

# Session Proposal

European Association of Archaeologists (EAA) 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

Krakow, Poland

19<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> September 2006

**Organizer:** Marie Louise Stig Sorensen, Katharina Rebay, Jessica Hughes

**Theme:**

*Archaeology and Material Culture: Interpreting the Archaeological Record*

**Session Title:**

## **Knowledge, Belief and the Body**

**Abstract:**

This session arises from the broader context of the Leverhulme project based at Cambridge University on 'Changing beliefs of the human body.' Our intent is to focus on the complex issue of belief, and how it is implicated in various forms of bodily practice. We are particularly interested in the relationship between belief and knowledge, concepts which are conventionally seen and approached from different angles. Our half-day session would consist of approximately six papers covering diverse aspects of knowledge and belief in ancient societies, ranging from what might be conceived as more 'practical' knowledge (for example inherited traditions of craftsmanship and technology) to beliefs embedded in society and expressed through offerings and burial rites. Speakers would raise the following issues for discussion: the distinction (articulated by Giddens and Foucault) between discursive and non-discursive knowledge and its application to ancient society, how different kinds of knowledge impinge on embodiment, and how innovation and agency is set within existing frameworks of knowledge and tradition.

**Contact details:**

**Marie Louise Stig Sorensen**, E-mail: [mlss@cam.ac.uk](mailto:mlss@cam.ac.uk)

**Katharina Rebay**, E-mail: [kr302@cam.ac.uk](mailto:kr302@cam.ac.uk)

**Jessica Hughes**, E-mail: [jfh27@cam.ac.uk](mailto:jfh27@cam.ac.uk)

University of Cambridge

Leverhulme project - Changing Beliefs of the Human Body

Downing Street

CB2 3DZ

United Kingdom

<http://www.arch.cam.ac.uk/lrp/intro.html>