

## Preface by the Series Editor

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The 29<sup>th</sup> volume of the OREA series is dedicated to an ongoing hot topic in prehistoric West Asia and Europe related to the important resource obsidian. The volume on ‘Strategies of Obsidian Procurement, Knapping and Use in the First Farming Societies from the Caucasus to the Mediterranean’ is edited by Alice Vinet, Denis Guilbeau and Bogdana Milić and represents the outcome of a session at the EAA Annual Meeting 2018 in Barcelona. The three highly engaged early-career editors compiled a total of nine contributions by well-known experts covering a wide range of topics, regions and methodological approaches.

The editors’ strategy of bringing together a wide range of studies to offer a deeper insight into different practices of obsidian procurement, exchange and use was successful. Their focus on farming societies from about 6 millennia allows the reader to compare various cultural settings. Besides the many new primary data presented here, the authors additionally present new models and interpretations of a bouquet of topics: exchange systems and trajectories, distribution networks, production modes and the chaîne opératoire, use wear and practices in households, deposition practices and caches, points and their role in social activities, and differing procurement strategies in the Caucasus and Anatolia including new analytical data. I warmly thank Alice Vinet, Denis Guilbeau and Bogdana Milić for editing this volume and the authors Ruben Badalyan, Davide D’Errico, Kyle P. Freund, Boris Gasparyan, Ivan Gatsov, Denis Guilbeau, Ruben Jrbashyan, Jörg Keller, René Kunze, Cristina Lemorini, Khachatur Meliksetian, Marina Milić, Gevorg Navasardyan, Petranka Nedelcheva, Catherine Perlès, Ernst Pernicka, Heeli C. Schechter, Thorsten Schifer and Alice Vinet for sharing their expertise and contributions.

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