



**Fourth Palaeolithic Seminar, Thursday 11/01/2024, 19:00**



## **The “Australopithecine Pebble of Many Faces” and its Place in the Cradle of Humankind, South Africa**

**Dr Bernhard Zipfel, University of Witwatersrand, South Africa**

### **Abstract**

The "Makapansgat Pebble" is a famous archaeological artefact found in the Makapansgat Valley World Heritage Site, Limpopo in South Africa. It is a small, naturally occurring, water-worn cobble that is significant in the study of human evolution, as it is associated with *Australopithecus*, one of our early human relatives that lived more than 2.5 million years ago. It is thought to provide evidence of early cognitive abilities and creativity in our ancestors, who may have recognised natural chipping and wear patterns on it, resembling a crude rendition of a human face. This suggests that these early hominins displayed one of the earliest examples of symbolic behaviour and artistic expression, as it appears to have been purposefully transported from a nearby riverbed. There is however little evidence to support this hypothesis but the presence of the water worn pebble in association with hominin remains, remains a mystery.

Lectures are open to the public, free of charge. To attend the seminar pre-book your seat here:

[Pre-booking](#)

Location  
Amphitheater, Benaki Museum of Greek Culture  
1 Koumbari St. & Vas. Sofias Ave., 106 74 Athens



**ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑ**  
Υπουργείο Πολιτισμού

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