*Winner of the Herman Ramm postgraduate archaeology prize, 2018*

**In the eye of the beholder? Negotiating identity through personal ornaments in the Upper Palaeolithic** *Isobel Wisher*

This research challenges previous attitudes towards personal ornaments and their

significance in negotiating identity. It is argued here that the significance ascribed to objects is derivative of the relations they embody, and this imbues the object with its agency to negotiate identities. A relational approach is developed in this dissertation, which fully integrates analogical, theoretical, and practical approaches to address underlying issues in previous personal ornament research. The application of this approach to key Magdalenian sites enabled the significance of personal ornaments to past societies to be understood to a greater depth; allowing a glimpse through the eyes of the beholder.