



UNIVERSITÄT
LEIPZIG

»Man Makes Himself« Archaeological Narratives of the Past

6th Annual Conference
CE-TAG 2019
Central European Theoretical Archaeology Group

Conference date

Thursday 12th and Friday 13th September 2019

Conference venue

Professur für Ur- und Frühgeschichte, Ritterstraße 14, 04109 Leipzig, Germany

Visitors are welcome!

All visitors are kindly asked to register until 15th of August, please contact: [jan\(@\)miera.de](mailto:jan(@)miera.de)

Reception fee for participants and guests

20€ (will be collected at the conference venue)

Conference language

The official language of the conference is English

Organizer

Jan Johannes Miera

Introduction

Storytelling is essential to human nature. By constantly creating narratives, we constitute our identity and shape our sense of belonging. Narratives of the past provide an important point of reference in understanding our present and to seek purpose for the future. It is the sum of all individual and group-specific pasts, that defines the general understanding of what it means to be human. Archaeology offers unique perspectives on the history of our species and contributes to the human condition as it studies cultural trajectories and processes that have triggered the development of present-day societies.

Probably one of the most famous archaeological narratives is the »Neolithic Revolution«, introduced by Vere Gordon Childe in his book »Man Makes Himself« in 1936. In addition to long term processes, archaeological narratives may also cover events such as the Varus' Battle in the Teutoburg Forest, individual biographies as well as specific archaeological features or certain types of artifacts.

The 6th international conference of CE-TAG focuses on the general nature of archaeological narrativity. In this context, we will debate, where narrativity is present in our everyday research and whether it can or should be avoided. Furthermore, we will explore how the increased use of methods from natural sciences affects the nature of archaeological narratives. In addition, the presentations will focus on public and political conceptions of the past and discuss how archaeologists can respond to these conceptions.

Programme

Thursday, 12.09.2019: Opening and Keynote

- 9³⁰ – 10¹⁵ Registration
- 10¹⁵ – 10³⁰ Conference Opening
- 10³⁰ – 11³⁰ Ralf Gleser
Do we give explanations or do we only tell stories? – The nature of explanations in prehistoric archaeology, with special reference to narrative explanation and narrative constructivism
- 11³⁰ – 12⁰⁰ Shumon T. Hussain
Four modes of narration in archaeology – towards a metatheoretical typology
- 12⁰⁰ – 13³⁰ – Lunch break –

Session 1

- 13³⁰ – 14⁰⁰ Miriam Sénécheau
Archaeology, narrativity, and didactics: The concept of 'historical consciousness' as a chance
- 14⁰⁰ – 14³⁰ Monika Baumanova
The 'symbolic' meaning of walls – narrating rationality in archaeology
- 14³⁰ – 15⁰⁰ Rimtautas Dapschauskas
The naturalistic turn in the image of humankind: The contribution of Palaeolithic Archaeology to narratives of human origin and the dangers of three different epistemological fallacies
- 15⁰⁰ – 15³⁰ – Coffee break –

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Session 2

- 15³⁰ – 16⁰⁰ Jan Johannes Miera
»Night will fall« – source criticism and narrativity in
German-speaking Prehistoric Archaeology
- 16⁰⁰ – 16³⁰ Artur Ribeiro
The principle of narrative intelligibility:
what does it entail for archaeology?
- 16³⁰ – 17⁰⁰ Jan-Eric Schlicht
Complex narratives or narrating complex systems? –
Some thought on challenges posed by terminology
- 17⁰⁰ – End of first day –

Friday, 13.09.2019: Session 3

- 9⁰⁰ – 9³⁰ Tabea Malter
Narratives on Identity in German Archaeological State
Museums
- 9³⁰ – 10⁰⁰ Kristin Oswald
People Know Nothing. Narratives of Germans, Vikings
& Co. in archaeological education
- 10⁰⁰ – 10³⁰ Stefanie Haupt
„Germanic Sky Lore“ – The emergence of astronomical
interpretations in the field of Prehistory
- 10³⁰ – 11⁰⁰ – Coffee break –

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Session 4

- 11⁰⁰ – 11³⁰ Margaux Depaermentier
(Re-)Building narratives with stable isotope analyses
- 11³⁰ – 12⁰⁰ Michael Kempf
Narrating landscape history: Isolating the signal?
- 12⁰⁰ – 13³⁰ – Lunch break –
- 13³⁰ – 14⁰⁰ Kornelia Kasperkiewicz
Stories carved in Nature – Water use in Pre-Modern
Armenia in the perspective of the Anthropocene
- 14⁰⁰ – 14³⁰ Felix Sattler & Anna Simandiraki-Grimshaw
The Throne of Minos: Ambiguity and fluctuation in
archaeological narratives of the Aegean Bronze Age
from Modernity to Post-Modernity
- 14³⁰ – 15⁰⁰ Jan Sabri Cetinkaya
Visual narratives in archaeological communication:
„Lebensbilder“ of the Linearbandkeramik-culture
- 15⁰⁰ – 15³⁰ – Coffee break –
- 15³⁰ – 16⁰⁰ Martin Bača
The power of stories. How can Stephen King help us
archaeologists to fight populism and save the world?
- 16⁰⁰ – 16³⁰ Arne Windler
The lost paradise: From Hobbes, Rousseau, and Mauss
to the determination of prehistoric actors
- 16³⁰ – 17⁰⁰ Concluding discussion
- 17⁰⁰ – End of Conference –