



AIAS
CONFERENCE
BIFOCAL
PERSPECTIVES ON
THE BLACK SEA:
MACRO- AND
MICROCOSMS



AARHUS
UNIVERSITY

AARHUS INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED STUDIES

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CONFERENCE TOPIC AND FORMAT

Based on new conceptual frameworks, this conference fills outstanding gap in the current research-landscape by shaping fresh research perspectives in understanding the past of the circum-Pontic region in its cultural and environmental contexts.

It aims at investigating the region on the macrocosmic (in terms of 'socio-ecosystems') and microcosmic (specific regional landscapes) levels; the formation and perception of the broadly-understood landscapes both in reality and in the imaginative will be analyzed from the multifaceted perspectives of the ancient literary, documentary, and material evidence.

The conference is structured around the following four main sessions:

- 1: Environment, Biodiversity, and Ethnicity in Pontus Euxinus
- 2: Landscapes
- 3: Religion and cults. Cultural mediation and identity
- 4: Excavation reports

Conference website:

<http://aias.au.dk/events/bifocal-perspectives-on-the-black-sea/>

The conference has received funding from:

- Aarhus Institute of Advanced Studies, Denmark
 - The Carlsberg Foundation, Denmark
 - The research programme 'Classical Antiquity and its Heritage', Aarhus University, Denmark
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WEDNESDAY 6 APRIL

- 08.30– 09.00 Registration and coffee
 09.00 – 09.15 Welcome by **Morten Kyndrup**, AIAS Director
Orietta Cordovana, AIAS Fellow, Introduction

SESSION 1: Environment, Biodiversity, and Ethnicity in Pontus Euxinus

- Chair: Birte Poulsen
- 09.15 – 10.15 **Keynote. Elizabeth Craik:** ‘Environment, Biodiversity and Ethnicity in the Black Sea Region: Sources, Strategies and Some Hippocratic Help’
- 10.15 – 10.45 **Nadia Gavrylyuk, Nickolay Tymchenko:** ‘Hinterland as the Macroeconomic Factor for the Milesian Colonization of the Northern Black Sea Area (by the Example of the Couple of Borysthene /Olbia)’
- 10.45 – 11.15 Coffee break
- 11.15 – 11.45 **Gian Franco Chiai:** ‘Perception of Diversity and Exploration of the Environment: Greeks and the Black Sea During the Archaic Period’
- 11.45 – 12.15 **Totko Stoyanov:** ‘The River System of North-Eastern Thrace as a Medium in the Economic Relations in Classical and Hellenistic Times’
- 12.15 – 12.45 **Victor Cojocaru:** ‘Understanding the Black Sea and its Environmental Contexts on the Basis of Proxeny Decrees’
- 12.45 – 13.15 **Orietta Cordovana:** ‘Pontus’ Biodiversity and the Imperial Literary sources’
- 13.15 – 14.15 Lunch

SESSION 2: Landscapes

Chair: Gian Franco Chiai

- 14.15 – 15.15 **Keynote. Vladimir Stolba:** ‘Going beyond the Site: Patterns of Change in the Crimea’s Archaeological Landscape’
- 15.15 – 15.45 **Elias K. Petropoulos:** ‘Colonization and Landscape Transformation: Cross-cultural Interactions in the Cimmerian Bosphorus Region’
- 15.45 – 16.15 Coffee break
- 16.15 – 16.45 **John Lund:** ‘The Many Landscapes of Hellenistic Cyprus’
- 16.45 – 17.15 **Alexandru Avram:** ‘Few Remarks on the *Naukleroi* of the Cities on the South Shore of the Black Sea during the Imperial Period’
- 17.15 – 17.45 **Alexander Minchev:** ‘Viticulture, Wine Production and Related to Them Cults in Odessos and the Region (1st-6th AD)’
- 18.00 Visit at Moesgaard Museum, MOMU, Aarhus
(shuttle bus available for speakers only)
- 21.00 Bus pick-up at Moesgaard Museum, MOMU, Aarhus and return to Ritz Hotel, Aarhus (shuttle bus available for speakers only)
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THURSDAY 7 APRIL

SESSION 3: Religion and Cults. Cultural Mediation and Identity

Chair: Orietta Cordovana

- 09.30 – 10.30 **Keynote. David Braund:** ‘Religion and Environment: the Swans of the Northern Black Sea’
- 10.30 – 11.00 **Claire Barat:** ‘Cults in Ancient Sinope: Originality and Standardization’
- 11.00 – 11.30 Coffee break
- 11.30 – 12.00 **Askold Ivantchik:** ‘Natural Phaenomena and Mythology in the Cimmerian Bosphorus: Bosphorus as a Realm of the Dead’
- 12.00 – 12.30 **Anca Cristina Dan, Consuelo Manetta:** *Tauropolos*: The Historical Geography of Myth and Worship
- 12.30 – 13.30 Lunch
- 13.30 – 14.00 **Marta Oller Guzmàn:** ‘Racing for Love: a Lost Episode of Achilles’ Life’
- 14.00 – 14.30 **Marina Vakhtina:** ‘The Complex of the Woman’s Tomb of Karagodeu-ashkh Barrow’
- 14.30 – 15.00 **Ligia Ruscu:** ‘*Eunoian paraschein*. Goodwill, Benevolence and Harmony around the Black Sea’
- 15.00 – 15.30 Coffee break
- 15.30 – 16.00 **Lavinia Grumeza:** ‘Cultural Transfer from the North Pontic Area to the Great Hungarian Plain. The Sarmatian Culture in the South of the Plain’
- 16.00 – 16.30 **Ulrike Peter:** ‘Coin Images of the Westpontic Cities Minted under Gordian III and Philipp I – Local and Regional Identity’
- 16.30 – 17.00 **Jesper Majbom Madsen:** ‘Trophy Towns and City-States: Roman Urbanization in the Pontic Hinterland’
- 19.00 – Conference dinner for invited speakers at:
[Komfur](#), Guldsmædgade 38-40, 8000 Aarhus C.

FRIDAY 8 APRIL

SESSION 4: Excavation reports

- Chair: Consuelo Manetta
- 09.00 – 10.00 **Keynote. Iulian Bîrzescu:** ‘New Finds and Current Approaches to the Archaeology of the Black Sea Region in Antiquity, 2010-2015’
- 10.00 – 10.30 **Daniela Stoyanova:** ‘New Data about Archaic Stone Architectural Decoration in Apollonia Pontica’
- 10.30 – 11.30 Coffee break
- 11.30 – 12.00 **Denis Zhuravlev:** ‘Greek Colonization on the Taman Peninsula: New Results’
- 12.00 – 12.30 **Alexandre Baralis, Vasilica Lungu:** ‘Colonizing the Southern Sectors of the Danubian Delta: the Settlement of Caraburun-Atchik Suhat’
- 12.30 – 13.30 Lunch
- 13.30 – 14.00 **Margarit Damyanov:** ‘Spatial Developments in the Necropolis of Apollonia Pontica, 5th to 3rd Centuries BC’
- 14.00 – 14.30 **Krastina Panayotova, Maria Reho and Margarit Damyanov:** ‘Cremations in the Necropolis of Apollonia Pontica: Patterns of Distribution in Space and Time’
- 14.30 – 14.45 **Closing remarks, Consuelo Manetta, AIAS Fellow**
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ABSTRACTS

SESSION 1: ENVIRONMENT, BIODIVERSITY, AND ETHNICITY IN PONTUS EUXINUS

Keynote: Prof. Elizabeth Craik

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‘Environment, Biodiversity and Ethnicity in the Black Sea Region: Sources, Strategies and Some Hippocratic Help’

In introduction, the nature and complexity of the available sources is remarked, with particular attention to generic constraints. Certain ineluctable local conditions and their inevitable effect on local populations are noted. Hippocratic evidence is adduced and viewed as a significant strategic link with other, more generally familiar, sources, notably with the narrative of Herodotos. Attention is paid to *On Airs, Waters, and Places*, a visionary account of the impact of environment on the physical and mental constitutions of peoples, including the Scythians, familiar also to the author of *Diseases* 4. An analysis is offered of *Epidemics* 1-7, a series of meticulous medical case histories, many located in our region, chronicled with precise attention to significant climatic and geographical features. In categorising the evidence of *Epidemics*, cities and towns on the Black Sea coast are identified; the socio-economic situation of patients is remarked; the relationship between new doctors and the preexisting population is examined; some comments are made on the trade in drugs from the remote hinterland. In conclusion, a wider context is adumbrated with reference to parallels to be found in perception of environment and ethnicity in Thessaly, Thrace and such Aegean islands as Thasos and Lemnos.

Speaker 1: Prof. Nadia Gavrylyuk, Prof. Nickolay Tymchenko

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‘Hinterland as the Macroeconomic Factor for the Milesian Colonization of the Northern Black Sea Area (by the Example of the Couple of Borysthenes /Olbia)’

Greek colonization in many ways was a thalassocratic phenomenon in which an important place is given to the concept of hinterland. Hinterland is characterized by many features and properties of a historic landscape. The historical fates of the colonies were largely depended

from ‘quality’ of hinterlands. A hinterland will be ‘Happy’ if the area of the seaport had a rich and diversified mineral, water, wooden, biological resources and neighbouring territories were uninhabited or populated by friendly local peoples. In the framework of macroeconomics of the ancient Northern Black Sea area (NBSA) we will consider hinterland of the coupled colonies of Borysthene/Olbia (CCBO). CCBO is expedient to research with the help of an adapted neo- institutional model of the ancient economy as we have earlier reconstructed the economy of the Steppe Scythia. Characteristics of Near and Far hinterlands have been reconstructed on the example of CCBO and their metropolis. The factors of *terra nullius* of shores of Dnieper-Bug Liman in archaic time and later colonization by nomads in a NBSA since 6th cent. BC is discussed. The boundaries of the hinterland, the complex of paleoecological and paleoeconomical characteristics of the CCBO as the pene-exclave of Miletus is clarified. It is found that most of the NBSA from the one hand was an extension of the hinterland of CCBO and other antique centers, and on the other hand was living (resource) space of the local populations with nomadic dominant. It is confirmed that the synthesis of ‘barbaric’ and ‘Greek’ economies neutralized expansionist aspirations of both communities and contributes to their long-term coexistence (sometimes - parity) in the NBSA. It is obtained that the available data are insufficient for the construction of a generalized (in the approximation of world-system on Braudel - Wallerstein - Frank -Korotayev) symbiotic macroeconomic model of development of the NBSA of the Early Iron Age.

Speaker 2: Dott. Gian Franco Chiai

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‘Perception of Diversity and Exploration of the Environment: Greeks and the Black Sea during the Archaic Period’

During the colonisation of the Black Sea, the foundation of Greek colonies implied the exploration of new territories and cultural contacts with local populations. The establishment of Greek settlements on the Northern Pontic coast made the investigation of that countryside possible. Herodotus’ accurate report, for example, testifies to the hinterland, which was inhabited by the Scythians and characterized by totally different climatic and environmental conditions. Before the compilation of the pseudo Hippocratic treatise, usually ascribed to the first half of the 5th c. BC, the Greeks might have perceived the importance of the environment, the influence of which on ethnic diversity became object of study at the latest during the Archaic age. Indeed, it may not be by accident that the pseudo-Hippocratic treatise deals with this geographic area and explains the diversity of the Scythians because of environmental

influence. What the modern scholars mean by environmental determinism was deeply related to the Greek perception of the Black Sea natural features. According to the modern definition of biodiversity in terms of number and variety of different organisms in a precise geographic region, this paper aims at investigating how the Greek perceived and categorized the environmental diversity and biodiversity in the Black Sea regions. It also focuses on the development of these topics in the scientific classic literature of antiquity.

Speaker 3: Prof. Totko Stoyanov

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'The River System of North-eastern Thrace as a Medium in the Economic Relations in Classical and Hellenistic Times'

The area of North-eastern Bulgaria is a hilly plateau. Its Northern half is cut by the rivers, running almost South - North towards the Danube. Contrary to nowadays, during the Antiquity the region was covered with huge woods and the rivers running to the Danube, most of which dry or semi-dry in their lower reaches today, have been full of water. Mapping of amphorae imported into the lands of modern south-east Romania reveals the importance of the river in its lower course as a transport artery. Clusters of find-places lead to the assumption that for the transport of goods in amphorae were used larger tributaries in their lower courses. For the territory of present-day NE Bulgaria until recently lacked similar information. Excavations in the city of Sboryanovo have shown on the basis of huge amounts of stamped and unstamped amphorae that Krapinetz river, was once navigable. Finds at Thracian settlements along the Yantra river have confirmed its navigability. It is matter of time the accumulation of information of this nature for the lower reaches of the rivers flowing into the Danube east of Rousse Lom to the Oltina Lake. Significant quantities of amphorae and stamps from the settlement at Satu Nou were estimated with reason by N. Konovichi as an indication of an "emporion". The data for Sboryanovo and villages downstream of the Yantra point to necessity to look for similar trade-posts near the mouth of Krapinetz, west of Tutrakan, and at the mouth of Yantra, perhaps in the region of Krivina. Excavations of a pit sanctuary, which appeared during the 3rd c. BC on the territory of the modern Rousse, provide last few years yet more amphora material. So, such port of trade is to be supposed at the mouth of the Lom River as well.

Speaker 4: Prof. Victor Cojocaru

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‘Understanding the Black Sea and its Environmental Contexts on the Basis of Proxeny Decrees’

In the context of a monograph on *proxenia* in the Black Sea area, the author has begun to examine the dynamic interactions between external cultural influences and local cultural traditions. Throughout almost two centuries of historiographical debate, a number of basic works and valuable studies have explored this topic, yet none of them provides a coherent picture of the external relations of the Pontic Greek cities during the Classical, Hellenistic and Roman times on the basis of *proxeny* decrees. Starting with a brief introduction to the status quaestionis, this paper will analyse aspects of social, economic, and religious interactions which are connected with the status of foreigners in the Greek world on various levels: local (between Greeks and non-Greeks), regional (between an individual and a state in the world of the Pontus Euxinus), and in terms of macrocosms (the evolution of *proxeny* due to the growth of business between citizens of different city-states). The discussion will draw on a systematic analysis of ca. 250 inscriptions, from simple tax exemptions (*ateleia*) to complex honorary documents. It will focus especially on the status of foreigners as *proxenoi* in the Pontic cities-states, in comparison with some *pontikoi* as representatives of their communities and dynasts in other parts of the *oikoumene*. The objective of this approach is not only to obtain a clearer understanding of the Black Sea as a holistic ancient region which was well integrated to the Mediterranean world, but also to bring attention to some modern perceptions of history ‘that take the nation as timeless, the state as predestined, and the region as ephemeral’ (cf. Charles King, *The Black Sea. A History*, Oxford 2004, p. 239).

Speaker 5: Prof. Orietta Cordovana

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‘Pontus’s Biodiversity and the Imperial Literary Sources’

This paper focuses on the biodiversity of flora and fauna in Pontus, as it was perceived in the Roman literary sources. Beyond the tradition that dates back to fictional and ancient *mirabilia* literature, it is possible to distinguish the scientific level of knowledge of the natural environment in the Pontic region during Roman time. Some authors can meaningfully shed light on this specific aspect of the environmental (and cultural) history during the Empire. Diodorus, Elianus, Pliny the Elder, and Strabo, for example, provide evidence of the precise diversi-

ty of bees and quality in honeys' production, among which the Pontic one is classified extremely obnoxious. After this millenary tradition in the field of beekeeping, unsurprisingly Pontus' honey is now notorious for its side effects in the treatment of sexual impotence. Several contemporary scientific medical reviews have recently published academic papers, which illustrate the effects of 'maddening honey' (as specified by Pliny, *Nat. Hist.* 21.74-78) on patients who made inappropriate and dangerous usage of it, especially because it is wrongly supposed to be a natural substitute for chemical synthesis of Viagra.

SESSION 2: LANDSCAPES

Keynote: Prof. Vladimir Stolba

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‘Going Beyond the Site: Patterns of Change in the Crimea’s Archaeological Landscape’

Speaker 1: Prof. Elias K. Petropoulos

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‘Colonization and Landscape Transformation: Cross-cultural Interactions in the Cimmerian Bosphorus Region’

One of the largest ancient Greek states of the Black Sea was the land that modern scholarship calls the Kingdom of the Cimmerian Bosphorus. According to latest archaeological investigations the colonization of this region by Greek settlers began at least in the late 7th century BC. Recent research has clearly shown that in most cases the acquisition of new territory led to the founding of colonies, that is, independent settlements, by emigrant citizens of one or more cities of metropolitan Greece. This established from the outset the possibility of the appearance of the city in its most highly evolved form, the city-state (*polis-kratos*). Towards the middle of the first half of the 6th century BC there began a massive wave of colonisation from Ionia and the islands of the Eastern Aegean, spear-headed by the city of Miletus, which was ultimately aimed at the shores of the Black Sea and especially the north coast. The archaeological evidence demonstrates that these first colonies did not all follow the same pattern of development after their foundation. This paper examines the urbanisation process in Greek settlements of the Cimmerian Bosphorus and their adjacent territory from the middle of the 6th century BC to the end of the 5th century, making an emphasis on the impact of the local and nomadic tribes to this process.

Speaker 2: Prof. John Lund

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‘The Many Landscapes of Hellenistic Cyprus’

The aim of this contribution is to provide a Mediterranean perspective on the evidence from the Black Sea through a synthesis of the civic, sacred, funerary, and economic landscapes of Hellenistic Cyprus. Though these have received much scholarly attention in recent years, it is

fair to say that they have mostly - until now - been studied in isolation from one another. A special consideration will be given to the interaction between the peoples living in Cyprus at the time and to whether it is possible to define their local identities on the basis of the archaeological material. The topic has been chosen in consideration of Pia Guldager Bilde's contribution to the archaeology of Cyprus through her participation between 1983 and 1986 in the Canadian Palaipaphos Survey Project in Western Cyprus, which gave rise to some of her first international publications, which dealt with the Prehistoric Pottery from the survey.

Speaker 3: Prof. Alexandru Avram

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'Few Remarks on the *Naukleroi* of the Cities on the South Shore of the Black Sea During the Imperial Period'

The inscriptions mention in several regions of the Roman Empire *naukleroi*, *emporoi* or *nautai* coming from Heraclea Pontica (at Proconnesus: Gedeon 1895, 139 with pl. IV.30; Hasluck 1910, 272, no. 24; cf. Robert 1974 = *OMS* VI, 302-307; Alexandria: *SB* I 2050.1-2; cf. Robert 1973, 442), from Amisos (at Thessalonike: Voutiras 1992), Prusias ad Hypium (at Tomis: *ISM* II 248 and 462; cf. Robert 1980, 80), from Sinope (at Chersonesus Taurica: *IOSPE* I² 364; at Syrian Antioch: Lib., *Ep.* 177-178) and from Tios (at Panticapaeum: *CIRB* 732; at Tomis: *I.Sinope* 115 = *RICIS* 309/0102). We can add more general mentions of Bithynians (at Rome: *IGUR* II 413; at Brindisi: *CIL* IX 62 = *ILS* 7525), Paphlagonians (at Rome: *CIL* VI 9675 c = *ILS* 7577; cf. *CIL* VI 12 331) and *Pontikoi* (at Claros: Oinomaus, F 15.4 Hammerstaedt = Euseb., *PE* V 22.3-4). More other testimonies concerning very probably over sea traders, although not explicitly mentioned, deserve a special discussion. The network we can reconstitute is basically Pontic but we also detect connections with important commercial centres as Rome and Alexandria, which seems to be confirmed by several other indirect sources. A distinction can be made between the Paphlagonian cities, attracted in their commercial interests by the North Pontic coast (the so-called short way from Sinope to South Crimea), and the Bithynian cities, particularly active on the West shore of the Black Sea.

Speaker 4: Prof. Alexander Minchev

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‘Viticulture, Wine Production and Related to Them Cults in Odessos and the Region (1st-6th AD)’

There is scarce but sure evidence about cultivating vine and wine production in Odessos during the Roman period. However, although judging by some finds connected to the cult of Dionysos, their beginning should have started much earlier. His cult was introduced in the ancient city not later than late 5th – 4th c. BC. Evidence about that are several votive lead *bu-crania* of ca 4th- early 3rd c. BC with bunch of grapes over the head, as well as a number of terracotta figurines made in relief and a plastic vase of same time, depicting Dionysos and members of his *thiasos*. They were discovered in the ancient city and in some settlements in the region around it and could be dated to 4th – 2nd c. BC. Very important evidence about the existence of viticulture and wine production in Roman Odessos is a large rectangular device made of limestone, which was used for smashing grapes. It was discovered not far outside the city walls and most probably belonged to a local winery located there. By no doubts, connected to the same topic is the Dionysos’ cult, which continued to be very popular in Odessos and widely worshiped by the locals, both in the city and in the region around. Several fragmented statues of the deity have been discovered in the city, showing various types of representation. One of them is a peculiar marble statuary showing the deity holding a grape cluster and guiding a horse or rather a carriage (with baskets full of grapes?). There is also a nice head of a medium size statue of Dionysos of 2nd c. AD, as well as two fragmented torsos of 2nd-3rd c. AD. On several entirely or less preserved votive reliefs discovered both in the ancient city, or in its *horo*, quite often Dionysos appears along with his *thiasos*: Satyrs, Maenads and of course accompanied by his beloved animal – the panther. However, there were also statuaries of medium size of him and his *thiasos*. Part of such sculpture is a fine marble figurine of a panther from Odessos, All Dionysos’ statues of Roman period and reliefs, found in the city and its region, are made of marble and dated mainly to the 2nd-3rd c. AD. In Odessos there have been discovered also some other votive offerings or personal belongings of same time connected with the deity, which shows the variety of his worshipping in the city. Among them, there is a little bronze figurine of Dionysos and a very fine gem with a dancing Satire depicted on it. The number of statues and votive reliefs discovered in Odessos helped to assume that in the city there existed a special temple (or a sanctuary), dedicated to this deity, or his images of various size and type have been erected were deposited in the temples of other deities. A sanctuary of Dionysos existed also in Marcianopolis – a large city founded in early 2nd c. AD not far from Odessos, which since early 4th c AD onwards was declared the capital

of the Late Roman Province of Moesia Secunda. A nice marble statuary of 2nd-early 3rd c. AD showing members of his *thiasos* drinking from wine-skins. During 1st - 3rd c. AD, there were local sanctuaries of Dionysos in smaller settlements in the countryside, West and South of Odessos too. The evidence of that suggestion are several marble votive reliefs, discovered at different sites of its *chora*. However, although dedicated by people living there, judging by the quality of most of them, they are produced by masters in the city workshops. During the Late Antiquity, there are much more finds connected to the viticulture and wine producing in Odessos and the region. There is some data about local production of at least two types of amphoras and of large containers for wine (*dolia*) of 4th-6th c. AD, one of them with incised crosses. In the city was discovered also a base stone, which belonged to a wooden device for smashing grapes in large quantity. It is dated to the 6th c. AD and a similar one (of same date) was discovered *in situ* in a well-preserved winery in the Late Antique town located at Cape Sveti Atanas, near Byala, Region of Varna. That base-stone was located next to a large basin, where the grapes were smashed of a big wooden screw device. In this town two more wineries with same type of basin and a number of *dolia* inside their premises have been excavated too. It should be underlined that on two of the *dolia* found, there were incised before- and after firing inscriptions in Greek: 'God help' or crosses made of stamped sun-like elements. On one of the jars with inscription, next to it there was incised a large cross along with vine branches and grapes. They are typical Christian symbols but in this case, this image could be connected not only to the religion but also to the profession of the owner, who was most probably a grape- and wine producer. Thus, in these several cases one can trace a tide connection between the local wine production and Christian religion during the Late Antiquity. At Marcianopolis there was excavated (although partially) also an winery but of early 5th c. AD. It has a much smaller basin for smashing grapes where that process was carried out obviously by means of bare-feet people. All listed above finds speak in favor of a long existing viticulture and wine production in Odessos and the region around, which stopped only in early 7th c. AD, when the ancient city was captured and ruined during the last invasion of Avars and Slavs in the Northeastern Balkans.

SESSION 3: RELIGION AND CULTS. CULTURAL MED- ITATION AND IDENTITY

Keynote: Emeritus Prof. David Braund

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‘Religion and Environment: the Swans of the Northern Black Sea’

Speaker 1: Prof. Claire Barat

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‘Cults in Ancient Sinope: Originality and Standardization’

The religious life of Ancient Sinope can be considered as standardized from the point of view of the Pontic environment in the Classical period: cults of the *oikistes* Autolykos, Deilon and Phlogios, linked to the Argonauts and to Herakles expeditions can be mentioned, like cults linked to the colonial Milesian origin of Sinope (historical *oikistes* and Milesian cults). Another part of the religious life of Sinope can be considered as standardized from the point of view of the integration of the city in the Pontic Kingdom in the Hellenistic period, since the divinities honoured in Sinope are the same divinities honoured in the other cities of the Pontic Kingdom. The originality of Sinope religious landscape appears under the Roman domination, with the disappearance of local cults inherited from the Classical period and from the colonial identity, the reactivation of Greek cults in standardized forms and the creation of a new “old” cult of Serapis. The paper will demonstrate that the Serapis cult in Sinope is a creation from the Roman period, and that the story of the Sinopean origin of the Serapis cult statue was created during the reign of Vespasian. Finally, the most original cult of Sinope, in the Roman period, was one of the most widespread cult in the Roman Empire: Serapis one.

Speaker 2: Prof. Askold Ivantchik

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‘Natural Phaenomena and Mythology in the Cimmerian Bosphorus: Bosphorus as a Realm of the Dead’

In the most ancient period, before the beginning of the colonization of the Black Sea coasts, the Greeks had the idea that beyond the Thracian Bosphorus begins Ocean and considered the

Black Sea as its part. This view influenced the ancient idea of the Black sea and of Scythia: since the Ocean was associated with the afterlife, the Black Sea as a whole and parts of its coast after their discovery by the Greeks also became associated with it. Traces of these ideas have been preserved in some of the early mythological traditions. This explains the connection of Achilles with the Black Sea and his popularity in the Pontic region during the whole Antiquity. The island of the blessed, a form the realm of the dead and the place of posthumous residence of Achilles, was located in the Black Sea, and this hero became the patron of the Black Sea and its shores. The same tradition explains the appearance of the name 'The Cimmerian Bosphorus' and localization of the Cimmerians on the banks of the Kerch Peninsula, although the historical Cimmerians had no special connection with them. They were located at the entrance to the realm of the dead since Homeric 'Odyssey'. Some data indicate that the Greeks placed one of the entrances to the underworld on the shores of the Kerch Strait, especially in the Asian Bosphorus. The emergence of this tradition is explained by a number of specific features of the landscape, in particular the presence of a large number of active mud volcanoes, of crevices with the outputs of underground gas as well as of swamps. The Cimmerians were placed on the Bosphorus because they were mentioned in 'Odyssey' as inhabitants of the surrounding area of the entrance to the underworld, in the same way as they were located at the Lake Avernus in Italy, another entrance to the realm of the dead.

Speaker 3: Dott. Anca Cristina Dan

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Dott. Consuelo Manetta

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'*Tauropolos*: The Historical Geography of Myth and Worship'

As a symbol of Greek ethnicity in a colonial environment, Iphigenia is one of the most significant but also problematic figures in Greek mythology. According to Stasinus of Cyprus and Hegesias of Salamis — epic poets of the Homeric cycle — Iphigenia represents a direct link not only between the participants in the Trojan War and the colonists of the most northern shore of the interior sea, but also between Boeotia (Aulis) and the Tauric peninsula (site of the later Chersonesian colony of the people of Delion). Following this Archaic tradition, which became widespread in Classical times with the success of Euripides' tragedy *Iphigenia among the Taurians*, Agamemnon's daughter was brought to the Taurians by the goddess Tauropolos, a hypostasis of Artemis identified with Chersonesos' Parthenos. The principal

meaning of the *epiclesis* ‘Tauropolos’, however, is not the ‘goddess of the Taurians’ but the ‘goddess riding the bull’. The folk etymology which connects her with the Taurians was not just a philological game: as Pia Guldager Bilde (2003) has shown, the ‘Scythian’ Diana in Nemi was conceived by comparison with the Chersonesian goddess. It is not yet clear, however, if this link is just the consequence of the reception of Herodotus’ and Euripides’ Iphigenia in Southern Italy or if religious facts can support the identification at a deeper level. This paper aims to compare mythical and ritual evidence in literary and archaeological sources and try to explain the dynamic creation of both the myth and the worship of the Tauropolos goddess in the Greek world, from Archaic to Roman times. In the first part, Anca Dan will present a diachronic map of the literary traditions and cult evidence of the Tauropolos goddess. The analysis will focus on literary and epigraphic attestations of the *epiclesis* and on figurative representations of the ‘goddess riding the bull’, such as clay statuettes, paintings and coins. In the second part, Consuelo Manetta will compare the archaeological evidence from different sanctuaries of the Tauropolos goddess – especially from the Black Sea region (Chersonesos but also other Doric colonies) and from Nemi, Italy. The purpose is to explore to what extent the archaeological evidence confirms or subverts the literary connections. This combined investigation will allow us to draw an extensive and more complex picture of the evolution of the Tauropolos goddess in time and space and to emphasize the complex interplay between myth, cult and collective identities at the centre as well as on the peripheries of the Greek world.

Speaker 4: Prof. Marta Oller Guzmàn

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‘Racing for Love: a Lost Episode of Achilles’ Life’

Among the many place names of the Black Sea northern coast that recalled the hero Achilles in antiquity, the Race of Achilles (Ἀχιλλεῖος Δρόμος), near the mouth of the river Borysthenes, is one of the most emblematic. The origin of this designation is unknown in classical times, when this place is mentioned for the first time by Herodotus (HDT. 4.55; 76.4). However, in Hellenistic period, Lycophron (LYC. *Alex.* 183-201) collects a secondary mythical tradition according to which the origin of the name is related to the sacrifice of Iphigenia. Thus, after the abduction of Iphigenia by Artemis, Achilles, madly in love with her, began a long journey of five years in search of the girl, that would led him to reach the Scythian and Taurian lands. This would explain the diversity of local place names related to the Achaean hero. However, in Roman Imperial times, the story of Achilles trip around the

north shores of the Black Sea becomes a warlike expedition undertaken by the hero with an Achaean fleet (MELA 2.1.5). Afterwards, in late-classical tradition this mythical version seems to be forgotten and will survive only in the scholia and exegesis of Imperial and Byzantine authors along with other *parua mythographica* (SCHOL. *ad Dion. Perieg.* 306 = *GGM* II: 443; EUST., *in Dion. Perieg.* 306 = *GGM* II: 271; TZ. *in Lyc.* 186). The aim of this paper is to collect and discuss the scarce passages on Achilles' race in search of Iphigenia as a good example of the evolution of the Greek perception of the landscapes on the northern coast of the Black Sea through the myth.

Speaker 5: Prof. Marina Vakhtina

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'The Complex of the Woman's Tomb of Karagodeuashkh Barrow'

The famous 'royal' barrow Karagodeuashkh was excavated at Kuban area by E.D. Felitzin in 1888. The barrow contained a stone sepulture, consisted of three chambers. The burials belonged to the representatives of Scythian or Syndo-Maeotian aristocracy. According to the Greek imports they can be dated in the frames of the second half of the 4th cent. BC. In the western chamber the 'rich' burial of a young woman has been discovered. The burial equipment, consisted of numerous artifacts, included golden jewelry: torque, necklace, pendants and plaques. Among the grave goods was the well-known golden triangular plaque with relief compositions in Graeco-Barbarian style - the adornment of a high, pointed female head-dress. The most interesting and important is the decoration of its lower frieze presenting the ritual scene. In the central part of the chamber the remains of the chariot and several horses have been found. On one hand the complex demonstrates the high level of Hellenization and, on the other hand, the presence of original and expressive local barbarian elements. It still stays underestimated by scholars as a source for examining a vast range of questions connected with the role and the worship of the Great Goddess in the ideology and ritual practice of the barbarians. The Greek elements of the complex promote to value the role of the female goddesses in the ideology of the locals. In whole the burial in the western chamber of Karagodeuashkh can be considered as a tale of terrestrial and sacred mission of a woman in the beliefs of barbarians of the Northern Black Sea coastal region in classical time.

Speaker 6: Dott. Ligia Ruscu

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‘*Eunoian paraschein*. Goodwill, Benevolence, and Harmony around the Black Sea’

The paper will focus on the concepts of goodwill, benevolence and harmony in the Greek cities around the Black Sea, as evidenced by epigraphical and (where available) literary sources of the Hellenistic and Roman periods. These notions occur, with different ranges and different significances, in the various contexts of the functioning of *polis* institutions, of euergetism, of religious life and of private concerns. The paper will attempt to highlight the overlapping uses of these concepts and the insights they offer for the political culture of their time.

Speaker 7: Dott. Lavinia Grumeza

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‘Cultural Transfer from the North Pontic Area to the Great Hungarian Plain. The Sarmatian Culture in the South of the Plain’

The extension of the Sarmatians west of the Carpathian Mountains led to changes in the habitat structure, landscape, funerary rituals, and the entire previous social structure of the area. I propose a presentation of the populations inhabiting the southern area of the Great Hungarian Plain (part of today Serbia, Romania and Hungary) during the 2nd–early 5th century AD. The classical sources of this chronological timeframe mention various Sarmatian offshoots living in the plain (Iazyges, Roxolani, Alans). In this peripheral area of the *Barbaricum*, the human interaction with the new natural habitat led to transformations of the lifestyle: the nomads suffered certain changes, started to settle down and develop sedentary features. Such lifestyle, material culture and funerary rituals changes were mainly due to the vicinity of the Roman Empire, the northern Germani but also of the Dacians. Therefore, cultures different than those in the eastern and north-Black Sea area were formed in the Great Hungarian Plain.

Speaker 8: Dott. Ulrike Peter

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‘Coin Images of the Westpontic Cities Minted Under Gordian III and Philipp I – Local and Regional Identity’

During the decade under the rule of Gordian and Philipp the cities at the Western coast of the Pontic Sea minted a huge amount of coins with a great variation of types. On the one hand we have singular types in the cities but on the other hand there are common images, which we find in two or more neighbouring cities. In my paper I will discuss whether and to which extent we can interpret these coin images as expressions of local or regional identity.

Speaker 9: Prof. Jesper Majbom Madsen

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‘Trophy Towns and City-States: Roman Urbanization in the Pontic Hinterland’

It is still a widespread assumption among modern scholars that Pompey the Great tried to civilize the sparsely urbanized part of Anatolia and the Near East by introducing what is believed to be cities organized after a Greek pattern. Use of the term *polis* in city names (e.g. Pompeiopolis or Nicopolis) and the introduction of political institution: magistrates, councils and assemblies often leads to the assumption that Pompey made a deliberate choice to Hellenize the region rather than introducing a form of civic organization base on Roman values. In this paper I’ll argue that Pompey was first a foremost looking to introduce a form of civic organization that could lift the administrative burden in the Pontic hinterland. After the decision to turn the kingdom of Mithridates in to a Roman province, Pompey needed to supply an administrative framework to administrate the area stretching from Lesser Armenia in the east to Paphlagonia in the West. As there was no urban culture, Pompey had to built the cities essentially from the ground and established new citizen-bodies in order to provide the administrative backbone both in the organisation of the cities and the new large territories that were assigned to each city. When looking at Pompey’s reform of the Pontic hinterland, there are little to suggest that he was aiming at a Greek model. Rather he was trying to establish an organization that would keep the cities vibrant to ensure that the ambitious project would succeed and that the cities would stand as a monument over the accomplishment it was to be the first Roman general to conquer and pacify the region. Over time the influence from Greek civic culture was strongly felt in the cities but unlike in the cities of Asia and Bithynia, where Greek culture had dominated urban life for centuries, Greek culture was just another element in a cultural pattern, where the Iranian and Anatolian culture as well as Roman legal and social norms played other key roles.

SESSION 4: EXCAVATIONS REPORTS

Keynote: Prof. Iulian Bîrzescu,

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‘New Finds and Current Approaches to the Archaeology of the Black Sea Region in Antiquity, 2010-2015’

Speaker 1: Dott. Daniela Stoyanova

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‘New Data about Archaic Stone Architectural Decoration in Apollonia Pontica’

In 2009, the archaeological investigations on the island of St. Kirik near Sozopol were renewed after an interruption of 80 years. The results confirmed that the island was an essential part of Apollonia Pontica since the foundation of the colony. In the end of the 7th c. BC, here emerged a residential and manufacturing quarter with a sacred area in the northeastern part of the settlement. In the late 6th c. BC, a major reorganization of the space led to the creation of a monumental *temenos*, related to the worship of Apollo Ietros. The present paper will summarize the evidence for monumental structures with architectural decoration in the *temenos*. Until now, the foundations of a temple *in antis* and of three altars have been unearthed *in situ* in the *temenos*. In addition, there are numerous fragments of limestone and marble elements of the order decoration of the temple and the altars. Of particular importance are the fragments of marble decoration with astragal, Ionic cymation, and frieze of alternating palmettes and lotus flowers, belonging to an altar that remains unidentified on the terrain. Isolated pieces like a marble column drum and an unfinished Ionic capital provide grounds to presume the existence of other monumental building(s) in the *temenos*. The high quality of execution and the imported marble suggest the work of skilled artisans and allow for placing these elements in the context of other Archaic monuments with architectural decoration in Ionia and the Milesian colonies in the Black Sea.

Speaker 2: Prof. Denis Zhuravlev

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‘Greek colonization on the Taman peninsula: new results’

A research project focused on Greek Colonization (early 6th to 5th century BC) on the Taman Peninsula was created in 2006 by the State Historical Museum Moscow and the Eurasia Department of the German Archaeological Institute. The geoarchaeological survey in the eastern part of the Taman Peninsula brought to light *the* second navigable straight. This sea passage, which was used as *the* second waterway from the Black Sea to the Sea of Azov, east of the well-known Cimmerian Bosphorus, was named the »Kuban Bosphorus by our team . For the Greeks it was probably just the second arm of the Bosphorus. This earlier waterway is completely silted up today by sediments brought by the river Kuban. During the surveys several settlements were investigated. We can present a system of settlement development and their structures from the Late Archaic to the Roman periods (Solenyi 3; Akhtanizovskaya 1). Many different deposits were unearthed during the archaeological investigations on the settlement Golubitskaya 2 (more than 2000 sq. meters were already excavated). This fortification of a “rampart-and-ditch”-type, which was the landward defence line of a fortified nearly triangular settlement of 7.2 ha, had several phases of development. The earliest one *is* dated to the 3rd quarter of the 6th century BC – now it is the earliest fortification on the Bosphorus. During last years remains of some living structures were discovered, as well as household objects. Among the most important finds *there* is the pit with an amphorae store, consisting of 16 complete vessels of the second part of the 5th century BC. Traces of bronze-making production of the last quarter of the 6th century were opened in the nearest pit. In the rural settlement Strelka 2 we discovered the remains of another fortification system. The earliest phase belongs to the late 6th century, *the* first stone structures appeared in the late 5th century BC. Traces of a great fire with destructions as well as finds of bronze arrowheads illustrate some tragedy pages in the history of the inhabitants of this settlement.

Speaker 3: Dott. Alexandre Baralis

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Dott. Vasilica Lungu

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‘Colonizing the Southern Sectors of the Danubian Delta: the Settlement of Caraburun-Atchik Suhat’

Located between the Greek cities of Orgame and Istros, on the southern shore of the Golovița Laguna, the site of Caraburun-Atchik Suhat started to be studied in 2010 thanks to new photo-aerial analysis launched in the framework of an overall program devoted to the

Greek colonization in the lower sectors of the Danubian delta. Its political status, still unknown, remains strictly connected with the chronology of the expansion of the Istrian territory. Caraburun belongs to a long chain of Greek settlements, which help us understand the settlers' strategies in this specific environment at the early stages of the Greek presence in the Black Sea area. The multidisciplinary program, including geomorphological and palynological analysis, led by the Louvre Museum and the Institute of South-Eastern European Studies (Romanian Academy), makes possible to reconstitute the evolution of this paleoenvironmental context, which was impacted by the dynamics of the nearby Danube. A campaign of geomagnetic and georadar survey has provided us with a first overview on the urban organization of this settlement, characterized as 'Greek' due to the consumption pattern of its inhabitants, as revealed by the ceramic, macrobiological and paleozoological sets. By comparing these results to studies on Getic settlements located in the same area, this analysis enables us to understand the inclusion of the Greek settlers in the regional exchange networks, as well as in the local settlement pattern, outlining in turn the main features of this original and unexpected colonial landscape.

Speaker 4: Dott. Margarit Damyanov

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'Spatial Developments in the Necropolis of Apollonia Pontica, 5th to 3rd cent. BC'

The paper will be dedicated to the development of the large necropolis that took shape to the south of Apollonia mainly in the course of the 5th c. BC, covering by early in the following century a two-kilometers-long strip of land along an ancient road. The accumulation of new data dispels the impression about a one-time creation of a new necropolis, but rather allows for distinguishing several stages of enlargement. New excavations in Harmanite neighbourhood of present-day Sozopol, less than a kilometer away from the ancient town, revealed burials starting shortly after 500 BC. Further south, the published excavations in the 1940s and new investigations reveal a large part of the necropolis that emerged along the beach (Kalfata locality) probably already before the middle 5th c. BC, while still further south, on the higher rocky shore (Budzhaka locality), the earliest graves appeared in the last decades of the century. In an attempt to trace this spatial development, the paper will focus on selected groups of finds, published and unpublished, that provide information about the earliest burials at several sites, investigated in different parts of the necropolis. It will also try to elucidate the chronology of the abandonment of this large Apollonian cemetery in the course of the 3rd c. BC, identifying the latest possible materials.

In the end, the paper will discuss some general topographical issues of the necropolis of Apollonia, like the emergence of groups of tumuli at prominent sites in the 4th c. BC, possibly related to concerns about 'visibility'.

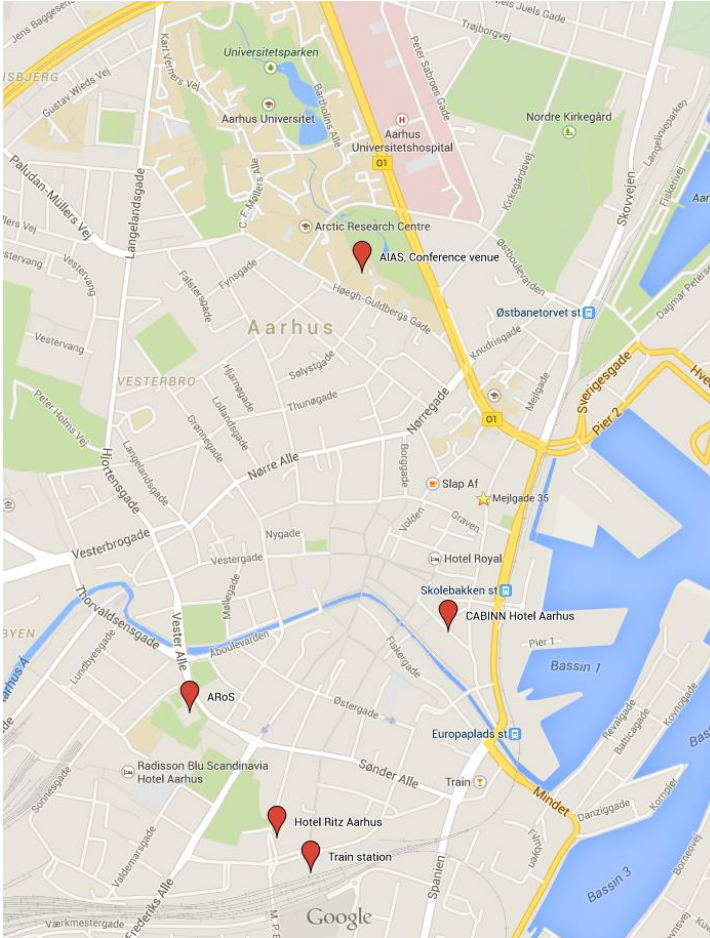
Speaker 5: Prof. Krastina Panayotova, Prof. Maria Reho, Dr. Margarit Damyanov

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'Cremations in the Necropolis of Apollonia Pontica: Patterns of Distribution in Space and Time'

In the last 15 years, intensive regular and rescue excavations in the Classical and Early Hellenistic necropolis of Apollonia Pontica led to the accumulation of a huge amount of data about the organization of the necropolis, the burial customs and the accompanying practices. The observations on the distribution of 4th and 3rd c. BC cremations (almost exclusively secondary) revealed certain peculiarities: such graves tend to be clustered in certain parts of the necropolis, while in other they could be entirely absent. In the same time, cremations were never predominant, even at sites where they are relatively more numerous (reaching up to 15 percent of the graves). Combined with the existing evidence of family plots, these data suggest the existence of groups in the population of the polis that for some reasons and in some cases adopted different practices. The aim of the present paper is to provide an initial overview of the available data about cremation graves, with an attempt to map major groupings on the territory of the necropolis. It shall also discuss the chronological distribution of these graves: to trace the emergence of the custom and to try to distinguish periods of greater popularity. For this reason, special attention will be paid to red-figure vases (kraters, hydriae, and amphorae) that served as cinerary urns and could be dated with more precision. Other groups of containers that were used for the purpose will be discussed as well.

CONFERENCE MAP



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