

(RE-)CONSTRUCTING IDENTITIES

Culture, Communication
and Exchange
in the Ancient World

CONFERENCE

February 11–12, 2021
Berlin–Oxford
Online





(RE-)CONSTRUCTING IDENTITIES

Culture, Communication and Exchange in the Ancient World

February 11, 2021

14:00 – Opening

Monika Trümper, BerGSAS, Freie Universität Berlin
Tobias Reinhardt, Faculty of Classics, University of Oxford

FIRST SESSION: IDENTITIES AT BORDERS

14:10 – The Dynamics of a Frontier Landscape: the Lower Rhine from 50 BC to AD 500

Kai Radloff, PhD student in Classical Archaeology, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

14:40 – The Oasis Identity: Turfan Basin before Han Dynasty

Xiaoze Li, PhD student in Prehistoric Archaeology, Freie Universität Berlin

15:10 – Dangerous Exchanges: Identity and Religion in the Boundary Areas of Roman Italy

Alexandra Creola, PhD candidate in Classical Art and Archaeology, University of Michigan

15:40 – Coffee break

SECOND SESSION: FROM MATERIAL CULTURE TO IDENTITY

16:00 – Cretan mercenary archers and the Neo-Assyrian Empire

Konstantinos Markos, PhD candidate in Classical Archaeology, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

16:30 – Defining Cultural Boundaries on the Silk Roads - Food and Identity in the Sasanian Period

Mette Bangsborg Thuesen, PhD student in Near Eastern Archaeology, Freie Universität Berlin

17:00 – Keynote lecture: How are people made? On subjects and identities in Mesopotamia

Prof. Dr. Susan Pollock, Institut für Vorderasiatische Archäologie, Freie Universität Berlin

18:00 – Discussion

February 12, 2021

**THIRD SESSION:
EPIGRAPHIC LEGACY: INSCRIBING
IDENTITIES**

10:10 – From Individual Identities to
Prosopographical Networks – A Case
from Ancient Memphis

Anne Herzberg-Beiersdorf, PhD in Egyptology,
Ägyptisches Museum und Papyrussammlung
Berlin

10:40 – Identity set in stone. The identity
of benefactors through the physicality of
inscriptions: a case study of bath euergetism
in Roman Central Italy

Konogan Beaufay, DPhil in Classical Archaeology,
Lincoln College, University of Oxford

11:10 – Problems and Politics of Writing
Bactrian in Greek Script in the Kušān Empire

Stefan Härtel, PhD student in Iranistics, Freie
Universität Berlin

11:40 – Coffee break

**FOURTH SESSION:
CONSTRUCTING IDENTITIES IN
ROMAN LITERATURE**

12:00 – Identity Unconscious: Quintilian's
Tabula Rasa

Henry Bowles, PhD, DPhil student in Classical
Languages and Literature, Christ Church
College, University of Oxford

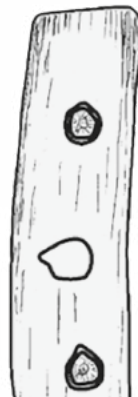
12:30 – Writing away the truth in Propertius
3.6 and 3.23

Nikita Nicheperovich, DPhil candidate in
Languages and Literature, Wadham College,
University of Oxford

13:00 – Keynote lecture
Trading partners? Ancient 'cultural identity'
and the problems of 'exchange'

Nicholas Purcell FBA, Camden Professor of
Ancient History and Fellow of Brasenose
College, Oxford

14:00 – Final discussion



‘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 instance, family traditions, the self-constitution of ancient societies, the use of “Others”, identity-based conflict, and territorial claims. We shall discuss how myth, religion, collective memory, language, material culture, and culinary traditions define cultural identities and enforce cohesion. We encourage participation from doctoral candidates of different disciplinary backgrounds in order to ensure a variety of perspectives.

ORGANISERS

- Mette Bangsborg Thuesen, BerGSAS – Languages and Cultures of the Silk Road (Silk Road), Freie Universität Berlin.
- Stefan Härtel, BerGSAS – Languages and Cultures of the Silk Road (Silk Road), Freie Universität Berlin.
- Xiaozhe Li, BerGSAS – Languages and Cultures of the Silk Road (Silk Road), Freie Universität Berlin.
- Stefano Palalidis, BerGSAS – Landscape Archaeology and Architecture (LAA), Freie Universität Berlin.
- Kai Radloff, BerGSAS – Landscape Archaeology and Architecture (LAA), Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin.

HOST

Berlin Graduate School of Ancient Studies (BerGSAS), Berliner Antike-Kolleg
www.berliner-antike-kolleg.org/bergsas/

CONTACT / REGISTRATION

To receive the access data for the conference, please register with full name and affiliation at:
ox-ber.grad.conference2020@berliner-antike-kolleg.org

