

THEORY AND METHOD

IN THE PREHISTORIC
ARCHAEOLOGY
OF CENTRAL EUROPE

MIKULOV

24th-26th October
2012

CALL FOR SESSIONS

Central European archaeology has produced a substantial body of knowledge about prehistoric societies. However, after WW2 the region witnessed decades of deliberate inertia against the new theoretical and social developments then flourishing in other regions. Archaeological practice was reduced to exercises in description and classification, and efforts to accumulate as much data as possible. What little theoretical discourse that did appear in the work of central European archaeologists often followed well-trodden routes and that did not reflect contemporary trends in archaeological theory.

The time to discuss modern (and post-modern!) developments in current world archaeology is past due. More importantly it is time to define our agenda, our interests and the meaning of our local knowledge and experience. Fostering engagement with theory and new approaches to archaeology has not always been welcomed with enthusiasm. It is often accompanied with systematic neglect, and apologies for traditional standpoints, if not outright hostility and ridicule. One of the main aims of this conference is to find ways, from our standpoint in central Europe, to make sense of systematic research processes, scientific method and the approaches of the social sciences, and our partner disciplines in cultural anthropology. We aim to bring clarity to our personal, social and disciplinary assumptions, approaches, and perceptions.

Recent developments in technology has also affected the daily practice of the discipline, on many levels. As method plays a significant role in the construction of archaeological knowledge and discourse, it also impacts how we think, work and uncover the past. The engagement of multiple specialists in single projects results in the formation of both a multidisciplinary collaboration that counters individual biases, and a challenge to everyday practice with new issues related to relative value, priority opinions and ownership of knowledge. These tensions deserve attention and discussion.

As we strive to bridge the national and linguistic differences that have often divided the region, the conference will be held in English.

We invite proposals for thematic sessions that would reflect contemporary archaeological challenges, theory and method. Each proposal should include the author(s), institutional affiliation, and abstract (250 words max.). The proposal should be sent no later than end of March to: theory_and_method@yahoo.com

A call for papers will be published in April.

We look forward to seeing your proposals.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE:

Theory and method in the prehistoric archaeology of Central Europe

DATE & SITE:

24th-26th October 2012
Mikulov, Czech Republic

SUBMISSIONS DEADLINE:

End of March 2012

SEND PROPOSALS TO:

theory_and_method@yahoo.co.uk

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FURTHER INFORMATION:

<http://theoryandmethod.gofs.cz>



INVESTMENTS IN EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT