

Berner Kolloquien zur Antike

Organisiert von der Archäologie des Mittelmeerraumes mit Unterstützung der ‚Vereinigung der Freunde Antiker Kunst‘

HS 2024

Mittwoch, 04. Dezember 2024, 18.15 Uhr, Universität HG 114

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Gods overlooking the sea. A Punic-roman sanctuary on the acropolis of Bithia (Domus de Maria, Sardinia – Italy)



Frequented by Phoenicians since the end of the 8th cent. BCE, the site of Bithia on the South-West coast of Sardinia in Punic and Roman times was one of the main settlements of the island, as known from archaeological evidence and ancient sources. Since 2010 the Superintendence of Cagliari has been leading research in order to investigate the ancient city. The latest excavations on the promontory, where the Aragonese tower of Chia stands, have unearthed the remains of a sanctuary organized on terraces. Probably dating back to late-Punic period, the sacred place was monumentalized in the Augustan age and flourished in the 1st cent. BCE. Even if no theonym is attested, the ongoing study of archaeological finds and, in particular, of votive terracottas is shedding light on aspects of the cult, attesting the worship of a goddess linked to marriage, child-rearing and fertility, as well as connected to marine sphere.