

SPATIAL, CULTURAL, POLITICAL, and ETHNIC DISCONTINUITY

Iron Age Seminar, 30th of January, 2013

10.30-18.00

Moesgård, Auditorium 5

The seminar is affiliated with the Materials, Culture and Heritage Programme, Aarhus University. Find out more on our webpage:

<http://cas.au.dk/en/research/research-programmes/materials-culture-and-heritage/>

SESSION 1 – INTRODUCTION

10.30-10.40: **Katrine Balsgaard Juul**, Aarhus University

“Welcome and introduction”

10.40-11.00: **Ulf Näsman**, Lineaus University Kalmar

“From tribe to state – mission impossible or mission accomplished?”

*The aim of the research project *Fra Stamme til Stat/From tribe to state*¹ was to investigate whether a coherent history could be written about the societal development preceding the 10th century A.D. The dating of the formation of a Danish kingdom to the Viking Age is traditionally based on written sources. The project *Fra Stamme til Stat* wished to challenge this view by new interpretations of the archaeological record from the first millennium A.D., a record that had increased considerably in size and quality. I will try to answer the questions whether the project was an impossible task or if it reached a final conclusion.*

11.00-11.20: **Charlotte Fabech**, Sydsvensk Arkeologi AB Malmö

“Sacred landscapes – from natural to constructed places”

Any place where the holy appeared could be sacred. Thus sacral sites varied considerably in form, size, and location. The development in the first millennium A.D. could very simply be described as a shift of sacredness from natural to constructed places, but was much more complex. Many natural sites were deserted. Some were transformed to constructed places or integrated into settlements as constituents of central-places. This process stretched over centuries and represents the institutionalisation of the cult in a heathen society.

11.20-11.40: **Klavs Randsborg**, University of Copenhagen

“First Millennium AD in Denmark – ?”

The old story of words and things in the later prehistory of Denmark is formulated anew in the light of social and political geographies and economic modernization.

11.40-12.00: **Discussion**

¹ I prefer the concept “kingdom” and agree with the historians who are of the opinion that the Scandinavian concept *stat* better be reserved for the more advanced post-medieval Scandinavian kingdoms and not applied on realms of the Iron and Viking Age, or on the medieval kingdoms.

12.00-13.00: Lunch

SESSION 2 - MILITARY INSTITUTIONS

13.00-13.20: **Mads Holst**, Moesgård Museum / Aarhus University

“Aftermath: The Alken Meadow Finds in the Illerup Valley”

13.20-13.40: **Xenia Pauli Jensen**, Moesgård Museum

“A World of Warcraft - military as catalyst for cultural and political changes in Early Iron Age Scandinavia”

In the centuries around the birth of Christ visualization of military power takes on a new form. Weapons are displayed in mortuary practices, on burial grounds, on settlements and in wetland areas. In particular the bog finds have influenced our ways of interpreting military presence; they are, however, rarely seen in context with the society as a whole. This paper focuses on how formation of military alliances facilitates interaction between military, political, and religious power structures. It also discusses whether and to what extent military power acts as a catalyst for social and cultural changes.

13.40-14.00: **Discussion**

SESSION 3 - NETWORKS AND CULTURE CONNECTIONS

14.00-14.20: **Elisabeth Barfod Carlsen**, Lindholm Høje Museet, Nordjyllands Historiske Museum

“Sejflod – a study of style and communication”

14.20-14.40: **Pernille Kruse**, Museum Sønderjylland - Arkæologi Haderslev

“Anglian Settlements in south-east Jutland during the Late Roman Iron Age”

14.40-15.00: **Johan Nicolay**, Groningen Institute of Archaeology, The Netherlands

“Power in the periphery. Early medieval kingdoms along the North Sea coast”

15.00-15.20: **Karen Høilund Nielsen**, Beder

“Migration – marriage policy – exchange networks”

Discussion of the Scandinavian material-culture influence in the Northern European Continent – especially brooches from the period AD 450-600.

15.20-15.40: **Discussion**

15.40-16.10: **Coffee break**

SESSION 4 - RURAL SOCIETY

16.10-16.30: **Torben Egeberg Hansen**, Ringkøbing-Skjern Museum

“The Rindum row village – settlement patterns AD 400-500”

16.30-16.50: **Anders Hartvig**, Museum Sønderjylland - Arkæologi Haderslev

"Rugmarken - a row village"

This paper will discuss how the village changed from being a loosely structured unit towards the tightly organized unit of the row village as well as the affiliated functions and location in the vicinity.

16.50-17.10: **Morten Søvsø**, Sydvestjyske Museer

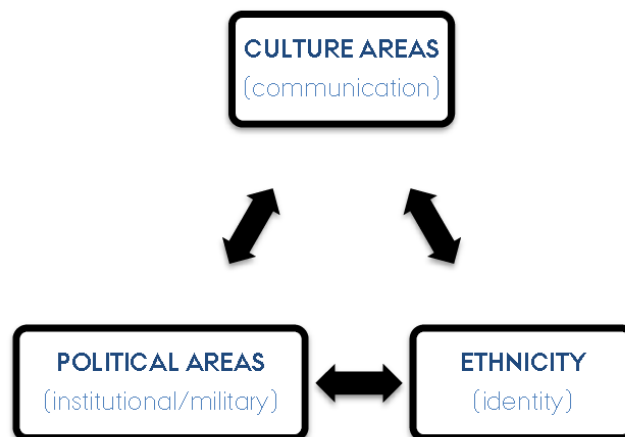
"Parts of a well-structured settlement from around 500 AD excavated in St. Darum near Ribe"

In the paper the results from an excavation on the site in 2007 is presented. C. 1 ha was excavated revealing a row of well built farms that inhabited the spot in the decades around 500 AD. The site was quite undisturbed, which gave good opportunity for detailed studies of the individual farmsteads and their development over time. Finally the results are compared to some of the contemporary finds from the area.

17.10-17.30: **Niels Algren Møller**, University of Copenhagen

"Settlement Nucleation and Discontinuity in early Iron Age Western Jutland"

17.30-18.00: **Discussion**



There will be book stands from SKALK and LAG available at the seminar.