

# BSA Research Strategy 2025-2030

*Environmental Adaptation & Resilience | Technology & Innovation | Identity & Society*

## Executive Summary

Building on its 130+ years of experience, the BSA offers a dynamic and forward-looking research vision that is interdisciplinary, international, and inclusive.

The BSA is a rare example of an institution in which Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (SHAPE), intersect naturally and productively with Science/STEM. Taking account of its current strengths and research strands and drawing on the combined work of the BSA's research staff, collaborative projects, and facilities, our main focus for the next five years will be on people and environment, including but not limited to:

- Environmental Adaptation and Resilience
- Technology and Innovation
- Identity and Society

Each of the three areas combines different approaches, resources, and facilities with a keen eye to making our material and results accessible and impactful. Our world-leading research agendas contribute to addressing contemporary global issues, including climate change, migration, gender equality, national and group identities.



This strategy is based on intensive discussions with BSA research active staff and takes account of current staff interests, expertise, facilities, resources, and field/museum projects. While thematic in approach and incorporating both BSA staff and BSA-related projects, it sits alongside our longstanding commitment to support independent research by BSA Students, Fellows, members, and readers. A central part of the BSA's remit is research facilitation, supporting independent agendas where meaningful interaction is possible.

Our overarching aims and objectives for the next five years are to: **support and deliver world-class research across a wide range of topics focused upon the Greek/Hellenic world, while making findings impactful and accessible.** We will engage with colleagues in the UK, Greece, and globally, as well as with government, cultural, and heritage institutions through collaboration, publication, conferences, lectures, and public engagement.

# Environmental Adaptation & Resilience

## Introduction:

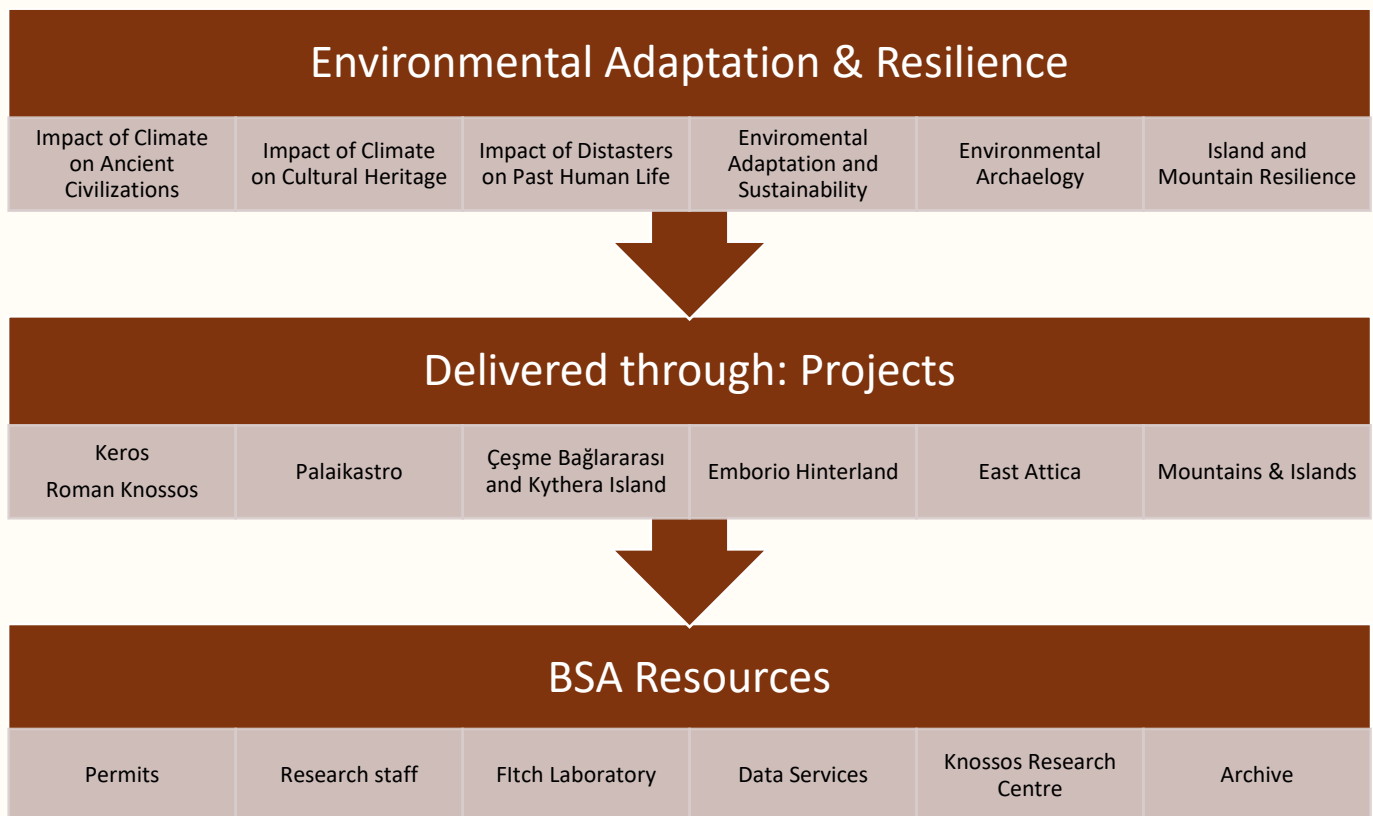
Over the next five years, the environment will be a central theme in BSA research, focusing on how societies in Greek lands—from ancient to modern times—have adapted to environmental challenges such as natural disasters and climate change.

## Deliver this through:

- *Impact of Climate on Ancient Civilizations:* Keros Project, Roman Knossos
- *Impact of Climate on cultural heritage:* Palaikastro
- *Impact of natural disasters:* Çeşme Bağlararası, Kythera Island Project, Thera volcano eruption
- *Environmental adaptation and sustainability:* Emborio Hinterland Project (Chios)
- *Environmental Archaeology:* East Attica Project, Gypsades, Dispilio, Emborio Hinterland, Keros
- *Islands and Mountain Resilience:* St Andrews/BSA Mountains & Islands Project

## Impact & Knowledge Exchange:

- Engage with communities & stakeholders on resilience and environmental protection
- Policy development for environmental protection and responsible tourism
- Disaster preparedness planning
- Multi-disciplinary inclusion (scientific archaeology, history, art, literature)



# Technology & Innovation

## Introduction:

The BSA's Fitch Laboratory leads research on technology and innovation through its *Technological Landscape* approach, studying technologies from ancient to modern times in environmental and social contexts. Focusing on the materiality of techniques and the knowledge systems behind them, this interdisciplinary method combines scientific analysis, replication experiments, and ethnographic study to trace how technologies were transmitted, adapted, or transformed across time and space, under the impact of social and environmental factors.

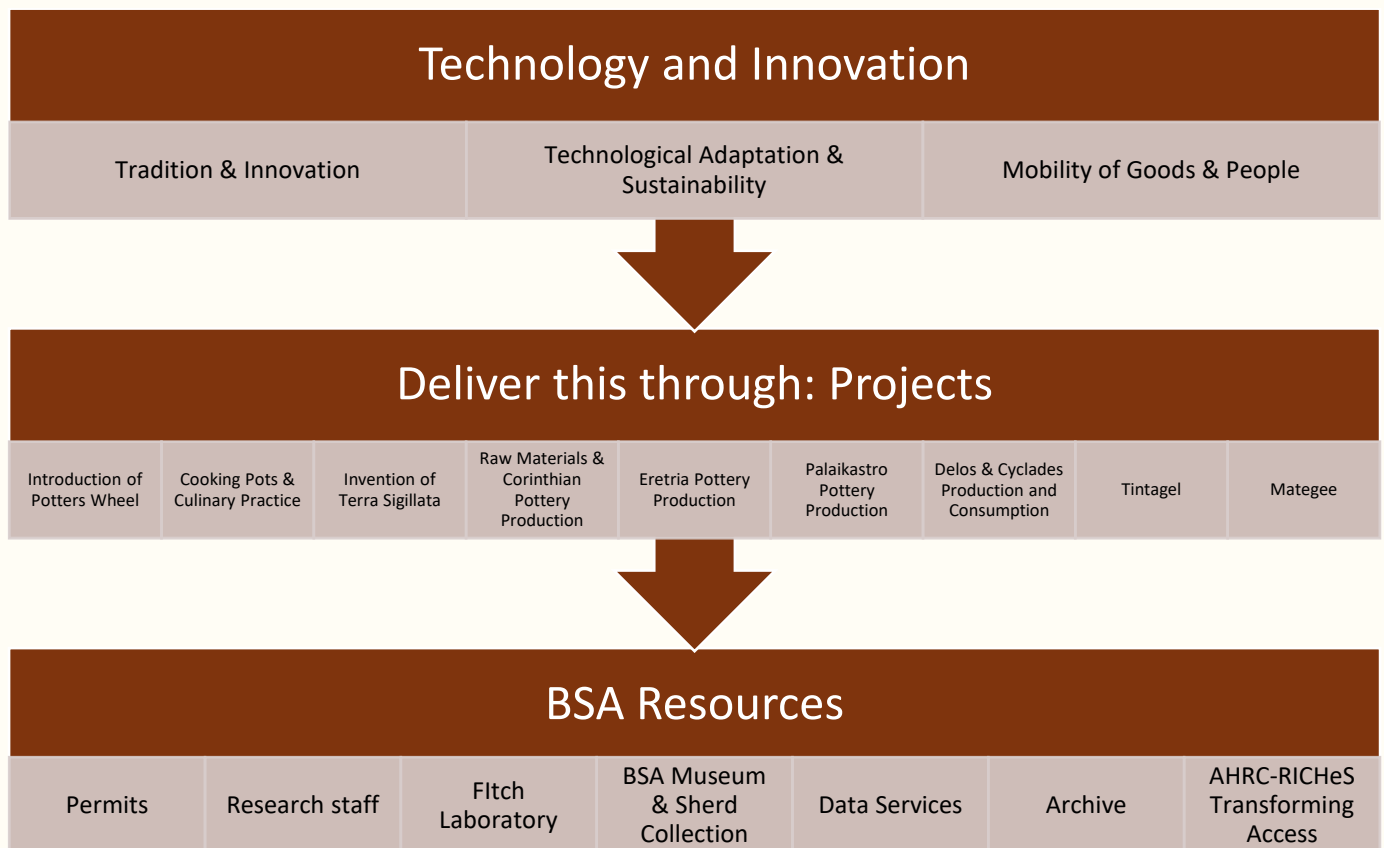
## Deliver this through:

- *Tradition & Innovation*: Introduction of potter's wheel in Bronze Age Aegean, culinary practice studies in Macedonia (Bronze & Iron Age), Italian Terra Sigillata
- *Technological adaptation & sustainability*: Corinthian pottery production, experimental clay mixing, Eretria pottery, Bronze Age Palaikastro production
- *Mobility of people and goods*: Delos & Cyclades production & consumption, Tintagel and Mediterranean links, Transport containers in Bronze Age and Iron Age east Med (CompAS),

Transport amphorae production and circulation in Hellenistic – Roman Aegean  
Material and Production Strategies for Amphorae in the Hellenistic and Roman Aegean – MATEGEE

## Impact & Knowledge Exchange:

- Promote awareness of traditional crafts and agriculture
- Sustainable development policy for crafts/agriculture
- Fitch Reference collections available via Transforming Access project (AHRC)



# Identity & Society

## Introduction:

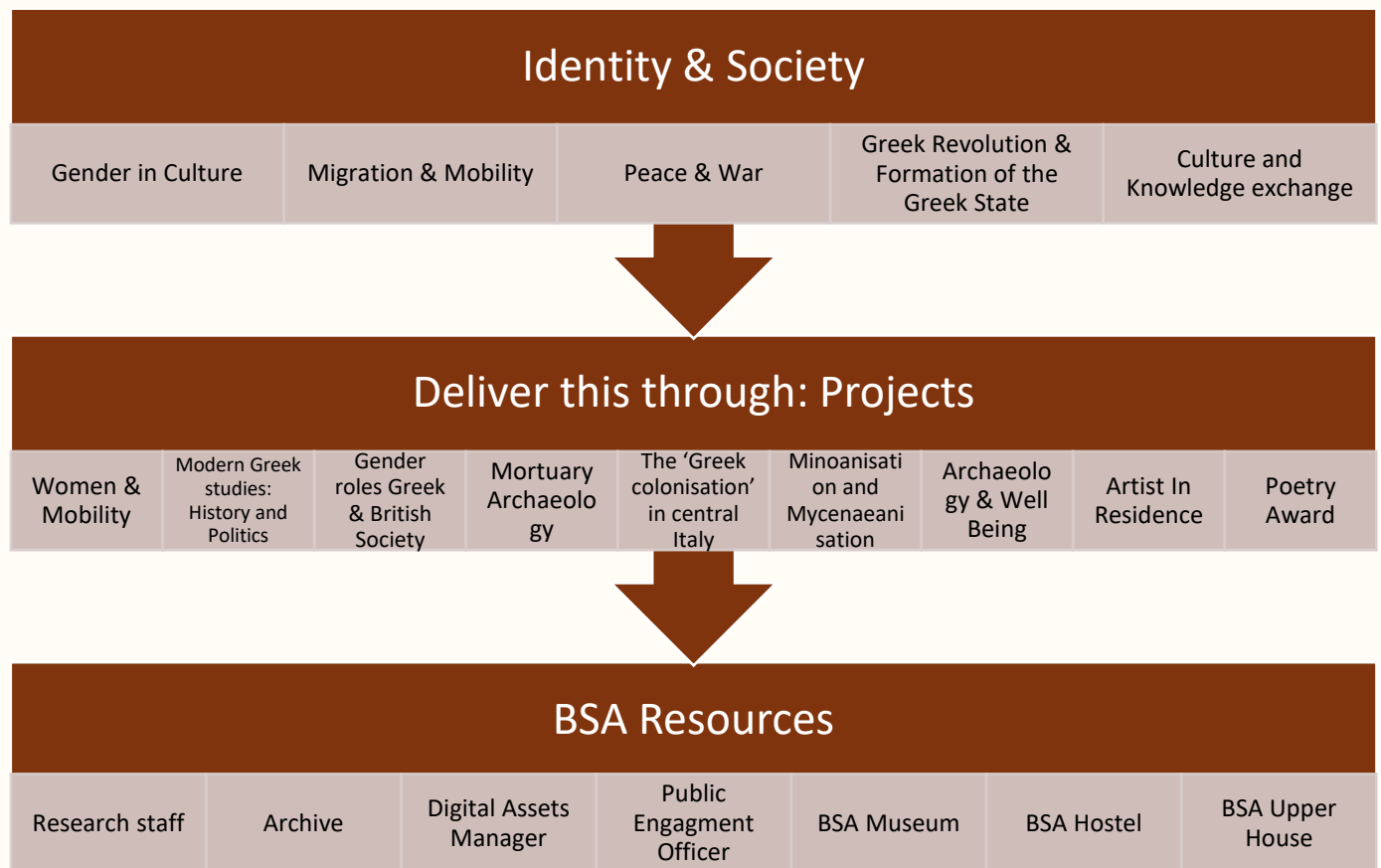
An important place in BSA's research has always been held by Greek and regional history and culture (of all periods). As part of our deeply rooted commitment to Modern Greek studies which focus on history and politics we have special emphasis on issues of identity (studies of nations and nationalism; gender studies) and their role in shaping society as it has changed across historical periods, including the worldwide Greek Diaspora and interactions between society in Greece and the UK.

## Deliver this through:

- *Gender in Culture*: Women & Mobility, Gender roles and contributions to shaping Greek and British Society, Mortuary archaeology
- *Migration & Mobility*: Greek colonisation in Italy, Minoanisation/Mycenaeanisation in Aegean
- *Peace & War*: Greek Revolution, World Wars
- *Culture & Knowledge Exchange*: Cultural heritage, archaeology & well-being, Artist in Residence, Poetry Award

## Impact & Knowledge Exchange:

- Challenge traditional gender narratives
- Highlight women's land ownership
- Increase inclusivity & participation in archives
- Conferences, exhibitions, and publications on women in archaeology & philhellenes



## Capabilities and Resources

The BSA is the UK's research hub in Greece and offers unique resources and capabilities. These capabilities and resources are maximised through the research vision of BSA Staff and Committee members who strive to make the institution and its research world leading and inclusive. Details of the BSA Resources can be found on its website and they include:

- The Fitch Laboratory
- The Knossos Research Centre
- The Archive
- The Library
- The Museum and Sherd Collection
- Digital BSA
- Permits & Fieldwork Facilitation
- Network Connections
- Grants, Awards, Studentships & Fellowships
- Event Facilities



## Staff, Structures, and Systems

### Research Active and Support Staff

The BSA has a small but dedicated staff in Athens and Knossos. Academic staff (Director, Assistant Director, Fitch Laboratory Director, Knossos Curator and Fellows) undertake their own programme of research as well as supporting the work of students, fellows and members. Administrative and specialist staff facilitate residential opportunities in Athens and Knossos, as well as BSA membership. BSA members are entitled to 24/7 access to the library and facilities. They can benefit from advice on permits and research in Greece as well as the obtaining of permissions for work and/or publication from the Ministry of Culture. The huge networking potential of the BSA is supported by its facilities (Library, Archive, Laboratory and Hostel) as well as its busy activity schedule. Through an extensive programme of academic and cultural events, the BSA is at the heart of promotion of research and education to a broad audience.

### Structures and Support

Research is encouraged and supported throughout the BSA through its facilities and staff in Athens, Knossos and London as well as dedicated committees including the Committee for Archaeology (Fieldwork and Permits), Committee for Society, Arts and Letters (Modern Greek Studies and Archive) and the Fitch Committee. These committees also advise on publications and liaise with the Publications Committee.

The BSA actively supports new and ongoing scholarship through annual awards, grants (fieldwork and research), studentships and fellowships for studies in Greece. The Centenary bursaries offer opportunities for Greek scholars to study in the UK.

### Systems

The BSA is committed to building digital infrastructure to make its collections in the Archive and Fitch Laboratory accessible. Through its Transforming Access Grant is making good progress in this respect. It will continue to collaborate with the other BIRI. In collaboration with colleagues across Europe it is developing digitally advanced systems of recording and archiving fieldwork data.



## Further Information

BSA Website: [www.bsa.ac.uk](http://www.bsa.ac.uk)

BSA Research: [www.bsa.ac.uk/research-2/](http://www.bsa.ac.uk/research-2/)



Awards: [www.bsa.ac.uk/awards/](http://www.bsa.ac.uk/awards/)

Member services: [www.bsa.ac.uk/member-services/](http://www.bsa.ac.uk/member-services/)

Fitch Laboratory;  
[www.bsa.ac.uk/about-us/fitch-laboratory/](http://www.bsa.ac.uk/about-us/fitch-laboratory/)

Knossos Research Centre:  
[www.bsa.ac.uk/about-us/knossos-research-centre/](http://www.bsa.ac.uk/about-us/knossos-research-centre/)

