



SOUTH WEST UNIVERSITY NEOFIT RILSKI  
RESEARCH CENTER FOR ANCIENT EUROPEAN  
AND EAST-ERN MEDITERRANEAN CULTURES

**SECOND INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM**

*Megalithic Monuments and  
Cult Practices*

*PROGRAMME*

October 12-15, 2016

**12<sup>th</sup> October 2016**

*Hall 114, 1st Floor, Corpus I,  
South-West University Neofit Rilski, Blagoevgrad*

12.30-13.30 **Registration and Welcome coffee**  
13.30-14.00 **Opening, welcome speeches and official greetings**

## **PLENARY SESSION**

Chairs Prof. Engin Beksaç PhD,  
Assoc. Prof. Penka Stoeva PhD

14.00-14.30 **Megalithic Monuments in Sarnena Gora, Brezovo Municipality**

Prof. Valeria Fol Dr.Sc. *University of Library Studies and Information Technologies, Bulgaria*  
Oleg Konstantinov PhD *Institute for Balkan Studies and Center of Thracology at BAS, Bulgaria*

14.30-15.00 **Dionysus in Thrace and the Wine of the Samothracian Mystery**

Prof. Carl A.P. Ruck *Boston University, USA*

15.00-15.30 **Geography, Similarity, Ethnicity: Rock-Cut Monuments and Tumuli**

Prof. Gocha R. Tsetskhladze DPhil *University of Oxford, UK*

15.30-15.45 **Discussion**

15.45-16.00 **Coffee break**

16.00-16.30 **Geological Setting and Mineralogical Variability of Prehistoric Artifacts in Megalithic Europe: Comparison between the Carnac Area in France and the Black Sea Area (Including Sakar) in Bulgaria**

Assoc. Prof. Ruslan I. Kostov Dr.Sc. *University of Mining and Geology, Bulgaria*

16.30-17.00 **Some Recently Founded Sources from South-Eastern Thrace on Thracian Religion and Thracian Cult Practices**

Prof. Mustafa Sayar PhD *University of Istanbul, Turkey*

17.00-17.15 **Discussion**

19.30 **Welcome Cocktail, University Center Bachinovo**

13<sup>th</sup> October 2016

*University Center Bachinovo*

## SESSIONS

### HISTORY OF CULTURE ANCIENT CULTURES

Chairs Prof. Kudupudi Pulla Rao PhD  
Prof. Vanya Lozaniva-Stancheva Dr.Sc

9.30-9.50 **Some Rock-Cut Cultistic Monuments from the Eastern Thrace and the Northwest Anatolia**

Prof. Engin Beksaç PhD, Assist. Prof. Mustafa Hatipler PhD, Şule Nurengin Beksaç  
*University of Thrace, Turkey*

9.50-10.10 **Cult of the Dead: Evidence from the South Indian Megaliths**

Prof. Kudupudi Pulla Rao PhD *University of Hyderabad, India*

10.10-10.30 **Monumental Rock Images of Megalithic Sanctuaries on the Balkans**

Prof. Vassil Markov Dr.Sc *South-West University, Bulgaria*

10.30-10.50 **Discussion**

10.50-11.10 **Coffee break**

11.10-11.30 **Mystery of Creation: to the Interpretation of an Orphic Cup**

Prof. Vanya Lozaniva-Stancheva Dr.Sc *Institute for Balkan Studies and Center of Thracology at BAS, Bulgaria*

11.30-11.50 **Sacred in Cultural History: Naturalization and Personification**

Prof. Nonka Bogomilova Dr.Sc *Institute for the Study of Societies and Knowledge at BAS, Bulgaria*

11.50-12.10 **Some Publicist Notions about Images on Rock-Cut and Megalithic Monuments from Ancient Thrace**

Prof. Ivan Todorov PhD *University of Veliko Tarnovo, Bulgaria*

12.10-12.30 **Discussion**

12.30-13.30 **Lunch**

Chairs Assist. Prof. Irina Shopova PhD  
Assist. Prof. Alexander Portalsky PhD

13.30-13.50 **Megalithic Monuments in Karachi, Sindh (Pakistan)**

Assist. Prof. Zulfiqar Ali Kalhoro PhD *Pakistan Institute of Development Economics, Pakistan*

13.50-14.10 **Euboea Island and the Transformation of the Late Bronze Age to the Early Iron Age - Politics and Religious Objects**

Assist. Prof. Alexander Portalski PhD *South-West University, Bulgaria*

14.10-14.30 **Prethracian Cult Places in Thracia**

Assist. Prof. Irina Shopova PhD *Institute for Balkan Studies and Center of Thracology at BAS, Bulgaria*

14.30-14.50 **Discussion**

14.50-15.10 **Coffee break**

15.10-15.30 **The Megalithic Sanctuary of Pastolov Kamak near Strelcha – Structure and Possible Interpretations**

Nikoleta Petkova PhD Candidate *South-West University, Bulgaria*

15.30-15.50 **Discovery of a New Type of Megalith in Sredna Gora Mountain, Bulgaria**

Martin Konstantinov PhD Candidate *Institute for the Study of Societies and Knowledge to the BAS, Bulgaria*

15.50-16.10 **Lilac Sanctuary with Megalithic Stele – an Example for Promoting the Megalithic Cultural Heritage at the Heart of the Sredna Gora Mountain**

Petya Dimova PhD Candidate *University of Library Studies and Information Technologies, Bulgaria*

16.10-16.30 **Discussion**

16.30-17.00 **Closing session with all participants**

# ARCHAEOLOGY

Chairs Assoc. Prof. Alexey Gotsev PhD  
Katerina Peristeri PhD

9.30-9.50 **Les fouilles récentes du tumulus Kastan et le lion d' Amphipolis (2012-2014)**

Katerina Peristeri PhD *Ephorate of Antiquities of Serres, Greece*

9.50-10.10 **Objects of Everyday Life and their Ritual Dimension from Prehistoric Settlements in the Struma Valley**

Malgorzata Grębska-Kulow PhD *Regional Historical Museum Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria*  
Brent Whitford MA *Trent University, Canada*

10.10-10.30 **Late Chalcolithic Ceramic Figurines from Rock Sanctuary Belantash near Asenovgrad**

Martin Hristov *National Historical Museum, Bulgaria*

10.30-10.50 **Discussion**  
10.50-11.10 **Coffee break**

11.10-11.30 **The Cult Places at Northern Propontis and Gallipoli Peninsula (Thracian Chersonese) Of Turkish Thracia**

Prof. Zeynep Koçel Erdem PhD *Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University, Turkey*

11.30-11.50 **Phrygian Rock-Cut Monuments: Some Debatable Issues**

Assoc. Prof. Maya Vassileva PhD *New Bulgarian University, Bulgaria*

11.50-12.10 **The "Hidden" Megaliths in the Sredna Gora Mountain. A Look at the Rock Sanctuaries - Submound Temples Relationship in the Area of Starosel, Hisar Municipality**

Assoc. Prof. Ivan Hristov PhD *National Museum of History, Bulgaria*

12.10-12.30 **Discussion**  
12.30-13.30 **Lunch**

Chairs Prof. Zeynep Koçel Erdem PhD  
Assoc. Prof. Maya Vassileva PhD

13.30-13.50 **Some Problems Connected with the Study of Megalithic Sanctuaries in our Land**

Assoc. Prof. Alexey Gotsev PhD *National Archaeological Institute and Museum at BAS, Bulgaria*

13.50-14.10 **Cave Sanctuary Haramiiska Dupka in the Rhodope Mountains**

Hristina Valchanova - Independent Researcher, *Bulgaria*

14.10-14.30 **A Bronze Age Fortress in Subcarpatian Area**

Daniel Costache-Bolocan PhD *Museum of Buzău County, Romania*

14.30-14.50 **Discussion**

14.50-15.10 **Coffee break**

15.10-15.30 **A Particular Type of Bronze Age Enclosures in Eastern Romania**

Roxana Munteanu PhD *Buzău County Museum, Romania*

15.30-15.50 **New Considerations Concerning the Findings in Brasov-Blumăna: „Field of Pits” or Necropolis?**

Dăvîncă Diana-Crina PhD *Institute of Archaeology „Vasile Pârvan” Bucharest*  
Savu Lucica-Olga Phd Student *Braşov History County Museum*

15.50-16.10

**Front Plates and Openings of Thracian Dolmens: Typology and Analysis**

Yanko Dinchev MA *Plovdiv University*

16.10-16.30 **Discussion**

16.30-17.00 **Closing session with all participants**

# ETHNOLOGY

Chairs Prof. Evie Holmberg PhD  
Christina Marangou PhD

9.30-9.50 **The Dionysian Cult and Initiation into Altered States of Consciousness**

Prof. Evie Holmberg PhD *Hellenic College, USA*

9.50-10.10 **Terebinth and Transgression: A Fresh Look at the Ancient Akedah**

Assoc. Prof. Dorothy Abram PhD *Johnson & Wales University, USA*

10.10-10.30 **The Thracian Political Culture Emergence and Change: An Agent-Based Simulation Modelling Approach**

Assoc. Prof. Camelia Florela Voinea PhD *University of Bucharest, Romania*

10.30-10.50 **Discussion**  
10.50-11.10 **Coffee break**

11.10-11.30 **The Ancient Cult of the Stone – the Megalith “Mushroom” from Dzhuvantzi**

Assoc. Prof. Angel Yankov PhD *Regional Ethnographic Museum – Plovdiv, Bulgaria*

11.30-11.50 **Ethnographic Research on the Continuous Use of Ancient Unorthodox Religious Centers**

Assist. Prof. Dimitriya Spasova PhD *South-West University, Bulgaria*

11.50-12.10 **Local Knowledge and Megaliths in Sliven Region**

Vladimir Demirev PhD *Regional Historical Museum Sliven, Bulgaria*

12.10-12.30 **Discussion**  
12.30-13.30 **Lunch**

Chairs Assoc. Prof. Dorothy Abram PhD  
Assist. Prof. Dimitriya Spasova PhD

13.30-13.50 **The Stone - Faith and Beliefs from Bratsigovo**

Georgi Mishev PhD *Plovdiv University, Bulgaria*

- 13.50-14.10 **On-going Research at Myrina Kastro, Lemnos Island: Current Matters and Points at Issue**  
Christina Marangou PhD, *Greece*
- 14.10-14.30 **The «Μητροῶ» of the acropolis St. George to the village Petrota of Prefecture Rodope**  
Stavros Kiotsekoglou PhD Candidate, *Greece*
- 14.30-14.50 **Discussion**  
14.50-15.10 **Coffee break**
- 15.10-15.30 **Megalithic and Roc-Cut Monuments as Ritual Structures Related to Notion of Life and Death and Belief in Eternal Life and Rebirth**  
Assist. Prof. Anton Genov PhD Candidate *South-West University, Bulgaria*
- 15.30-15.50 **Re-signification of Thracian Cultural Elements in Culture - Contact and Identity Building Processes**  
Anna Gasparetto *Ca' Foscari University, Italy*
- 15.50-16.10 **Ancient Ritual Places and Pornography**  
Konstantinos Maritsas - Independent scholar, *Greece*
- 16.10-16.30 **Discussion**  
16.30-17.00 **Closing session with all participants**



# ARCHAEOASTRONOMY. GEOARCHAEOLOGY AND ARCHAEOMINERALOGY

Chairmen Assoc. Prof. Yavor Shopov PhD  
Emília Pásztor PhD

9.30-9.50 **Death and Cosmology Solar Symbols in Middle Bronze Age Burial Ritual**

Emília Pásztor PhD *Türr István Museum, Hungary*

9.50-10.10 **Eneolithic Projection System for Astronomical Observations on the Territory of Megalithic Sanctuary near the Village of Kovil (Municipality of Krumovgrad, Kurdzhali District)**

Assoc. Prof. Penka Stoeva PhD, Assoc. Prof. Alexey Stoev PhD *Institute for Space Research and Technology at BAS, Bulgaria*  
Assist. Prof. Mina Spasova PhD *Institute for the Study of Societies and Knowledge to the BAS, Bulgaria*

10.10-10.30

**The Relation of Bronze Age Solar and Moon Symbols to Atmospheric Phenomena**

Emília Pásztor PhD *Türr István Museum, Hungary*

10.30-10.50

**Discussion**

10.50-11.10

**Coffee break**

11.10-11.30

**Menhirs in Bulgaria and on the Balkans - Problems and Presence**

Assoc. Prof. Lyubomir Tsonev PhD *Institute of Solid State Physics at BAS, Bulgaria*

11.30-11.50

**Laser 3D Scanning of Rock-Cut Niches at the Shan Kaya Site in the Eastern Rhodopes with Notes on their Morphology**

Krassimir Andonov, Milush Blagoev, Assoc. Prof. Ruslan I. Kostov Dr.Sc. *University of Mining and Geology, Bulgaria*

11.50-12.10

**Integrated Geo-Information System (Gis) and Megalithic Monuments Databases: Quantity and Quality of the Parameters**

Assoc. Prof. Penka Maglova, Prof. Petar Getzov Dr.Sc., Prof. Garo Mardossian Dr.Sc., Assoc. Prof. Alexey Stoev PhD *Institute for Space Research and Technology at BAS, Bulgaria*

12.10-12.30	<b>Discussion</b>
12.30-13.30	<b>Lunch</b>
Chairs	Assoc. Prof. Ruslan I. Kostov Dr.Sc. Assoc. Prof. Penka Stoeva PhD
13.30-13.50	<b>Megalithic Monuments in the Western Rhodopes and their Possible Connection with the Calendar System of Ancient Bulgarians</b>  Assoc. Prof. Yavor Shopov PhD <i>Institute of Ancient Civilizations, Bulgaria; Sofia University Bulgaria</i>
13.50-14.10	<b>The Scythian Dionysius Exiguus and His Invention of Anno Domini</b>  Sepp Rothwangl <i>Calendersign, Austria</i>
14.10-14.30	<b>Some Examples of Rock-Cut Structures from South-Western Bulgaria</b>  Miroslav Ivanov, Georgi Manolev <i>South-West University, Bulgaria</i> Brent Whitford MA <i>Trent University, Canada</i>
14.30-14.50	<b>Sun God and Mother Goddess Sanctuary near the Danube River</b>  Evgeny Koev – HT “Dr. V. Beron”, <i>Veliko Tarnovo, Bulgaria</i>
14.50-15.10	<b>Discussion</b>
16.30-17.00	<b>Closing session with all participants</b>

## Poster Session

10.30-16.30

### **The Phenomenon of Ritual Pits as one of the Earliest and most Enduring Aspects of Religious Communication**

Assoc. Prof. Aleksandar Bulatović PhD *Institute of Archaeology, Serbia*

### **Some Rock-Cut Churches from the Eastern Thrace**

Asst. Prof. Ozkan Ertugrul PhD *University Of Thrace, Turkey*  
Önder Özturk *Director Of The Museum Of Tekirdag, Turkey*

### **On Mounds and Mountains. “Megalithic Behaviours” in the Bom Santo Cave, Montejunto Mountain (Lisbon, Portugal)**

Assist. Prof. António Faustino Carvalho PhD *University of Algarve, Portugal*

### **Gravierte „fantastische“ Tierbilder auf der kolchischen Axt**

Prof. Nino Sulava Dr.Sc *Georgian National Museum, Georgia*

### **Peculiarity of Functioning of the Ural Megalithic Monuments as Cult Objects**

Prof. Tamila Potemkina Dr.Sc *Russian Academy of Sciences, Russia*

### **Geology, Geomorphology and Geophysical Fields in the Region of Rock-Cut Monuments and Megaliths in Bulgaria**

Assoc. Prof. Alexey Stoev PhD, Assoc. Prof. Penka Maglova PhD, Assoc. Prof. Boiko Rangelov PhD, Prof. Garo Mardossian, Boyan Benev – PhD Candidate *Institute for Space Research and Technology at BAS, Bulgaria*

### **Aerospace Monitoring of the State of the Megalithic Rock-Cut Monuments in Bulgaria - Detectors and Key Indicators**

Assoc. Prof. Alexey Stoev PhD, Prof. Petar Getzov Dr.Sc, Prof. Garo Mardossian Dr.Sc, Assoc. Prof. Penka Maglova PhD  
*Institute for Space Research and Technology at BAS, Bulgaria*

## **Megalithic Monuments: Geometry, Modules, Categories**

Assist. Prof. Mina Spasova PhD *Institute for the Study of Societies and Knowledge to the BAS, Bulgaria*

Assoc. Prof. Alexey Stoev PhD, Assoc. Prof. Penka Maglova PhD *Institute for Space Research and Technology at BAS, Bulgaria*

## **Bird Symbolism of the Bronze Age Carpathian Basin and its Possible Relation to Shamanism**

Emília Pásztor PhD *Türr István Museum, Hungary*

## **Bronze Age Depots as Markers for Sacred Animistic Landscape?**

Emília Pásztor PhD *Türr István Museum, Hungary*

## **Great Salbyk Barrow – Biggest of the Megalithic Monument In Siberia**

Prof. Leonid Sergeevich Marsadolov PhD *The State Hermitage Museum, Russia*

## **Megalithic Monuments in Greece**

Myrsini Spegis, Minas Papageorgiou, George Gousgounis *Pytheas Team - a member of Hellenic Society of Metaphysics, Greece*

## **Megalithic Culture as a Phenomenon of Cultural Tourism in Bulgaria**

Assist. Prof. Mina Spasova PhD *Institute for the Study of Societies and Knowledge to the BAS, Bulgaria*

Assoc. Prof. Penka Maglova PhD *Institute for Space Research and Technology at BAS, Bulgaria*

Assoc. Prof. Svetla Dimitrova PhD *Architectural Ethnographic Complex "Etar", Bulgaria*

Assoc. Prof. Alexey Stoev PhD *Institute for Space Research and Technology at BAS, Bulgaria*

## **14<sup>th</sup> October 2016**

**8.30 – 18.00 Scientific Excursion to Rock-Cut and Megalithic Monuments in the Valley of the Mesta River**

**8.00 Departure from University Center Bachinovo**

During our tour we will see: Thracian megalithic sanctuary Gradishteto; Roman town Nikopolis ad Nestum /where are visible Thracian megalithic sanctuaries Lyaski Vrah, Oreliak, Pilentzeto, Ostretz/; Historical museum of Gotse Delchev; Megalithic sanctuaries in Momin Prohod; Thracian megalithic sanctuaries Mitrovitza and Osenovska Svatba /where are visible the sacred territory of Popovo lake and Thracian megalithic sanctuary Kara Kaya/.

**18.00 Return at University Center Bachinovo**

## **15<sup>th</sup> October 2016**

Departure

Note: Organizers preserve the right to make alterations to the program