

### Conclusions

- The identification of continuations in past practices is the most important tool when analysing ethnic markers. By conducting a contextual approach with an intentionally constructed backdrop, we can separate the adoption of material culture and the adoption of cultural elements, just as we are able to distinguish between cultural and ethnic identities in the archaeological record.
- In relation to the indigenous populations along the Ionian coastline, it is possible in each of the case-studies to detect continuities in different culturally determined practices that came to function as ethnic markers after the arrival of the Greeks. Furthermore, it seems that the indigenous ethnic identities continued to be particularly important in funerary contexts, where indigenous funerary practices were maintained throughout the lifespan of the various necropoleis.

### The empirical basis of the dissertation

The dissertation includes five case-studies consisting of the settlements of Timpone della Motta, Amendolara, Santa Maria d'Anglona, Incoronata and Amastuola. It is generally agreed that all five of these were important indigenous centres and that they came into close contact with Greek settlers in the eighth or early seventh centuries BC.

### About Sine Grove Saxkjær

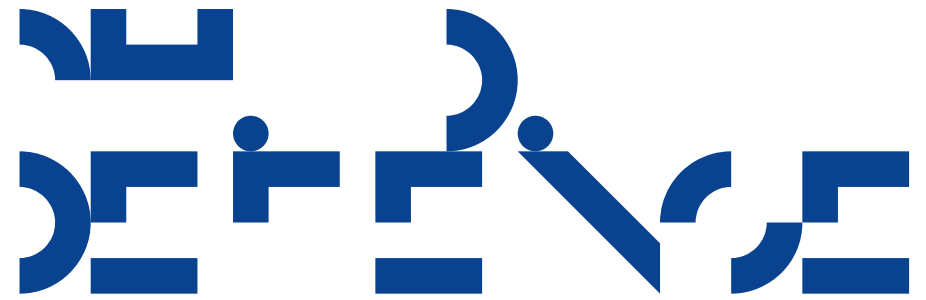
Sine Grove Saxkjær is a classical archaeologist. She produced her PhD dissertation at the Department of Culture and Society, Aarhus University, where she has been part of the 'Classical Antiquity: Tradition and Transformation' research programme.

### Date and place for the PhD defence

Tuesday 22 September, 13:30, in building 1342, room 455, Bartholins Allé 13, 8000 Aarhus C

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# MARKERS OF ETHNICITY IN THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORD: THE EMERGENCE OF INDIGENOUS ETHNIC AND CULTURAL IDENTITIES IN SOUTHERN ITALY

PhD Dissertation by Sine Grove Saxkjær



# MARKERS OF ETHNICITY IN THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORD: THE EMERGENCE OF INDIGENOUS ETHNIC AND CULTURAL IDENTITIES IN SOUTHERN ITALY (8TH – 6TH CENTURIES BC)

**Summary of the main points of PhD dissertation 'Markers of Ethnicity in the Archaeological Record: The Emergence of Indigenous Ethnic and Cultural Identities in Southern Italy (8th – 6th centuries BC)' by Sine Grove Saxkjær, Department of Culture and Society, Aarhus University. The dissertation focuses on the indigenous populations along the Ionian coastline of Southern Italy and the cultural processes that followed the establishment of the first Greek settlements in the area. In addition, the dissertation seeks to contribute to the development of methods for identifying ethnic markers in the archaeological record.**

## Cultural encounters in Southern Italy

The dissertation suggests that this field of research benefits from distinguishing between ethnic and cultural identity rather than using the terms synonymously. In this way, it is possible to understand the finer nuances of the cultural encounters, rather than assessing the extent of the impact of one culture on another, a method which closely corresponds to ascertaining the extent of 'colonisation' or 'Hellenisation'.

## Cultural and ethnic identity

- Cultural identity is understood as the unconscious volume of shared social knowledge learned through social structures.
- In the encounter with other cultural groups, an ethnic identity emerges from the cultural identity.
- This ethnic identity can, when needed, be emphasised and used to seek common goals.
- Ethnic identity can be expressed in all realms of social life; however, as archaeologists working with predominantly pre-literary cultures, we can only attest ethnic identity when it is expressed in ways that leave imprints in the material culture. These imprints are defined as ethnic markers.
- Ethnic markers can be found in material style as well as in the use of material culture, which can reflect culturally determined ways of doing things that can themselves become ethnic markers.

## Ethnic markers in the archaeological record

- In order to identify markers of ethnicity in the archaeological record, it is necessary to conduct a contextual analysis and examine each case-study on its own terms, in relation to its own specific historic and social context.
- To avoid circular reasoning, which is a potential pitfall of a contextual approach, it is necessary to establish a set of accepted fix-points in relation to the context in question. These fix-points compose an intentionally constructed backdrop to the contextual analysis, created from the archaeological material, the written sources and the research conducted by other scholars in relation to the context.
- In addition, an unbroken chronology of several generations is necessary in order to establish changes or continuities within the material culture that might reflect changes or continuations in cultural and ethnic identity.

## A situational importance of ethnicity

The importance and the markings of one's ethnic identity - and, accordingly, the style and use of material culture - can vary between different social situations. Accordingly, different social contexts of a particular site (funerary, sanctuary, habitation and/or craft areas) reveal additional aspects of the developments in cultural and ethnic identities.