



International Conference
IBERIAN COPPER PRODUCTION
AND ITS IMPACT ON THE
BRONZE AGE WORLD SYSTEM

Paraninfo, University of Sevilla, Spain. January 14-16, 2026



ILUSTRE COLEGIO OFICIAL DE DOCTORES Y LICENCIADOS
EN FILOSOFÍA Y LETRAS Y EN CIENCIAS
DE SEVILLA Y HUELVA



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Recent fieldwork in south-western Iberia has uncovered extensive evidence of prehistoric copper mining dated to the Late Bronze Age (LBA), 1300–800 BC. Fieldwork conducted by other research projects and within the Maritime Encounters (ME) project has identified over 40 new potential LBA mining sites in South-West/Central Spain. Estimates now suggest up to 166 unstudied prehistoric sites in the region. Isotopic and geochemical analysis has linked copper from at least 41 of these mines to LBA bronze objects across Europe—including in England, Scandinavia, France, Ireland, Sardinia, and Poland—revealing a far-reaching trade network and a much larger scale of Iberian copper production than previously recognized. Hosted at the University of Seville, this international conference aims to provide the first comprehensive assessment of prehistoric copper exploitation in Iberia during the Late Bronze Age, an often-overlooked period in which emerging research points to the region's previously underestimated importance within broader Bronze Age Europe. The conference will also include papers on copper (and tin) production in other Bronze Age regions, offering essential comparative and broader perspectives. Special attention will be given to the geochemical and archaeological characterization of ore sources and archaeological assemblages, which are crucial for tracing metal provenance, mapping distribution routes, and identifying complementary evidence of cultural interaction across Europe during this LBA period. A central aim of the conference is to establish an international research network connecting scholars from regions historically linked through Bronze Age copper and tin exchange. This multidisciplinary gathering—including archaeometallurgists, archaeologists, geologists, engineers and linguists—will explore how both Iberian and local metals shaped technological, social, and cultural developments across the continent. The event will serve as a platform for collaboration among leading research initiatives from Northern and Southern Europe, building on partnerships established through the *Maritime Encounters (ME)* project—linking the Universities of Gothenburg and Seville with the CSIC and, through this international conference, with other research institutions. Furthermore, this conference aims to highlight the importance of Mining and Metallurgical Heritage, and specifically that related to historical copper mines, generated over millennia, which today needs special consideration due to the demand for copper and the impetus given by the European Union to the search and exploitation of fundamental mineral resources through the Critical Raw Materials Act.

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PROGRAM and ABSTRACTS

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PROGRAM

14th JANUARY 2026 (-WEDNESDAY-). UNIVERSITY OF SEVILLE
Rectorate-Paraninfo Hall. San Fernando st., 4. 41004-Seville

8:30-9:00	RECEPTION – University of Seville Rectorate-Paraninfo Hall					
9:00-9:20	OFFICIAL WELCOME-OPENING					
Session I. European Bronze Age (BA) Copper Mining and Production						
Chair: Johan Ling						
9:20-9:40	Simon Timberlake	Cambridge University (UK)	S-I Copper production in Britain 2100-1700 BC: recognizing ores, metal signatures and use in artefacts – what we know and what we are still looking for			
9:40-10:00	R. Alan Williams	Durham University (UK)	S-I An island of tin, copper and gold: Britain's Bronze Age production of metal and involvement in long-distance trade.			
10:00-10:20	Gert Goldenberg & Markus Staudt	University of Innsbruck (Au)	S-I Bronze Age Copper Mining and Extractive Metallurgy in the (North-) Tyrolean Alps			
10:20-10:40 COFFEE						
10:40-11:00	Aurélien Burlot; Zofia A. Stos-Gale; Marta Díaz-Guardamino; Juan Latorre; Audrey Blanchard; Cécile Le Carlier; Stéphane Blanchet & Vincent Mistro	University of Gothenburg (Sw)	S-I Using elemental and Lead Isotope analyses to assess the flow of copper in Chalcolithic and Bronze Age Atlantic France			
11:00-11:20	Serena Sabatini	University of Gothenburg (Sw)	S-3 Copper production, consumption and exchange in Nuragic Sardinia: New results from the <i>Missing Link</i> project.			
Session II. Characterizing Iberian Late Bronze Age (LBA) Copper Mining and Production						
Chair: Mark A. Hunt Ortiz						
11:20-11:40	José Luis Escacena, Álvaro Gómez, & Marta Bermúdez	University of Seville (Sp)	S-II The Late Bronze Age in the Southwest of Spain			

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12:00-12:20	José Clemente Martín de la Cruz & Juan Manuel Garrido Anguita	University of Córdoba (Sp)	S-II Archaeological layers of the Late Bronze Age at Llanete de los Moros (Montoro, Córdoba, Spain)
12:20-12:40	Clara Toscano	University of Huelva (Sp)	S-II Late Bronze Age in the Huelva Estuary
12:40-13:00	Joao Fonte & Pedro Albuquerque	ERA Arqueologia (Po) University of Seville (Sp)	S-II Archaeological Mining Research in the Spanish-Portuguese Lower Guadiana Basin: a Preliminary Assessment
13:00-13:20	Pedro Valério & António M. Monge Soares	University of Lisbon (Po)	S-II Late Bronze Age Metal Production and Consumption in Southern Portugal
13:20-14:00	LUNCH		
Chair: Ignacio Montero			
14:00-14:20	Mark A. Hunt Ortiz	University of Seville (Sp)	S-II Late Bronze Age Copper Mining in Southwest Iberia
14:20-14:40	Martin Bartelheim; Döbereiner Chala Aldana & Marta Díaz-Zorita	University of Tübingen (Ge) & University of Granada (Sp)	S-II Bronze Age Settlement and Connectivity in the Guadalquivir valley
14:40-15:00	Mercedes Murillo-Barroso	University of Granada (Sp)	S-II Tracing Early Copper Exploitation in the South-East Iberian Peninsula: Insights from Lead Isotope Analysis
15:00-15:20	Alberto J. Lorrio	University of Alicante (Sp)	S-II Late Bronze Age Metals on the Iberian Mediterranean coastal area: Peña Negra & La Fonteta
15:20-15:50	COFFEE		
Chair: Mercedes Murillo-Barroso			
15:50-16:10	Ignacio Montero	IH-CSIC (Sp)	S-II Prehistoric Copper Mines in the North of the Iberian Peninsula
16:10-16:30	X. Lois Armada & I. Ignacio Montero	INCIPIT-CSIC (Sp) IH-CSIC (Sp)	S-II Production and circulation of metals in Northwestern Iberia during the Late Bronze Age: an overview or recent research
16:30-16:50	Ignacio Montero; Germán Delibes; Ángel Palomino & Eduardo Carmona	IH-CSIC (Sp) University of Valladolid (Sp)	S-II The circulation of metal across the Meseta during the Middle and Late Bronze Age

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16:50-17:10	Laura Perelló, Bartomeu Llull, Mark A. Hunt, María Calderón; Simón Gornés; Javier Rivas	University of Balearic Islands (Sp)	S-II Copper mining landscapes of the Balearic Islands and Northeastern Iberia during the Bronze Age
17:10-17:30	Pau Sureda	INCIPIT-CSIC (Sp)	S-II Maritime Encounters and Metallurgy during the Late Bronze Age in the Balearic Islands

18:00-20:30	VISIT TO THE REAL ALCÁZAR -(18:00 Patio de Banderas entrance)
21: 00	CONFERENCE DINNER- El 3 de Oros-Restaurant (34, Santa María La Blanca St.)

15th JANUARY 2026-THURSDAY- UNIVERSITY OF SEVILLE
Rectorate-Paraninfo Hall. San Fernando street, 4. 41004-Seville

Session III. Provenance and Interactions in the BA World System			
Chair: Serena Sabatini			
9:00-9:20	Zofia Stos-Gale	University of Gothenburg (Sw)	S-III Analytical Fingerprints of Bronze Age Metals
9:20-9:40	Daniel Berger	Curt-Engelhorn-Zentrum Archaeometrie, Mannheim (Ge)	S-III Combining parameters: Multi-analytical approaches in archaeometallurgy to unravel metal provenance and processing
9:40-10:00	Richard Harrison & Alfredo Mederos	University of Bristol (UK) Univ. Autónoma Madrid (Sp)	S-III A decorated Phoenician receptacle from the Late Bronze Age hoard at Cassiobridge Farm, Watford, Hertfordshire, England.
10:00-10:20	Cecile de Veslud	University of Rennes (Fr)	S-III Difficulties of determining the origin of metal used in Late Bronze Age objects from Northwestern France
10:20-10:40	Marta Diaz-Guardamino, Juan Latorre Ruiz, Ignacio Montero, Mark A. Hunt Ortiz	Durham University (UK) IH-CSIC (Sp) Seville University (Sp)	S-III Rock Art and Metals: Iberian warrior stelae and copper flows in Late Bronze and Early Iron Age Iberia
10:40-11:00	COFFEE		
Chair: X. Lois Armada			
11:00-11:20	Ana M. S. Bettencourt&Hugo Aluai Sampaio	University of Minho (Po)	S-III Sharing symbols and resources. Bronze Age interaction between Northwestern Iberia and Scandinavia
11:20-11:40	Dirk Brandherm	Queen's University Belfast (UK)	S-III Late Bronze Age connections in Iberia: evidence from metalwork types and depositional practices
11:40-12:00	Eduardo Galán	Museo Arqueológico Nacional (Sp)	S-III Weighing in West. Late Bronze Age weights in Iberia and their relations with the Atlantic and the Mediterranean

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12:00-12:20	Lena Grandin & Eva Hjärtner-Holdar	National Historical Museums (Sw)	S-III Iberian metals in Scandinavian forms
12:20-12:40	Carlos P. Odriozola & José Ángel Garrido Cordero	University of Seville (Sp)	S-III Amber Production, Distribution and Consumption in Prehistoric Iberia: A Pan-European Perspective
12:40-13:00	Lene Melheim	University of Oslo (No)	S-III Scandinavia's role in the metal networks in LBA Europe
13:00-14:00	LUNCH		
	Chair: John T. Koch		
14:00-14:20	Kamil Nowak & Zofia A. Stos- Gale	Austrian Academy of Sciences (A) University of Gothenburg (Sw)	S-III Tracing Metal Provenance in Prehistoric Poland: Lead Isotope Analyses of Late Bronze and Early Iron Age Artefacts
14:20-14:40	Boel Bengtsson; Alvaro Montenegro & Matteo Tomasini	University of Gothenburg (Sw)	S-III Simulating direct communication along the European Atlantic façade between Scandinavia and the Iberian Peninsula c. 1300/1200 to 500 BC
Session IV. Iberia in the LBA World System			
	Chair: Martin Bartelheim		
14:40-15:00	John T. Koch	University of Wales (UK)	S-IV Linguistic and Genetic Implications of Iberian Copper Trade in the Atlantic Bronze Age World System
15:00-15:20	Mikael Fauvelle	University of Lund (Sw)	S-IV What was traded in exchange for Iberian copper? Invisible exports and long-distance trade during the Late Bronze Age
15:20-16:00	COFFEE		
16:00-16:20	Johan Ling	University of Gothenburg (Sw)	S-IV Rethinking the role of Iberian Copper in Pan-European Bronze Age Exchange Networks
16:20-18:20	DISCUSSION & CONFERENCE CONCLUSIONS		
18:30-20:30	VISIT TO THE CITY		
21: 00	CONFERENCE DINNER-Casa Inquieta Restaurant (20, Zaragoza St.)		

16th JANUARY 2026 (-FRIDAY-). CONFERENCE FIELD TRIP

8:00-8:30	BUS at University Residence & La Rabida St. -near University Rectorate-
11: 00	Visit to Las Minillas mine
13:30	Lunch at Hacienda Don Manuel (Granja de Torrehermosa-Badajoz-)
15:00	Visit to El Reventón mlne
17:00	Return to Seville-arriving at 19:00 h aprox.-