



CIRCUM-BALTIC INTERACTION IN THE BRONZE AGE (CIBA)

International Conference, Hamburg, 23.-24.11.2018

CALL FOR PAPERS

The Bronze Age is a time of increasing interaction. Some parts of it are very well explored, and for some regions very strong narratives of hierarchisation, dependence on external raw material supplies and specialisation have been proposed. Consistent linkages have for instance been drawn between the existence of warfare/ a warrior elite (possibly as a response to climate-induced crises) and enclosures on the one hand and long-distance contacts and prestige goods on the other hand. In other regions, however, only some of these aspects appear (or indeed none of them), even though we can assume that networks of contact would at least have been possible. This is for example the case in the Baltic area, where western and eastern areas show dramatic differences in subsistence, the amounts of metal produced and deposited (and therefore presumably the social role of metal), the settlement pattern and scale of social groups. A most interesting question is the intensity of culture contact of the eastern Baltic across the sea with Scandinavia and with directly neighbouring continental regions.

This leads to a series of questions which the present conference would like to address:

- ▶ How diverse is material culture and what does this mean?
- ▶ Which kinds of social formations existed around the Baltic?
- ▶ Were they in contact, and if so, what did this entail (e.g. knowledge transfer, warfare, individual mobility...)?
- ▶ Were these societies part of a kind of globalization?
- ▶ How were boundaries created and maintained?
- ▶ How is all this reflected in the flow of material culture and practices between areas?
- ▶ How and under what circumstances (external, internal) did societies change and can we recognize inter-regional patterns?

In particular, we are aiming to include papers on the following themes:

1. SETTLEMENT AND ECONOMY

Settlement archaeology is still very unevenly practised even in adjacent regions. Across the Baltic area as a whole, there are research traditions focusing on hillforts or fortified settlements, while others are primarily concerned with open settlements and lake dwellings or specialist production sites, such as Asva in Estonia. However, there has as yet been little comparative work across a wider area, neither in terms of settlement patterning in the landscape, nor concerning hierarchies, site structure and domestic architecture. In one part of this section, we hence invite short papers presenting new work on specific sites or small regions from across the Baltic zone, as well as longer synthetic and interpretive contributions. As a second theme, this panel also focusses on the economic networks of sites and regions including subsistence practices, landscape use and their change through time, for instance in response to climatic stresses.

2. MATERIAL CULTURE AND KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER

The production and distribution of metals has been accorded central significance in the organisation of Bronze Age societies and is often seen as the basis for settlement and personal hierarchies. However, across the Baltic region the quantities of metal traded and deposited varied widely, with some regions virtually devoid of bronze or gold but rich in bone tools, amber or pottery and even bulk commodities. To understand the roles that artefacts could play in inter-regional networks, we will also have to understand how their functions and meanings may have changed in different contexts and societies. This section thus focuses on the role of all kinds of objects in the creation (or challenging) of hierarchies and power structures and in any context of communication. We welcome papers applying scientific techniques of sourcing and dating, as well as more interpretive contributions. Again, there is scope to include shorter presentations of specific sites/small regions, or longer overview-papers of interregional scope.

3. BOUNDARY CREATION AND PATTERNS OF INTERACTION

In recent years, violence and warfare have increasingly come to the fore as defining features of Bronze Age societies. This is paired with the idea that hillforts and other central places could have formed the centres of increasingly strictly defined territories, controlling access to trade routes and resources. By the same token, isotopic techniques in particular have shown considerable levels of personal and group mobility across such boundaries. This section therefore focuses on two main themes: first, how were boundaries defined and controlled; and second, how and by whom could boundaries be crossed, and were there aspects (world views, symbols, social structures) which were really shared across the region as a whole? Papers are invited on themes concerning potential routeways and methods of transport, but also the means by which boundaries were created, how they were marked, and whether we can suggest specific identity groups (lineages, tribes, perhaps ethnic groups). Finally, we would also like to critically discuss at what times and in which contexts boundaries may have been less strict and/or were crossed and even violently transgressed. In this context, we would also like to think about the usefulness (and limitations) of globalizing or world-systems approaches and reflect on how smaller- and larger-scale dynamics may have interacted.

DATE AND VENUE

The conference will be held on **23th-24th November 2018**. The conference will take place in the Institute for Pre- and Protohistoric Archaeology (Institut für Vor- und Frühgeschichtliche Archäologie) at the Universität Hamburg, Edmund-Siemers-Allee 1, West; 20146 Hamburg, Germany.

PARTICIPATION AND ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

If you are interested in participating with a lecture or a poster, send an abstract of no more than 300 words to the organisers by **31st May 2018**. Please indicate clearly whether your paper is a short presentation of a site or region, or a longer interpretive lecture. We also encourage early-career researchers (PhD-students, early career Post-Docs and so on) to submit a proposal.

LOCAL ORGANIZERS AND CONTACT

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