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## **The New Self-awareness of Local Populations in Greek Influenced Regions from the 4<sup>th</sup> to the 1<sup>st</sup> Century BC**

In the Mediterranean regions, Greek influence – conveyed by colonialism and expansion - always reached local populations. Although the local populations adopted some Greek patterns already during the archaic and classical period, they were mostly forced to move into the hinterland. Thus, these groups are a lesser-studied field in Classical Archaeology. It is striking that starting from the end of the 5<sup>th</sup> and the beginning of the 4<sup>th</sup> century BC these local populations acquired a new self-awareness. The Hellenistic influence upon the indigenous cultures was clearly detectable but always connected with local peculiarities. Consequently, a remarkable “boom” in the archaeological material in many regions can be detected. This “boom” found different ways of expression: monumental architecture, sculptural features, new forms of pottery as well as coins and inscriptions.

The papers will focus on this phenomenon through analysis and comparison of different Mediterranean regions, including the Iberian Peninsula, Southern Italy, Asia Minor and the Black Sea area. The investigations show that these processes took place in a similar form in different regions. It was the local elites who adapted the great Hellenistic variety of forms and reshaped them in accordance with their requirements. The prerequisite for this were stable political and economical conditions in the individual regions. However, we cannot speak of a homogeneous global phenomenon, because these processes occur in different forms and in a wide chronological spectrum between the end of the 5<sup>th</sup> century BC and the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC.

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