

Call for Papers

1st Oxford – BerGSAS doctoral student conference
Berlin, April 23-24, 2020

(Re-)Constructing Identities — Culture, Communication and Exchange in the Ancient World

The 1st Oxford – BerGSAS doctoral student conference will take place on April 23-24th at the Freie Universität Berlin. The event is organised by five doctoral students from the BerGSAS and five doctoral students from the University of Oxford, who will give a presentation on their current research. We shall discuss how myth, religion, collective memory, language, material culture, and culinary traditions define cultural identities and enforce cohesion. In this Call for Papers we now ask for additional presentations and contributions to our poster session.

The Topic:

'Identity' qua concept has been fundamental for the scholarly understanding of premodern societies. Communication and exchange have, in turn, been fundamental to how scholars conceive of 'identity': group membership; social identification; communication media; the built environment; interactions with the divine; exchanges with 'others' — all have been key to what it means to have an 'identity' and to how we define it.

Developments within the natural sciences, including paleogenetics and stable isotope analysis, make 'identity' even more urgent by addressing previously insoluble or even inconceivable questions. At the same time, these new approaches risk reviving outdated concepts, like the "Kurgan hypothesis" by Marija Gimbutas, or even views comparable to those of Gustaf Kossinna, himself influenced by the "Kulturkreislehre" and the "Völkisch movement".

Contributions to this conference may address, for example:

- the self-constitution of ancient societies
- family- or kin-based traditions
- the use of "Others" in the past
- identity-based conflict

We encourage participation from doctoral candidates of different disciplinary backgrounds in order to ensure a variety of perspectives.

We have room for up to **4 more speakers** (20 min. talks + 10 min. discussions), or you can present your research during a **poster session** on the first day. All papers related to the topic of this event are welcome.

Participation to this conference is NOT restricted to BerGSAS students, all doctoral students in Ancient Studies from Berlin are more than welcome to join us!

Those wishing to have their paper or poster considered for inclusion should submit a title and short abstract (no more than ~250 words) to ox-ber.grad.conference2020@berliner-antike-kolleg.org by **Friday, March 13, 2020**. For the poster session, we can accept applications even after the above-mentioned deadline. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at the above email address.

The organising team (BerGSAS):

Mette Bangsborg Thuesen
Stefan Härtel
Xiaozhe Li
Stefano Palalidis
Kai Radloff