

SOUTH-WEST UNIVERSITY "NEOFIT RILSKI"
UNIVERSITY RESEARCH CENTER FOR
ANCIENT EUROPEAN AND EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN
CULTURES

Third International Symposium

Megalithic Monuments and Cult Practices

8th-9th September 2020

Dedicated to the 60th Birthday of Prof. DSc. Vasil Markov

PROGRAMME

The Symposium is supported by National Scientific Program "Cultural and Historical Heritage, National Memory and Social Development" – Ministry of Education and Science, Republic of Bulgaria



8th September 2020

Note: Eastern European Summer Time (EEST), UTC +3

9.00 Opening, welcome speeches and official greetings

HISTORY OF CULTURE. ANCIENT CULTURES

Chair Prof. Vasil Markov DSc.

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| 9.10 - 9.30
Live online
participation | The Megalithic Solar Door with a Solar Disk in the Context of the Sredna Gora Megaliths and Rock-Cut Sanctuaries. Web based Interactive Map
Prof. Valeria Fol DSc. - <i>University of Library Studies and Information Technologies, Bulgaria</i>
Chief Assist. Prof. Oleg Konstantinov PhD - <i>Sofia University, Bulgaria</i> |
| 9.30 - 9.50
Live online
participation | In the Guidance of the Sacred Rocks and the Sacred Caves: Some Rock-Cut Monuments and some Caves from the Eastern Thrace and the Northwest Anatolia
Prof. Engin Beksaç PhD - <i>University of Thrace, Turkey</i> |
| 9.50 - 10.10
Live online
participation | Megaliths in Morocco: On why Mezora would be one of the Keys to Understanding Prehistoric Social Mobility in North Africa
Prof. José Nicolás Balbi - <i>Secretaria de Cultura y Educación, Buenos Aires, Argentina; Colchester Archaeological Group, UK</i>
Isabella Leone - <i>Italian Society of Archaeoastronomy, Italy</i> |
| 10.10 - 10.30 | Discussion |

Chair Prof. Vanya Lozanova-Stancheva DSc.

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| 10.30 - 10.50
Pre-recorded
video
participation | Sacred Territory Around Popovo Lake in Pirin Mountain and the Famous Sanctuary of Dionysus-Sabazius in Ancient Thrace
Prof. Vasil Markov DSc. - <i>South-West University, Bulgaria</i> |
| 10.50 - 11.10
Pre-recorded
video
participation | The Apotheosis of the Divine Claudius: On the Emperor's Lethal Meal of Mushrooms
Prof. Carl A.P. Ruck PhD - <i>Boston University, USA</i> |

11.10 - 11.30 **Pre-Christian Reminiscences from the Cult of Emperor Constantine I the Great**
Live online participation
Prof. Vanya Lozanova-Stancheva DSc. – *Institute for Balkan Studies and Center of Thracology at Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Bulgaria*

11.30 - 11.50 **Discussion**

Chair Prof. Engin Beksaç PhD

11.50 - 12.10 **The Toponyms "The Black Rock" and "The Black Stone" and two Emblematic Examples of Open-Air Sanctuaries from Western Rhodopes-Bulgaria**
Live online participation
Chief Assist. Prof. Anton Genov PhD - *South-West University, Bulgaria*

12.10 - 12.30 **The Megalithic Sanctuary near the Village of Dolno Dryanovo, Blagoevgrad District**
Live online participation
Assoc. Prof. Metodi Manov PhD – *National Institute of Archaeology & Museum, Bulgaria*

12.30 - 12.50 **Vikings and Bulgaria during the First Bulgarian Kingdom: Megalithic Monuments indicating Viking Travels to the South-East Europe and Bulgaria**
Pre-recorded video participation
Konstantin Kolev PhD - *New Bulgarian University and Sofia University, Bulgaria*

12.50 - 13.10 **Discussion and End of session**

13.10-13.30 **Open-air Sanctuaries from the Western Rhodopes – a Digital Trip**

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ETHNOLOGY

Chair Prof. Manolis Varvounis PhD

- 13.30 - 13.50 **Worship of Sun Worship of Fire and Fertility Ceremonies in Thracian Space**
Pre-recorded video participation
Stavros Kiotsekoglou PhD, Prof. Manolis Varvounis PhD – *Demokritos University of Thrace, Greece*
- 13.50 - 14.10 **Ancient Mystical and Shamanic Vision of the Universe. The Point where Introspection and Science Meet**
Pre-recorded video participation
Prof. Evie Holmberg PhD - *Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, USA*
- 14.10 - 14.30 **On the Modern Reading of Prehistoric Calendars with Monochrome Drawings on the Territory of Bulgaria**
Live online participation
Assist. Prof. Mina Spasova PhD Institute for the Study of Societies and Knowledge at the *Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Bulgaria*
Assoc. Prof. Alexey Stoev PhD, Prof. Penka Stoeva PhD - *Institute for Space Research and Technology at Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Bulgaria*
- 14.30 - 14.50 **Discussion**

Chair Assoc. Prof. Katja Hrobat Virloget PhD

- 14.50 - 15.10 **Mythical landscape. Ethnology, Archaeology and Tourism in the Case of Rodik, Slovenia**
Live online participation
Assoc. Prof. Katja Hrobat Virloget PhD - *University of Primorska, Slovenia*
- 15.10 - 15.30 **Cave „Magurata” as a Cultural Monument and Potential to Develop Cultural Tourism**
Pre-recorded video participation
Beatris Vladimirova PhD Student - *South-West University, Bulgaria*
- 15.30 - 15.50 **The Labyrinth and the Contemporary Sacred Space**
Live online participation
Adriana Sarbova PhD – *Independent Researcher, Bulgaria*
- 15.50 - 16.10 **Methods for Visualizing Rock-Cut Sanctuaries in Southwestern Bulgaria Using Emerging Technologies**
Live online participation
Anastas Ifandiev PhD Student - *South-West University, Bulgaria*

16.10 - 16.30 **Megalithic Monuments in the Digital Environment - Opportunities and Challenges**
Live online participation
Petya Kostadinova PhD Student - *South-West University, Bulgaria*

16.30 - 16.50 **Discussion**

Chair Prof. Evie Holmberg PhD

16.50 - 17.10 **Legends of Krali Marko's Mace Associated with Peak Chuchul, Stara Planina Mountain**
Live online participation
Marin Marinov PhD Student - *South-West University, Bulgaria* **Traditional**

17.10 - 17.30 **Meteorological Beliefs Associated with the Worship of Peaks in Southwestern Bulgaria**
Live online participation
Chief Assist. Prof. Dimitriya Spasova PhD - *South-West University, Bulgaria*

17.30 - 17.50 **Ethnogenesis and Religious Myths: Balkan Projections**
Live online participation
Prof. Nonka Bogomilova DSc - *Institute for the Study of Societies and Knowledge at Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Bulgaria*

17.50 - 18.00 **Discussion and End of session**

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POSTER SESSION

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| 18.00 – 8.10 | Buzovgrad – a Hypothetical Reconstruction
Assoc. Prof. Lyubomir Tsonev PhD – <i>Institute of Solid State Physics Bulgaria at Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Bulgaria</i> |
| 18.10 – 18.20 | Water as a Key to Read the Significance of Megalithic Structures
Assoc. Prof. Elitsa Dimova PhD – <i>South-West University, Bulgaria</i> |
| 18.20 – 18.30 | Newly Found Rock Sanctuaries in the Central Rhodopes
Hristina Valchanova PhD Student - <i>South-West University, Bulgaria</i> |
| 18.30 – 18.40 | Stone Mushroom Hierophany in Ismaros – Maronia
Alexander Henning – <i>Independent Researcher, Greece</i> |
| 18.40 – 18.50 | Megalithic Culture of South Kashmir in the Light Of Recent Exploration
Abdul Adil Paray MA – <i>University of Kashmir, India</i> |

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ARCHAEOLOGY

Chair Assoc. Prof. Alexey Gotsev PhD

9.00 - 9.20 Live online participation	Rock Sanctuaries of the Pre-Greek Population on the Northern Aegean and Southern Black Sea Coasts Prof. Kalin Porozhanov DSc. - <i>South-West University, Bulgaria</i> Chief. Assist. Prof. Alexandar Portalsky PhD - <i>South-West University, Bulgaria</i>
9.20 - 9.40 Live online participation	Typological Classification and Analysis of the Kurgan Structures in Northwestern Iran, since Early Bronze Age to Iron Age III Zahra Kouzehgari PhD – <i>Lyon University for Advanced Study, France</i>
9.40 - 10.00 Live online participation	Rocky Coast-Line, Natural Place and Human Landscape: Myrina Kastro (Lemnos island, North Aegean Sea) Christina Marangou PhD - <i>Independent Researcher, Greece</i>
10.00 - 10.20	Discussion

Chair Prof. Kalin Porozhanov DSc

10.20 - 10.40 Live online participation	Megalithic Complexes of South Bulgaria - Comparative Analysis Assoc. Prof. Alexey Gotsev PhD - <i>National Institute of Archaeology and Museum at Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Bulgaria</i>
10.40 - 11.00 Live online participation	A new Look on the Dolmens in Bulgaria Petya Kirilova PhD – <i>Independent Researcher, Bulgaria</i>
11.00 – 11.20 Live online participation	Zibythides: die legitimen, von reiner Herkunft Thrakerinnen oder Thraker Assoc. Prof. Dobriela Kotova PhD – <i>Institute for Balkan Studies & Centre of Thracology at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Bulgaria</i>
11.20 - 11.40	Discussion

Chair Małgorzata Grębska-Kulow PhD

- 11.40 - 12.00
Live online participation
Stone Axes/Adzes and Storage Vessels – Evidence of Domestic Ritual at The Prehistoric Settlement of Damyanitsa
Małgorzata Grębska-Kulow PhD - *Blagoevgrad Regional Museum of History, Bulgaria*
Ivan Vajsov PhD - *National Institute of Archaeology and Museum at Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Bulgaria*
Brent Whitford - *Buffalo University, USA*
- 12.00 - 12.20
Live online participation
Two Megalithic Structures in the Region of South Pirin in the Lands of the Villages of Gaitaninovo and Paril
Nina Hadzhieva – *Blagoevgrad Regional Museum of History, Bulgaria*
- 12.20 - 12.40
Live online participation
Preservation of the Bulgarian Megalithic Heritage – Current State and Future Possibilities
Milena Lozanova – *University of Architecture, Civil Engineering and Geodesy, Bulgaria*
- 12.40 - 13.00
Legends and reality – Belantash Rock Sanctuary
Borislav Borislavov PhD – *National Institute of Archaeology and Museum at Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Bulgaria*
- 13.00 – 13.20
Discussion and End of session
- 13.20 – 13.30
Rock-cut Monuments from the Eastern Rhodopes – a Digital Trip

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ARCHAEOASTRONOMY

Chair Emilia Pasztor PhD

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| 13.30 - 13.50
Live online participation | An Archaeologist's Comments on European Prehistoric Sky Role Investigation Methodologies
Emilia Pasztor PhD - <i>Türr István Museum, Hungary</i> |
| 13.50 - 14.10
Live online participation | Observation of Heliacal Sunrises, Sunsets and Culminations of the Bright Stars from the Structures of Rock-Cut Monuments of the Eneolithic in Bulgaria
Assoc. Prof. Alexey Stoev PhD, Prof. Penka Stoeva PhD - <i>Institute for Space Research and Technology at Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Bulgaria</i>
Assist. Prof. Mina Spasova PhD - <i>Institute for the Study of Societies and Knowledge at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Bulgaria</i> |
| 14.10 - 14.30
Live online participation | On the Trail of Dolmens: the Dolmens of Edirne and Kirklareli
Prof. Engin Beksaç PhD, Assoc. Prof. Mustafa Hatipler PhD, Şule Nurengin Beksaç – <i>University of Thrace, Turkey</i> |
| 14.30 - 14.50
Live online participation | Prehistoric Solar Observatory from the Ancient City of Petrota, Hellenic Republic
Stavros Kiotsekoglou PhD - <i>Demokritos University of Thrace, Greece</i>
Assoc. Prof. Alexey Stoev PhD, Prof. Penka Stoeva PhD - <i>Institute for Space Research and Technology at Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Bulgaria</i> |
| 14.50 - 15.10
Live online participation | Projective Systems for Solar Culmination in Medieval Churches and Monasteries along the River Rusenski Lom, Bulgaria
Prof. Penka Stoeva PhD, Assoc. Prof. Alexey Stoev PhD - <i>Institute for Space Research and Technology at Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Bulgaria</i>
Evgeni Georgiev – <i>Rousse Regional Museum of History, Bulgaria</i> |
| 15.10 – 15.30 | Discussion and End of session |
| 15.30 – 15.45 | Rock-cut Sanctuaries in Western Bulgaria, Kyustendil Region – a Digital Trip |

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POSTER SESSION

- 16.00 – 16.10 **Wildfires and Megalithic Survey. Preliminary Inventory and Spatial Analysis of Neolithic to Bronze Age Mounds in the Lafões Territory (Beira Alta, Portugal)**
António F. Carvalho PhD – University of Algarve, Portugal
- 16.10 – 16.20 **A Note on Pre-Aksumite Temple Orientation**
Themis G. Dallas PhD – University of Thessaly, Greece
- 16.20 – 16.30 **Geographical Reconstruction of the Evolution of Astronomical Orientation in Space = Time Based on Stone Age Technologies**
Assoc. prof Alina Paranina PhD – Herzen State Pedagogical University, Russia
- 16.30 – 16.40 **Geological and Morphometrical Reappraisal of Rock-Cut Trapezoidal Niches in the Eastern Rhodopes, Bulgaria**
Prof. Ruslan I. Kostov DrSc - University of Mining and Geology, Bulgaria
- 16.40 – 16.50 **The Influence of Geological History of the Earth on the Changes of the Southern Coastline of the Baltic Sea During the Neolithic Period**
Joanna L. Strzelczyk – Independent Researcher, Poland
- 16.50 – 17.10 **Closing of the Symposium**