**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:


**March 10**

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

Readings:


**March 30**

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

Readings:

**April 13**

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

Readings:


**April 27**

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

Readings: