



**28TH EAA ANNUAL MEETING
BUDAPEST, HUNGARY
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ABSTRACT BOOK

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28th EAA Annual Meeting (Budapest, Hungary, 2022) – Abstract Book

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**28TH EAA ANNUAL MEETING
(BUDAPEST, HUNGARY, 2022)**

ABSTRACT BOOK

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Theme: 3. The Carpathian Basin: Integration, Mobility and Diversity

Organisers: Szenthe, Gergely (Hungarian National Museum) - Gáll, Erwin ("Vasile Pârvan" Institute of Archaeology, Bucharest) - Bugarski, Ivan (Institute of Archaeology, Belgrade)

Format: Regular session

Local and microregional-based social and economic structures can be found at the roots of every macroregional and global power system. In historical periods, the circumstances of human life were primarily determined by these basic structures and networks, which were created by interconnected microregional centres.

We intend to investigate microregional and regional networks emerging in the Carpathian Basin and the neighbouring territories at the time of the early medieval transformation. In these geographical frames, after the collapse of the Roman limes and the short intermezzo of the Hun Empire, relatively weak formations built their own regional systems, communicating and competing with each other and the surrounding powers. One and a half centuries later, the Avar invasion unified the better part of the macroregion under one system. While certain elements of the late Roman system of "central places" seem to prevail, and there are other signs of microregional-based structures, from the late seventh century a radically new system of central zones emerged.

What kinds of social and economic opportunities helped to grow local communities and/or microregional power centres? Who or what were the catalisators of such processes? What kinds of processes drive their social and economic organisation? What were the factors preventing, helping, or even demanding cooperation between them? What kind of role did microregional centres or central areas play in structuring the surrounding area? And how could regional power reflect the problem of the presence of macroregional or global structures of considerably higher complexity?

We expect both case studies and theoretical presentations from the post-Roman period to the Middle Ages to investigate the questions of regionality, power centres, and central areas. We await contributions addressing the questions of the organization of communication, subsistence, production, redistribution of specialised craft products and strategic resources like salt, iron, and non-ferrous metals.

ABSTRACTS

1 INTERACTIONS. THE AVARS IN THE VICINITY OF VIENNA

Abstract author(s): Daim, Falko (Institute of Prehistoric and Historical Archaeology, University of Vienna; Institute of Medieval Research, Austrian Academy of Sciences) - Tobias, Bendeguz - Pohl, Walter (Institute of Medieval Research, Austrian Academy of Sciences) - Wang, Ke (Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology Leipzig) - Hofmanová, Zuzana (Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology Leipzig; Department of Archaeology and Museology, Masaryk University, Brno) - Berner, Margit - Pany-Kucera, Doris (Department of Anthropology, Natural History Museum Vienna) - Ingrová, Pavlína (Department of Archaeology and Museology, Masaryk University, Brno) - Eggers, Sabine (Department of Anthropology, Natural History Museum Vienna) - Krause, Johannes (Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology Leipzig)

Abstract format: Oral

The Avar cemeteries in the Vienna Basin, especially those of Mödling - An der goldenen Stiege and Leobersdorf, have helped to refine the chronology of Avar find types and burial customs. They also provided the impetus to rethink the successive settlement of the Avar territory. However, the analysis of archaeological and anthropological data also enabled insights into social life, forms of communication between groups of people, aspects of identity and demarcation from others, and relations with neighbouring entities to be explored. In recent years, however, with archaeogenetics booming everywhere, new data sets have been added which can be compared with archaeological-historical results. Mostly, the focus is on the "origin" of groups of people in the Avar empire, but it is now also possible to identify families, even entire family trees for individual burial communities (cemeteries) and possible relationships with people from neighbouring or even distant settlements.

The presentation will shed light on the possibilities and limits of modern archaeology, taking archaeogenetic data into account, and draw a new picture of life on the Avar country side.

2 OBERLEISERBERG - FROM SUPRA-REGIONAL TO LOCAL AND BACK AGAIN

Abstract author(s): Richards, Nina (Austrian Academy of Sciences)

Abstract format: Oral

The hill of Oberleiserberg in lower Austria, north of Vienna was an important supra-regional center in the late Roman resp. Migration period. With the beginning of the Early Middle ages, it loses its importance and one can only trace

local influences regarding material culture and archaeological remains. However with the political, social and cultural developments after the fall of the Avar Khaganate until the 10th century it regains its importance as a site where different spheres of influence - the newly established Hungarian kingdom as well as the Frankish Babenberg march and the Přemyslid Moravia - meet.

For that time an Arpadian age burial ground was excavated on the plateau of the limestone hill. The finds dating until the first half of the 11th century show best parallels in the east-alpine region/Ottonian Empire as well as in the Carpathian Basin. These finds, as well as the other nearby cemeteries with "mixed" inventory, suggest close contact between both realms in this border region.

Furthermore, stray finds from the plateau label the site as a central place with regional if not supraregional importance. 51 coins were found as well as a spherical weight. The coins, mint under several Hungarian kings, suggest close contact with that entity while comparable weights are most common in the Baltic region as well as Moravia. With those finds, the site of Oberleiserberg is comparable to contemporary sites like Kostice (Czech Republic) as well as the so-called productive sites in northwestern Europe.

At the end of the 11th century, the site loses its importance again.

3 "SCLAVI QUI DICUNTUR QUARANTANI" - SOCIAL SYSTEMS BETWEEN AVARS AND FRANKS

Abstract author(s): Eichert, Stefan (Natural History Museum Vienna)

Abstract format: Oral

In the Eastern Alpine region, after the end of the late Roman provincial administration, the first Slavic political structure was established, which is mentioned by name in written sources - Carantania. In the 8th century Slavic princes are described, which are Christianized and pass on the rule within a dynasty for several generations. In sum, then, a picture is conveyed that suggests a hierarchical and socially structured society on a macro-regional level.

The presented paper takes a look at written tradition, regional archaeological sources as well as theoretical concepts and discusses how, from a largely sociological point of view, the described circumstances can be interpreted.

The main archaeological sources known from this period are grave finds and, from the time of Christianization, church buildings. Overall, in terms of fashion, a strong Avar and even Byzantine influence is evident, while in military matters Frankish aspects predominate.

How can regional groups be interpreted on the basis of burial grounds and church buildings, and what is the relationship between the observed conditions and those conveyed in written sources for the eastern Alpine region?

4 SPACE USE IN SYRMIA DURING THE MIGRATION AND AVAR PERIODS

Abstract author(s): Bugarski, Ivan (Institute of Archaeology, Belgrade)

Abstract format: Oral

Although there is no general agreement on what geographic area constitutes Central Europe, Syrmia should certainly be considered its part. Lying between the Danube and Sava rivers, this history-soaked land used to be the northern fringe of the Roman Empire and, later on, the southernmost possession of the Avars. This region had been named after one of its few cities, the Late Roman capital of Sirmium, the birth-place of several emperors and home to many martyrs. By the beginning of the fifth century, the city started to lose its importance, and at the time of Attila Sirmium lost its administrative status. After the fall of the Hunnic Empire, Syrmia was controlled by the Ostrogoths, who would gradually leave for Italy. In 510 the Romans had to accept that the whole of Syrmia was Ostrogothic, except for its southeastern corner with the city of Bassianae, but already around 512 Emperor Anastasius settled the Heruls there. The Gepids, with short interruptions, held Sirmium for almost a century, from 474 to 567, when the Avars established their rule in the Carpathian Basin. In the course of more than a century, including the time of Justinian, who was unable to restore the rule to what it was before the barbarian settlement, the way of life and space use in Syrmia underwent significant changes, and it seems that the crisis was further deepened with the arrival of the Avars. Quite paradoxically with respect to all their efforts to capture Sirmium, which they finally did in 582, the Avars seem not to have settled Syrmia on a large scale. We know fewer than ten sites that produced Early Avar finds, while in the Late Avar period this number was doubled. Some of these finds testify to supra-regional trade.

5 BEYOND THE STRUCTURES: THE PROBLEM OF LACK OF BURIAL SITES IN EASTERN TRANSYLVANIA, NORTHERN-MUNTENIA AND -OLTENIA (7/8–10TH CENTURIES)

Abstract author(s): Erwin, Gáll (Institute of Archaeology) - Hőgyes, Mihály Huba (Székely National Museum)

Abstract format: Oral

In the scientific debates published to date, there is a huge number of contributions addressing the archaeological spectrum of burial sites in the Transylvanian Basin, Oltenia, and Muntenia from a general and comprehensive perspective, however, without taking into account regional or microregional conditions.