



# EAA 2023

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30<sup>TH</sup> AUG - 2<sup>ND</sup> SEPT 2023

# WEAVING NARRATIVES



# ABSTRACT BOOK

# 29<sup>TH</sup> EAA ANNUAL MEETING

30<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST - 2<sup>ND</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023



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## 29<sup>th</sup> EAA Annual Meeting (Belfast, Northern Ireland 2023) - Abstract Book

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**2023**

**ABSTRACT BOOK**

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evolution, as well as its relationship with the internal layout of the site. Finally, although the water supply of a fortress is considered an essential and priority requirement by the texts, only few examples of water supply outside the walls are excavated and the few known ones are in the Lower Danube.

## 7 THE END OF URBANISM? A REASSESSMENT OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE FOR URBAN DESTRUCTION ALONG THE LOWER DANUBE

**Abstract author(s):** Reed, Fraser (Independent Researcher)

**Abstract format:** Oral

The prevailing view of urbanisation along the Lower Danube is that the cities of the riparian provinces ceased to function in the late 6th and early 7th centuries. Previous scholarship has demonstrated that successive invasions by the Avars, Slavs, and Bulgars were highly destructive events that had a devastating effect on the urban landscape of Moesia Secunda and Scythia Minor and that many cities in the region were heavily damaged or even totally destroyed during this time. Consequently, it is commonly held that this resulted in the complete breakdown of urban administration along the Lower Danube. There is, however, a tendency to use the instability of the period to fill gaps in the archaeological record or explain ambiguous evidence without adequate consideration of alternative explanations.

This paper re-examines previously published archaeological evidence from select cities in Moesia Secunda to better understand the impact of the invasions of the 6th and 7th centuries on the urban landscape of the Danubian provinces. While some cities in the region were certainly sacked and ceased to function as a direct result of military action, this paper argues that this was not necessarily the case at every site. Specifically, it analyses the archaeological material from Odessus (modern Varna, Bulgaria) and Nicopolis ad Istrum (near Nikyup, Bulgaria) to present a nuanced interpretation of the role military unrest played in the decline of urban centres between the Stara Planina and Lower Danube.

## 8 THE DEFENSIVE SYSTEMS IN DACIA RIPENSIS BETWEEN THE 4TH AND 6TH CENTURIES

**Abstract author(s):** Gargano, Ivan (Archaeological Institute Belgrade)

**Abstract format:** Oral

The proposed presentation will analyze the territory of the ancient province of Dacia Ripensis. It is one of the provinces that marked the northern border of the Roman Empire and it can be said that it is one of the least known. It included a territory between present-day Serbia, Bulgaria and Romania and, from the West, this province marked the beginning of the Lower Danube region.

It is known that, starting from the end of the 3rd century, Dacia Ripensis was subjected to a militarization, and the phenomenon is reflected in the high number of fortifications that have been discovered within its borders. Archaeological investigations have been carried out only for some of them, but despite this it is possible to recognize the topographic distribution of the strongholds and the great variety of plans and adopted forms.

The purpose of the presentation is to analyze on the one hand the textual sources which clearly refer to the construction of fortresses in Dacia Ripensis, such as the epigraphs, the Codex Theodosianus and the De Aedificiis of Procopius of Caesarea. On the other hand this work is intended in order to illustrate the architectural typologies most used in the context of non-urban fortifications: turres, burgi, quadriburgia, auxilia encampments, and high ground outposts. In this regard it will be analyzed a single site for each of the listed types.

## 9 SINGIDUNUM AND ITS AREA IN LATE ROMAN AND EARLY BYZANTINE TIMES

**Abstract author(s):** Bugarski, Ivan (Institute of Archaeology, Belgrade) - Ivanišević, Vujadin (Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts)

**Abstract format:** Oral

The important Roman city and the legion's base of Singidunum was located on a dominant site overlooking the confluence of the Sava and the Danube, in the area of the later Belgrade Fortress which has witnessed many changes over the past millennia. The remains of Singidunum are therefore hardly noticeable, which is particularly true of the later phases of the city. Destroyed by the Huns in 441, the city found itself under the Sarmatian and, from 471, Ostrogothic rules, to be reclaimed by the Empire in the early 6th century, when Anastasius settled the Heruli in its area. Although the urban layout is known only roughly, the areas of the cemeteries are better researched, illustrating the shrinking of the urban area and

population changes. Dated from the end of the 4th to the beginning of the 7th century, the Singidunum III cemetery was formed above the northern edge of the former city's core; apart from Late Roman graves it also included those of the foreigners. The other three Migration-Period necropolises, dating from the middle and the second half of the fifth century, were established both in the area of the former fortress and within the settlement. Judging by their dates, the earliest Germanic graves in and around Singidunum belonged to

foederati, those from the second half of the 5th century to the ruling people, while the 6th-century burials were again those of mercenaries. Shedding some light on murky settlement processes, these dates provide us the possibility to examine how the city and this part of limes functioned in the respective periods. In this paper we will also discuss the fortress of Ad Octavum, built eight miles down the stream from Singidunum during Justinian's rule.

## 10 IT TAKES A VILLAGE TO SUPPORT A FORT: CASE STUDY OF CASTRA AD FLUVIUM FRIGIDUM (MODERN AJDOVIŠČINA, SLOVENIA)

**Abstract author(s):** Kovacic, Ana (University of Primorska) - Stemberger Flegar, Kaja (PJP d.o.o.) - Urek, Maruša (Maruša Urek s.p.)

**Abstract format:** Oral

This paper addresses the nature of the settlement surrounding the fort Castra ad Fluvium Frigidum (modern Ajdoviščina, Slovenia). The fort was part of *Claustra Alpium Iuliarum* and was strategically built in the direct vicinity of the section of *Via Gemina* between *Aquileia* and *Colonia Iulia Emona*, and protected by the confluence of the *Hubelj* river and *Lokavšček* creek.

The area is probably best known as the supposed location of the battle of Roman emperor Theodosius the Great and the army of Augustus Eugenius in AD 394, but it was settled much earlier. In the last days of the Republic or the early days of the Roman Imperium, Roman expansionistic strategy turned its focus to the territory of modern Slovenia. After the annexation of the area and the construction of the road in the Augustan period, a coach station was built on the way from *Aquileia* and *Emona*. Next to the station, a settlement gradually developed. Together, they were initially known as *Fluvio Frigido* and later as *Mutatio Castra*, as indicated in several Roman itineraries and other ancient written sources. Sometime between AD 270 and AD 290, the settlement was partially demolished and the fortress *Castra* was built.

We argue that the settlement initially grew around the coach station during the *Pax Romana*. But with changing politics, the gradual decline of towns towards the East, and the contemporary construction of the fort, the settlement shifted to supporting the military garrison that was most likely permanently stationed in the fort.

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## 456 SAME BUT DIFFERENT: IMITATIONS IN THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORD

**Session theme:** 1. Artefacts, Buildings & Ecofacts

**Session organisers:** Kogalniceanu, Raluca (Vasile Pârvan Institute of Archaeology; Institute of Bioarchaeological and Ethnocultural Research, Chişinău) - Gaydarska, Bisserka (Durham University)

**Session format:** Regular session

In archaeology, imitations can be discussed from various angles. Most often the discussions are framed either as imitations vs. imports (with impact on discussions about chronology) or as imitations in the context of new materials and technologies. Although these two approaches are extremely interesting, imitations in archaeological record can be a much more versatile topic.

What if neither the materials, nor the technologies involved are new? What about the imitations inside the same cultural and/or chronological framework? What does this type of imitation tell us? Can we always say which is the model and which is the copy? Are imitations copies or fakes of the time? Can miniaturization be considered a type of imitation? Do imitations fulfill a functional or a symbolic role?

In short, we identified so far:

- imitations that preserve the functional role (e.g. marble vs. Spondylus beads and bracelets, deer canine beads vs. their correspondent in other materials, stone/obsidian blades vs. flint ones, etc.) and others that are merely symbolic, such as dummy stone axes in graves (stones imitating the shape of an axe)
- imitations at the same scale, but in different materials (marble vs. Spondylus beads and bracelets, deer canine beads vs. their correspondent in other materials, stone/obsidian blades vs. flint ones)
- imitations at a smaller scale in the same (such as miniature vessels) or in different material (such as miniature houses, stools, etc., figurines); can we look at these last examples as imitations of reality?

Starting with cases from the archaeological record, we would like to expand the discussion beyond the surface, and to look at what can be defined as imitation and why, and also for the reasons and purposes that led to the existence of particular cases of imitations. We invite contributions from all periods and areas across Europe.