Identity and the Self
How Archaeology Creates Protohistoric Identities

Identité et Soi
Comment l'archéologie crée des identités protohistoriques

Rencontres doctorales / Doctoral meeting
14 - 16 mars 2024
14th - 16th March 2024

Excursion et atelier / Excursion and workshop
17 - 18 mars 2024
17th - 18th March 2024

Call for Papers
contact : eepb2024@gmail.com
Call for Papers

10th Doctoral Meeting of the European School of Protohistory of Bibracte

The tenth Doctoral Meeting of the European School of Protohistory of Bibracte (EEPB) will be held on March 14-16th 2024, with a Workshop on Science Communication on March 18th at the European Archaeological Centre of Bibracte (Burgundy, France). Since 2015, these Meetings have brought together PhD candidates and young doctors working on common issues concerning Protohistory across Europe.

We invite Early Career Researchers to propose a contribution on the following theme:

Identity and the Self
How Archaeology Creates Protohistoric Identities

Archaeologists have always strived to understand the origins and characteristics of the people they study. In doing so, they inevitably create Identities of past individuals, groups and cultures. These Identities are usually based on various factors such as gender, sex, ethnicity, race, religion or social status. However, recent studies have highlighted that Identity is a highly intricate and fluid concept that goes beyond often-used binary concepts.

In the Humanities, Identity is a highly complex and multifaceted concept that is defined in various ways by ethnographic, historical, sociological, psychological and philosophical approaches. In anthropology, for instance, Identity has been a frequently used term to describe the idea of selfhood, often in reference to Eriksonian concepts. This refers to the individual properties that make a person unique and distinct from others. Stuart Hall, on the other hand, proposes that Identity should be viewed as a process in order to acknowledge the reality of diverse and constantly evolving social experiences.

In the field of archaeology, Identities are often sketched out on the scale of protohistoric communities through settlement studies and material culture. However, thanks to new approaches in material studies and modern techniques like a-DNA analysis, isotopes, nanoLC-MS/MS and biological anthropology, we might be able to shed new light on past Identities. The human body, which can be an essential medium to express one’s personhood, social status, belonging or detachment from cultural groups, is becoming a new object of study from which we may be able to rewrite protohistoric biographies.

Studying past Identities is not limited to individuals alone but can also be examined through socio-economic, ideological and environmental factors that influence groups and cultures. For instance, access to resources and knowledge, hierarchical systems, and inherent inequality can shape collective Identity.

Can we utilize settlement, migration, ethnographical, historical and landscape studies to redefine protohistoric Identities and territories?

Another point to consider is that the study of Identity is often influenced by researchers’ economic, social, and ideological backgrounds or agendas, which can distort our perception of past Identities. These biases can arise from the creation of archaeological research programmes all the way through to popularization and communication with the general public, in which different concepts of Identity can be conveyed. In this regard, our aim is to critically reflect on how research institutions across Europe are developing and communicating different concepts of Identity to the general public.
As archaeologists, our understanding of the past heavily relies on objects and contexts. However, it is important to pause and reflect on whether and how these sources can truly represent the Identities of past individuals and groups. Moreover, we have to ask ourselves, can we confidently create narratives about past Identities, and how much of these created narratives are simply a reflection of our Self? In this Doctoral Meeting, we aim to thoroughly discuss the concept of Identity and its definition. We will delve into how this topic was approached in past archaeological research, explore our (in-)ability to create past Identities and determine if we possess the necessary tools to communicate these past Identities to the general public.

Contributions can be made in the form of an oral presentation (20 minutes) or a poster (with a 5-minute oral presentation). Proposals must be submitted by:

**December 15th, 2023**

Accommodation and meals will be provided free of charge for the duration of your stay.

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**Workshop on Science Communication**

The portrayal of protohistoric Identities to the general public can be a very sensitive topic, requiring thought and consideration. However, most archaeologists are not trained in communicating their research with the public and mostly tend to write cumbersome scientific papers that will only be read by a select number of peers.

For this 10th edition of the EEPB meetings, we propose to complete the conference with a one-day workshop devoted to a challenge faced by all archaeologists: sharing their research with the public.

With the help of experts in museology, writing and social media, we want to discuss and practically implement how we, as researchers, can create intriguing storylines and powerful imagery that will captivate a broad audience while remaining true to archaeological evidence.

The Workshop will take place on March 18th in the Archaeological Centre and Museum of Bibracte and is free to attend for all participants of the Doctoral Meeting.

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**References**


Organizing Committee

Sabrina Autenrieth, PhD Candidate, Faculty of Archaeology, Leiden University (the Netherlands); Research Assistant “Human Past”, PACEA Université de Bordeaux (France)

Clara Millot-Richard, PhD, Université Paris 1 Panthéon Sorbonne, UMR 8215 Trajectoires (France)

Chantal Willborn, PhD Candidate, Université Rennes 2, Laboratoire LAHM, UMR 6566 CReAAH (France)

Nevenka Atanasoska, PhD Candidate, Faculty of Arts, University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice (Czechia)

Simone Grosso, PhD Candidate, Dipartimento di Scienze dell’Antichità, Sapienza Università di Roma (Italy)

Ondřej Šťastný, PhD Candidate, Faculty of Arts, University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice (Czechia)

Daniel Ciucălu, PhD, independent researcher

Romain Bussone, PhD Candidate, ASM, UMR 5140, Université Paul Valéry, CNRS, Labex Archimede, Montpellier (France)

Scientific Committee

Anne-Marie Adam, Emeritus Professor, Université de Strasbourg, UMR 7044 Archimède (France)

Stéphanie Adroit, Lecturer, ASM, UMR 5140, Université Paul Valéry, CNRS, Labex Archimede, Montpellier (France)

Philippe Barral, Professor, Université de Bourgogne-Franche-Comté, UMR 6249 Chrono-Environnement (France)

Reine-Marie Bérard, Chargée de Recherche, CNRS, Centre Camille Jullian, Maison méditerranéenne des Sciences de l’Homme, Aix-Marseille (France)

Ondřej Chvojka, Professor, Institute of Archaeology, University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice, (Czechia)

Mario Denti, Professor, Université Rennes 2, Laboratoire LAHM (France)

Sophie Krausz, Professor, Université Paris 1 Panthéon Sorbonne, UMR 8215 Trajectoires (France)

Claude Mordant, Emeritus Professor, Université de Bourgogne-Franche-Comté, UMR 6298 ARTEHIS (France)

Thibaud Poigt, Postdoctoral fellow, Université Bordeaux Montaigne, UMR 5607 Ausonius et 5608 TRACES (France)

Katharina Rebay-Salisbury, Professor, Universität Wien (Austria)
Réjane Roure, Professor, ASM, UMR 5140, Université Paul Valéry, CNRS, Labex Archimede, Montpellier (France)

Sasja van der Vaart-Verschoof, Curator, National Museum of Antiquities Leiden (the Netherlands)

Stefan Wirth, Professor, Université de Bourgogne, UMR 6298 ARTEHIS (France)

Keynote speakers

Prof. Mario Denti (Rennes University): *Migrations égéennes et identités indigènes en Italie méridionale à l’âge du Fer : comment lire la documentation archéologique ?*


Dr. Sasja van der Vaart-Verschoof (National Museum of Antiquities, Leiden; the Overdressed Archeologist): *Connected in Death: Elite Identities in Iron Age Funerary Practices*

Workshop on Science Communication

Linda Dielemans (Artefiction): *In the mind’s eye. The power of stories in archaeological outreach.*

Dr. Sasja van der Vaart-Verschoof (National Museum of Antiquities, Leiden; the Overdressed Archeologist): *Doggerland Identities: Scientists and Beach Combers Combine Forces*

Museum Team of Bibracte: *tba*
General Information

The Doctoral Meeting of the EEPB will take place at the European Archaeological Center of Bibracte, Glux-en-Glenne (France) from 14th – 16th March 2024 with a Workshop on Science Communication on March 18th. On Sunday, March 17th we are planning an excursion to the Archaeological Site and Museum of Bibracte.

Arrival and accommodation

You can stay in Bibracte from Wednesday 13th to Tuesday 19th March 2024. During this week, the Research Center covers food and accommodation expenses for the participants. Throughout their stay, participants may use and work in the Centers’ library, which is open 24 hours a day.

Travel fees have to be covered by the participants. Participants are advised to arrive on Wednesday 13th (especially if they travel by public transport).

Participants will be picked up at the train station Le Creusot Montceau TGV.

The number of participants is limited by the capacity of the Research Center. Doctoral and postdoctoral students who wish to present a lecture or a poster have priority, but everyone is welcome to attend the Meeting depending on the accommodation capacity of the Center. Non-participants have to pay an accommodation fee according to the Centers’ price list or use their five days free if they are students.

If you have any questions about the accommodation, you can contact:

The Organizing Committee: eepb2024@gmail.com
or:
Accueil Recherche, Bibracte, Centre archéologique européen – F-58370 Glux-en-Glenne
Phone: +33 (0)3 86 78 69 00 – Fax: +33 (0)3 86 78 65 70 – Email: accueil@bibracte.fr.

The information about the organization of the 10th Doctoral Meeting is regularly updated on the blog at this address: https://eepb.hypotheses.org
Paper and poster presentation guidelines

The oral presentations are limited to 20 minutes, followed by 10 minutes of discussion. The posters will also have to be presented in a brief 5-minute presentation. All oral presentations must be accompanied by a slideshow presentation (for posters, the preparation of an accompanying slideshow is optional).

Oral presentations should be presented in English (preferably) or in French. The slideshows should in any case be in English.

The form attached below should be sent before 15th December 2023 to the following address: eepb2024@gmail.com.

Publication

The lectures and posters presented at the Meeting will be published after validation by the Scientific Committee of the Doctoral Meeting in the online publication of HAL (https://hal.archives-ouvertes.fr/EEPB).
Registration Form

We strongly recommend arriving in Bibracte on March 13th and leaving between March 18th and 19th. We will arrange transportation to and from Le Creusot Montceau TGV train station.

If you have any questions about the accommodation, you can contact us:
The Organizing Committee: eepb2024@gmail.com
or:
Accueil Recherche, Bibracte, Centre archéologique européen – F-58370 Glux-en-Glenne
Phone: +33 (0)3 86 78 69 00 – Fax: +33 (0)3 86 78 65 70 – Email: accueil@bibracte.fr.

PLEASE SEND THIS FORM BY 15TH DECEMBER 2023 TO:
eepb2024@gmail.com

Name:
First name:

Address:
E-Mail:
Phone Number:

Establishment of affiliation and laboratory:
Establishment address:
Research director/mentor:
Number of years since beginning or completing your PhD:

Date of Arrival:
Date of Departure:

I wish to present:
☐ A poster
☐ A communication