

South-West University "Neofit Rilski"  
University Research Center for Ancient  
European and Eastern Mediterranean Cultures

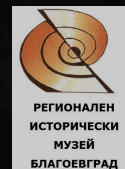
# MEGALITHIC MONUMENTS AND CULT PRACTICES

## PROGRAMME

of the Fourth International Symposium

October 10-14, 2024  
South-West University, Bulgaria

*The Symposium is supported by the South-West University project  
Fourth International Scientific Symposium Megalithic Monuments and Cult Practices*



10<sup>th</sup> October 2024

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

## OPENING SESSION

Hybrid: South-West University, Campus 1, Hall 114 & Zoom

Chair Prof. Vasil Markov, DSc

9.30-10.00 **Opening remarks, official greetings and speeches**

Live and online

## Session 1. HISTORY OF CULTURE. ANCIENT CULTURES

Hybrid: South-West University, Campus 1, Hall 114 & Zoom

Chair Prof. Vanya Lozanova-Stancheva, DSc

10.00-10.15 **Propheying from the Chasm in the Earth: Between Lesbos and Thrace**

Live and online participation

Prof. Vanya Lozanova-Stancheva, DSc. - *Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"*

10.15-10.30 **Structure, Symbolism, Cult Practices and Functions of the Thracian Rock Sanctuary "Mitrovitsa" from the Western Rhodope Mountains**

Live and online participation

Prof. Vasil Markov, DSc. - *South-West University "Neofit Rilski", Bulgaria*

10.30-10.45 **Sacred Rivers in the Ancient Eastern Mediterranean**

Live and online participation

Assist. Prof. Irina Shopova, PhD - *Institute for Balkan Studies with Centre of Thracology "Prof. Alexander Fol", Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Bulgaria*

10.45-11.00 **History and Culture of Ancient Thrace. Ritual Landscapes of the Rhodope Regional Unit (Klisetjik, Karmi Kaya)**

Live and online participation

Stavros Kiotsekoglou, PhD – *Democritus University of Thrace, Greece*

11.00-11.30 **Discussion, coffee break, Exhibition of scientific publications of the Museum of Prehistoric Anthropology of Monaco**

## Session 2. ARCHAEOLOGY

Hybrid: South-West University, Campus 1, Hall 114 & Zoom

Chair Assoc. Prof. Alexey Gotsev, PhD

11.30-11.45 **Megalithic Rock Complexes - Some Problems of Research and Interpretation**

Live and online participation

Assoc. Prof. Alexey Gotsev, PhD - *National Institute of Archaeology and Museum at Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Bulgaria*

11.45-12.00 **Rock Art in Southern Levant Dolmens**

Live and online participation

Prof. Gonen Sharon, PhD - *Tel-Hai Academic College, Israel*  
Uri Berger - *Israel Antiquities Authority, Israel*

12.00-12.15 **An Enigmatic Dacian Site in the Curvature Carpathians: The Cătina Valley-Piatra Rotării**  
Live and online participation

Prof. Valeriu Sîrbu, PhD, Sebastian Matei - *Institute of Archaeology "Vasile Pârvan" Bucharest, Romania*

12.15-12.30 **Belantash - Legends and Reality**  
Live and online participation

Chief Assist. Prof. Borislav Borislavov, PhD - *National Institute of Archaeology and Museum at Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Department of Thracian Archaeology, Bulgaria*

12.30-13.30 **Discussion and break for lunch**

### **Session 3. ARCHAEOASTRONOMY**

**Hybrid: South-West University, Campus 1, Hall 114 & Zoom**

**Chair Prof. Penka Stoeva, PhD**

13.30-13.45 **The Seven-Eight Year Calendar Adjustment in the Context of Parallel Astronomical Events**

Live and online participation

Assoc. Prof. Alexey Stoev, PhD - *Space Research and Technology Institute at Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Bulgaria*

13.45-14.00 **Rock-cut Monuments and Megaliths as Calendar Sanctuaries in Prehistory**

Live and online participation

Assist. Prof. Mina Spasova, PhD - *Institute for Philosophy and Sociology at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Bulgaria*

14.00-14.15 **Star Formations on a Rock Located in the Land of the Village of Osikovo, Devin Municipality**

Live and online participation

Prof. Penka Stoeva, PhD - *Space Research and Technology Institute at Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Bulgaria*

14.15-14.30 **Construction of a Rock-Cut and Megalithic Museum Structure of National Importance on the Territory of Bulgaria**

Live and online participation

Angel Manev, PhD - *Space Research and Technology Institute at Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Bulgaria*

14.30-15.00 **Discussion and coffee break**

## Session 4. ETHNOLOGY

**Hybrid: South-West University, Campus 1, Hall 114 & Zoom**

**Chair Assoc. Prof. Katja Hrobat Virloget, PhD**

### 15.00-15.15 **Village Boundaries and the Mythical Symbolism**

Live and online participation

Assoc. Prof. Katja Hrobat Virloget, PhD - *University of Primorska, Slovenia*

### 15.15-15.30 **Sacred space. Visual aspects**

Live and online participation

Assoc. prof. Dimitriya Spasova, PhD - *South-West University "Neofit Rilski", Bulgaria*

### 15.30-15.45 **Founding Megaliths**

Online participation

Bernie Taylor – *Independent Researcher, USA*

### 15.45-16.00 **Stones and Megaliths in Estonia**

Live and online participation

Research Prof. Mare Kõiva, Andres Kuperjanov - *Estonian Literary Museum, Department of Folkloristics, Estonia*

### 16.00-16.15 **People and Ethnicity: Dimensions of Bulgarian (P. Mutafchiev's and V. Mutafchieva's Concepts)**

Live and online participation

Prof. Nonka Bogomilova, DSc - *Institute for Philosophy and Sociology at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Bulgaria*

### 16.15-16.45 **Discussion and coffee break**

## Session 5. GEOARCHAEOLOGY

**S Hybrid: South-West University, Campus 1, Hall 114 & Zoom**

**Chair Prof. Ruslan I. Kostov, DSc.**

### 16.45-17.00 **Investigations and Scientific Impact of the "Arch" Rock-Cut Geoaerchaeological Site, Eastern Rhodopes, Bulgaria**

Live and online participation

Prof. Ruslan I. Kostov, DSc - *Bulgarian Geological Society, Bulgaria*

### 17.00-17.15 **First interpretative Photo Survey with Drone in the Coastal Megalith Site of Pietra Tara, (Monte Gallo Palermo). Zone VI - Tara II**

Online participation

Francesca Mercadante, geoaerchaeologist – *Geoarchpa, Italy*

### 17.15-17.30 **Discussion**

## 19.00 **Cocktail**

**University center "Bachinovo"**

11<sup>th</sup> October 2024

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

## Section 1. HISTORY OF CULTURE. ANCIENT CULTURES

Hybrid: South-West University, Campus 1, Hall 571A & Zoom

Chair Eberhard Zangger, PhD

9.30-9.45	<b>Phrygian Rock-Cut Monuments: Their Function in Phrygian Society</b>
Online participation	Prof. Lynn Roller, PhD - <i>University of California, Davis, USA</i>
9.45-10.00	<b>Evolving Cosmological Concepts: From Ur (2200 BC), over Hattusa (1200 BC) to Athens (400 BCE)</b>
Live and online participation	Eberhard Zangger, PhD - <i>Luwian Studies, Switzerland</i>
10.00-10.15	<b>The Cults in the South Eastern Thrace: The Case Study of Perinthos Ancient City</b>
Online participation	Prof. Zeynep Koçel Erdem, PhD - <i>Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University, Turkey</i>
10.15-10.30	<b>The Eternal Chasing of the Sun</b>
Live and online participation	Assist. Prof. Adriana Sarbova, PhD – <i>Institute for Balkan Studies with Centre of Thracology "Prof. Alexander Fol", Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Bulgaria</i>
10.30-10.45	<b>Megalithic Structures and the Universal Connection: Memories from the Collective Unconscious</b>
	Evie Holmberg, PhD - <i>Independent Researcher, USA</i>
10.45-11.15	<b>Discussion and coffee break</b>

## Session 2. ARCHAEOLOGY

Hybrid: South-West University, Campus 1, Hall 571A & Zoom

Chair Prof. José Nicolás Balbi, PhD

11.15-11.30	<b>Cromlech of Mezora (2nd. Part) Investigation 2024 and Heritage Preservation</b>
Live and online participation	Prof. José Nicolás Balbi, PhD - <i>Colchester Archaeological Group (UK), Argentina</i>
11.30-11.45	<b>Ritual and Secular Uses of Carved Structures? Parallel Activities on Kastro Rocks (Lemnos Island)</b>
Online participation	Christina Marangou, PhD - <i>Independent Researcher, Greece</i>
11.45-12.00	<b>Thrones in Megalithic Sanctuaries in Thrace – Symbols of the Cult of the Ruler</b>
Live and online participation	Assoc. prof. Metodi Manov, PhD - <i>National Institute of Archaeology &amp; Museum, Bulgaria</i>
12.00-12.15	<b>The Megalithic Temple of Cefalù (Sicily)</b>
Online presentation	Nadia Gugliuzza, Independent Researcher, <i>Italy</i>

12.15-13.30 Discussion and break for lunch

### Session 3. ARCHAEOASTRONOMY

Hybrid: South-West University, Campus 1, Hall 571A & Zoom

Chair Prof. Stanislaw Iwaniszewski, PhD

13.30-13.45 **From Barrows Cape to Skyscape: the FBC long Barrows from the Kujawy Upland, Poland**

Online participation

Prof. Stanislaw Iwaniszewski, PhD - *National School of Anthropology and History, Mexico*

13.45-14.00 **Archaeoastronomy and Pareidolias: Study of Rock Art in the Semi-Arid North of Chile**

Live and online participation

Ricardo Moyano, PhD - *University of La Serena, Chile*

Patricio Bustamante - *Alura Heritage Foundation, Chilean historical and geographical society, Chile*

14.00-14.15 **The Inhabitant of k'atunscape: A Megalithic Monument of the Classic Mayan Renewal of Time**

Online participation

Hans Martz de la Vega, PhD Student - *National School of Anthropology and History, Mexico*

Miguel Pérez Negrete - *INAH Guerrero Regional Center, Mexico*

14.15-14.30 **Discussion**

14.30-14.45 **Orientation of pre-Islamic temples in Arabia Felix**

Online participation

Themis Dallas, PhD - *University of Thessaly, Greece*

14.45-15.00 **Archaeoastronomy of a Few Megalithic Complexes of Jharkhand in East India**

Online participation

Subhashis Das - *Independent Researcher, India*

15.00-15.15 **Astronomical Bases of Symbols of Power: Eagle, Scepter and Orb**

Online participation

Assoc. Prof. Alina Paranina, PhD - *Herzen State Pedagogical University, Russia*

15.15-15.45 **Discussion and coffee break**

### Session 4 POSTER DISCUSSION

Hybrid: South-West University, Campus 1, Hall 571A & Zoom

Moderator Assist Prof. Anastas Ifandiev, PhD

15.45-15.50 **The Megalithic Complex of Rego da Murta (Alvaiázere, Portugal)**

Online presentation

Alexandra Figueiredo, PhD - *Instituto Politécnico de Tomar, Portugal*

15.50-15.55 **The Dolmen of Azurrague (Ourém, Portugal)**

Online presentation

Alexandra Figueiredo, PhD - *Instituto Politécnico de Tomar, Portugal*

- 15.55-16.00 **On the Specific Orientation of the Medieval Church Ravna near Provadia**  
Online presentation  
Assoc. prof. Lyubomir Tsonev, PhD - *Institute of Solid State Physics, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Bulgaria*
- 16.00-16.05 **Megalithic Monuments from the Area of the Zherbitsko Village, Bulgaria**  
Online presentation  
Assoc. prof. Angel Yankov, PhD – *Regional Ethnographic Museum of Plovdiv, Bulgaria*
- 16.05-16.10 **Phrygian Region Rock Monuments and Their Use in Touristic Ceramic Souvenir Design**  
Online presentation  
Research Assist. Kamuran Ak, PhD - *Afyon Kocatepe University, Turkey*
- 16.10-16.15 **The Study of the Circular Enclosures of Central Europe as a Milestone in the Establishment of the Lunisolar Calendar**  
Online presentation  
PhD Student Romain Ravignot - *Sorbonne University, France, University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain*
- 17.30-18.00 **Visit to Blagoevgrad Regional Historical Museum for the present participants**

**NOTE:** The posters will be available online in advance for the symposium participants. The Poster discussion will be for questions and comments.

12<sup>th</sup> October 2024

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

## Session 1. HISTORY OF CULTURE. ANCIENT CULTURES

Hybrid: South-West University, Campus 1, Hall 571A & Zoom

Chair Prof. Valeria Fol, DSc

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| 9.00-9.15<br>Online participation          | <b>Megaliths in Brezovo Municipality. Modern Web Technologies in the Service of Promotion and Representation</b><br>Prof. Valeria Fol, DSc - University of Library Studies and Information Technologies, <i>Institute for Balkan Studies with Centre of Thracology "Prof. Alexander Fol", Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Bulgaria</i><br>Assist. Prof. Oleg Konstantinov, PhD - <i>Sofia University, Bulgaria</i> |
| 9.15-9.30<br>Live and online participation | <b>Should we do anything? (Bulgarian Megalithic Monuments and What We Can Do about Them).</b><br>Milena Lozanova, Independent Researcher, <i>Bulgaria</i>   |
| 9.30-9.45<br>Live and online participation | <b>The Museum of Prehistoric Anthropology of Monaco: A Century of Archaeological Research and Heritage Preservation</b><br>Elena Rossoni-Notter, PhD - <i>Museum of Prehistoric Anthropology, Monaco</i>  |
| 9.45-10.00<br>Online participation         | <b>Exhibitions of Prehistoric Finds in Turkish Museums – A Case Study</b><br>Prof. Ergün Lafli, PhD - <i>Dokuz Eylül University, Turkey</i>   |
| 10.00-10.15                                | <b>Discussion and coffee break</b>  |

## Session 2. HISTORY OF CULTURE. ANCIENT CULTURES

Hybrid: South-West University, Campus 1, Hall 571A & Zoom

Chair Martin Sweatman PhD

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| 10.15-10.30<br>Online participation | <b>Meteor Strikes Recorded in Prehistoric Art: from Göbekli Tepe to Lascaux</b><br>Martin Sweatman, PhD - <i>University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom</i>   |
| 10.30-10.45<br>Online participation | <b>Stone Terraces of Gunung Padang Site as Modification of Highland Resources for Past Ancestor Worship</b><br>Lutfi Yondri, PhD - <i>National Research and Innovation Agency of Indonesia</i>     |
| 10.45-11.00<br>Online participation | <b>Megalithic Culture of Central India: Location, Typology, Customs and Relationship</b><br>Assist. Prof. Virag Sontakke PhD - <i>Banaras Hindu University, India</i>                              |
| 11.00-11.15<br>Online participation | <b>Astral Symbols and Sacred Spaces: Mithraic Influences on Early Christian Symbolism and Architecture</b><br>Reza Assasi, PhD - <i>Toronto Metropolitan University/Centennial College, Canada</i> |
| 11.15-11.30                         | <b>Discussion and coffee break</b>   |



### Session 3. ARCHAEOLOGY

Hybrid: South-West University, Campus 1, Hall 571A & Zoom

Chair Prof. Engin Beksaç PhD

11.30-11.45 **The Others: The Pits, Disks and Oven Rocks on the Eastern Thrace**

Online  
participation

Prof. Engin Beksaç, PhD - *Independent researcher, Turkey*

11.45-12.00 **Some Rock-Cut Monuments in the Ancient Region of Lydia**

Online  
participation

Umut M. Doğan, PhD - *Edirne Museum of Archaeology, Turkey*

12.00-12.15 **Megalithic Structures and their Role in Ritual Practice in Ancient Japan**

Online  
participation

Elena Solovyeva, PhD - *Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography, Siberian Branch of Russian Academy of Science, Russia*

12.15-12.30 **The Megalithism in Central Portugal**

Online  
participation

Alexandra Figueiredo, PhD - *Instituto Politécnico de Tomar, Portugal*

12.30-13.30 **Discussion and break for lunch**

### Session 4. ARCHAEOLOGY

Hybrid: South-West University, Campus 1, Hall 571A & Zoom

Chair Assoc. Prof. Anton Genov, PhD

13.30-13.45 **The Mounds of the Necropolis in Salve (Lecce) and the Beginning of Megalithism in South-Eastern Italy**

Online  
participation

Ida Tiberi, PhD - *Biblio-Museum Hub of Lecce, Italy*

13.45-14.00 **Prehistoric Rituals on Hellenistic site. Archetypes of Faith through History**

Online  
participation

Dejan Gorgievski, archaeologist - *Museum of Kumanovo, Republic of North Macedonia*

14.00-14.15 **Thracian-Greek Relations in the Region of the Aegean Coast Between Hebros and Nestos (6 - 4 CBC) in the Light of Archaeological Reserch**

Online  
participation

Chrysoula Plioka, PhD student – *South-West University "Neofit Rilski", Bulgaria*

14.15-14.30 **Rock Sanctuaries from the Central Rhodopes, Smolyan Region**

Online  
participation

Hristina Valchanova, PhD student – *South-West University "Neofit Rilski", Bulgaria*

14.30-15.00 **Discussion and coffee break**

## Session 5. ARCHAEOLOGY

Hybrid: South-West University, Campus 1, Hall 571A & Zoom

Chair Chief Assist. Prof. Alexander Portalsky, PhD

- 15.00-15.15 **Distribution of Megalithic sites and Burial Practice in Adwa River Valley of North-Eastern Vindhyas, India**  
Online participation  
Dheeraj Sharma, Research Scholar - *Banaras Hindu University, India*  
Assist. Prof. Virag Sontakke, PhD - *Banaras Hindu University, India*
- 15.15-15.30 **Megalithic Burial Customs in North-Eastern Vindhyan Region, India**  
Online participation  
Deepesh Singh, PhD Student - *Banaras Hindu University, India*
- 15.30-15.45 **Adana Dolmens and Their Regional Relations**  
Live and online participation  
Assoc. Prof. Bakiye Yükmén Edens, PhD - *Çukurova University, Turkey*
- 15.45-16.00 **Geographical Location and Natural Environment of the Thracian-Greek Topoi of Faith**  
Live and online participation  
Chief Assist. Alexander Portalsky, PhD - *South-West University "Neofit Rilski", Bulgaria*
- 16.00-16.30 **Discussion and coffee break**

## Session 6. ARCHAEOLOGY

Hybrid: South-West University, Campus 1, Hall 571A & Zoom

Chair Assoc. Prof. Dimitriya Spasova, PhD

- 16.30-16.45 **On the Way to the South. Early Cult Architecture in the Southwest Thracian Lands**  
Online participation  
Prof. Diana Gergova PhD - *National Academy of Arts, Bulgaria*
- 16.45-17.00 **Visual Connections between some of the Mountain Sanctuaries of Thracians in the Dabrash Ridge, Western Rhodopes Area**  
Live and online participation  
Assoc. Prof. Anton Genov, PhD - *South-West University "Neofit Rilski", Bulgaria*
- 17.00-17.15 **Exploring Weaponry and Cultural Dynamics in the Kurgan Burial Traditions of Northwest Iran**  
Online participation  
Zahra Kouzehgari, PhD - *Associate Researcher, University Lumiere Lyon 2, France*
- 17.15-17.30 **Virtual Tour for Presentation of Rock-Cut Sanctuary Kara Tash in Southwestern Bulgaria**  
Live and online participation  
Assist. Prof. Anastas Ifandiev, PhD - *South-West University "Neofit Rilski", Bulgaria*
- 17.30-17.45 **Discussion**
- 17.45** **Closure of the Symposium**

**Fourth International Symposium Megalithic Monuments and Cult Practices**

*10th-14th October 2024, South-West University, Bulgaria*

*The Symposium is dedicated to the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Faculty of Arts, South-West University "Neofit Rilski"*

**13<sup>th</sup> October 2024**

8.30 – 17.30      Excursion to the Megalithic Sanctuary "Proviralkata" near the village of Lilyach, Ancient Pautalia and Regional History Museum - Kyustendil.

**14<sup>th</sup> October 2024**

Departure