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АМЕРИКАНСКИ НАУЧЕН ЦЕНТЪР – СОФИЯ
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ARCS READINGS IN ARCHAEOLOGY AND THEORY Spring 2016

Description and goals: Continuing on a tradition established by D. Graninger (ARCS Director, 2010-2012), the seminar aims to provide a forum where ARCS Fellows and scholars from the archaeological community in Sofia can discuss recent issues in theoretical archaeology. The environment that we seek to create is based on equality, cooperation, and intellectual curiosity.

Format: Readings will be assigned in advance of the seminar meeting and will be circulated by email. It is expected that every participant will complete the reading and will come with questions, problems, and ideas to discuss in the seminar. There will be a discussion leader for each session; this individual will begin with a 10 min. presentation which frames the major problems posed by the readings and suggests possible topics for discussion. After this introduction, however, the burden (and privilege) of discussion falls equally upon all members of the seminar.

Topics: Each seminar will focus on a particular topic. Possible topics include, and are not limited to: archaeology and memory, archaeology of frontiers and ethnicity, mortuary practice and society, archaeology of war and weapons, archaeology of cult. Since participants in the seminar will have a range of diverse research interests and specializations in the field of archaeology, every effort will be made to select readings which have the broadest possible potential range of application.

Participants: The seminar is open to ARCS Fellows and all scholars who pursue research in the field of archaeology (broadly construed). Advanced and motivated graduate students in archaeology, history, and related fields, are also invited to attend. Previous experience with archaeological theory is not required or expected.

Language: The primary language of the seminar will be English.

Frequency and location: Unless otherwise noted, seminars will be held on Wednesdays between **3.30-5.30 pm** at the American Research Center in Sofia, 75 Vasil Petleshkov St (see schedule for details).

Please contact Dr. Emil Nankov, Academic Director of ARCS, at ehn2@cornell.edu to express interest in participating in this seminar.

SPRING SCHEDULE

February 24

Topic: Historiographic trends in Bulgarian archaeology, then and now (discussion leader: E. Nankov)

Readings:

- Todorova, M. 1992. "Historiography of the Countries of Eastern Europe: Bulgaria", *American Historical Review*, 1105-1117.
Bailey, D. 1998. "Archaeology as Socio-politics: Practice and Ideology in Bulgaria", In: Meskell, L. (ed.) *Archaeology Under Fire: Nationalism, Politics and Heritage in the Eastern Mediterranean and Middle East*. London: Routledge, 87-110.
Stoyanov, T., Lozanov, I. 2006. Thracian and Classical Archaeology in Bulgaria in the Years of Transition (An attempt of review). - e-journal *Anamnesis*, 1, 1-13

March 10

Topic: Nationalism and ethnic phenomena and their implications in archaeology (discussion leader: A. Panaite)

Readings:

- Niculescu, Gh. A. 2011. "Culture-Historical Archaeology and the Production of Knowledge on Ethnic Phenomena," *Dacia* LV, 5-24.
Curta, F. 2014. "An Hesitating Journey Through Foreign Knowledge": Niculescu, The Ostrich, And Culture History, *Arheologia Moldovei*, XXXVII, 299-306.

March 30

Topic: Borderlands and frontiers (discussion leader: M. Marcos)

Readings:

- Parker, B. 2006. "Toward an Understanding of Borderland Processes," *American Antiquity* 71: 77-100.

April 13

Topic: Agency in archaeology (discussion leader: Ch. Mielke)

Readings:

- Dornan, J. 2002. Agency and Archaeology: Past, Present and Future Directions. *Journal of archaeological Method and Theory* 9/4, 303-329.
Lindenlauf, A. 2004. Dirt, Cleanliness and Social Structure. In: Gardner, A. (ed.) *Agency Uncovered: Archaeological Perspectives on Social Agency, Power and Being Human*. London, 81-105.
Shanks, M., Tilley, Ch. 1987. *Reconstructing Archaeology. Theory and Practice*. London & New York, (Chapter 8), 172-240.

April 27

Topic: Distribution and social stratification (discussion leader: G. Burnaski)

Readings:

- Lenski, G. 1984. *Power and Privilege. A Theory of Social Stratification*. University of North Carolina Press, (Chapters 3&4).