from technological processes and the organization of production to its participation of the extensive trade networks that connected producers and consumers across regions, empires, and millennia. We particularly welcome studies that examine its use in diverse, evolving contexts, characterized by dynamic shifts in function and meaning, as well as its fragmentation, reuse, and recycling, thus illuminating the **multiple life cycles** that a single glass object may undergo. **Interdisciplinary research** is strongly encouraged, including compositional analyses, experimental archaeology, visual and textual sources, and recycling perspectives.

By focusing on these aspects, this session explores how glass resonates with enduring meanings, offering **profound insights** into social practices, economic structures, and the intricate dialogue between human expression and the crafted objects.

i **Call for Contributions:** 19 December 2025 – 05 February 2026

Type of contributions: a) Papers: 15-minute oral presentations, b) Posters: Presented as e-posters in a digital format.

Submission process: All submissions must be made through the [EAA submissions portal](#). Papers and posters must be submitted separately, with the chosen format specified during submission.

Submission guidelines: Title: max. 20 words. Abstract text: between 150-300 words. Affiliations: max. 80 characters.

For more information, please visit the [EAA website](#).

Main organiser: Anastassios Antonaras (Museum of Byzantine Culture, Thessaloniki, GR).

Co-organisers: Despina Ignatiadou (Hellenic National Archaeological Museum-Athens, GR),

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