



**HM GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR**  
**MINISTRY FOR SPORTS, CULTURE, HERITAGE & YOUTH**  
310 Main Street  
Gibraltar

**PRESS RELEASE**

No: 780/2012

Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2012

**Prestigious international scholarship award recipient  
to work in the Gibraltar Museum**

Dr Ruth Blasco López, of the IPHES (Institut Català de Paleoecologia Humana i Evolució Social) has been awarded a post-doctoral scholarship to work in the Gibraltar Museum for two years.

This scholarship forms part of the programme of post-doctoral assistance Beatriu de Pinós (Mode A) put out by AGAUR (Agencia Catalana de Universitats i Recerca) of the Generalitat de Catalunya and is co-financed by the European Union. The scholarship requires the candidate to work abroad.

The project which was proposed by the new post-doctoral researcher is entitled "*Exploring the Neanderthal modernity: changes and transformations in the subsistence strategies of the last human communities of the European Middle Palaeolithic.*" Its main object is the analysis of remains of fauna in order to interpret those aspects of Neanderthal behaviour that resemble those of modern humans. Of course, world-class reference material concerning the way of life of the last Neanderthals has been found in Gibraltar's caves. The recent work published in the prestigious journal PLoS One on the exploitation of raptor and corvid feathers by Neanderthals is ample proof of the importance of the Gibraltar caves.

Commenting on the news of the award, Gibraltar Museum Director Professor Clive Finlayson expressed great satisfaction. “These scholarships are highly competitive and it is to Dr Blasco’s credit, given an impressive career, that she has succeeded. It is a great recognition, also, of the important work that the Gibraltar Museum carries out, that it should be accepted as a major international research centre capable of receiving top scientists.” The addition of an archaeologist of Dr Blasco’s calibre to the museum team for two years strengthens the institution’s position and the expertise at its disposal. It is also further support for the scientific work being carried out in Gorham’s, Vanguard and other Gibraltar caves. “We are on track to become THE research centre for such studies in the whole of the southern Iberian Peninsula, an opportunity that we must not overlook” added Professor Finlayson.

Heritage Minister Steven Linares expressed great satisfaction at the news. “Getting external investment in the important work being carried out by the Gibraltar Museum is recognition of what is being achieved,” said the Minister. “The Government of Gibraltar supports this work and is pleased that the Generalitat de Catalunya and the European Community have recognised its importance too, through the award of this scholarship.”

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Note to Editors:

Dr Ruth Blasco started her career in the world of prehistoric archaeology in the University of Valencia, where she graduated in 2003. She undertook her masters degree and doctorate in the Rovira i Virgili University in Tarragona. Dr Blasco is a specialist in Zooarchaeology and Taphonomy and her papers have been published in international journals, such as PLoS One, Journal of Human Evolution, Journal of Archaeological Science, Quaternary International, Quaternaire, Comptes Rendus Palevol, Quaternary Science Review and the American Journal of Physical Anthropology. Her research projects include work at Bolomor Cave (Valencia, Spain), Atapuerca (Burgos, Spain) and Qesem Cave (Israel). She is also director of the sites at les Coves del Toll (Barcelona).