

AIA Eastern Europe and Eurasia Interest Group

November 2023 Newsletter

Welcome message from Eric De Sena, Chair, AIA-EEEIG

In my Senior year at the University of Albany (SUNY), a history-changing event occurred: the Fall of the Berlin Wall. I remember reading the New York Times each day and watching the evening news in the months leading up to November 9, 1989. That evening, a group of friends from all parts of the world sat around our living room in downtown Albany. We watched the news clips of East and West Germans hammering sections of the graffitied wall and celebrating freedom and unity. That is a moment I will never forget, and it helped shape my interest in Eastern Europe.

In 2000, a few years after I moved to Italy, I visited Berlin. West Berlin was beautiful and bright, but East Berlin was still a drab, communist-period district, albeit with some cool coffee shops and bars. I remember walking toward the Brandenburg Gate from the west and into East Berlin. I nearly cried, thinking that what I was doing would have been impossible for residents just 11 years prior.

Two years later, when I was employed at the American Academy in Rome, my supervisor, Archer Martin, and I organized a major conference on Roman pottery. Among the 200+ participants was a group of Romanian scholars and students, led by the Director of the Salaj County Museum of History and Art, Alexandru Matei. We hit it off and a few months later, Alexandru contacted me, asking if I would be interested in co-directing an excavation at a Roman frontier site in northwestern Romania, Porolissum. It seemed like an amazing opportunity, and so in September 2003, 20 years ago, I visited Alexandru in his hometown, Zalau, where the museum is located.

We spent a few days together, visiting nearby Porolissum and planning a pilot season that

would take place in 2004. For six seasons, we worked together on the Porolissum Forum Project. I recruited students for a field school and used it as an opportunity not only to teach students archaeological techniques, but to immerse them in Romanian culture. Each summer, I packed my car in Rome and drove across Europe, taking slightly different routes in order to explore more of the region.



Not long after the first season of the PFP, I joined our EEE interest group and attended meetings whenever I participated at the AIA/APA Conference. As the years passed, my enthusiasm and championing of the Balkans grew. I raved about the potential for research in the Humanities and Social Sciences.

In the years 2012-14, I served a term as Director of the American Research Center in Sofia. In a very short time, together with 4 Bulgarian and 1 U.S.-based colleagues, we built the Center into a thriving community. We hosted lectures and conferences, the library had a constant flow of patrons, we bolstered the publication series. We provided fellowships and travel grants to young scholars from the USA and Eastern Europe, most of whom were in residence with us. Together, we explored Bulgaria, Serbia,

North Macedonia, northern Greece, and the European region of Turkey. The organization was renamed the American Institute for Southeast European Studies in 2016 and I serve as the Administrator.



All this to say that 20 years after my introduction to East European studies, I am still a tremendous enthusiast.

Last year, when Owen Doonan began hinting that he would step down as Chair of the EEEIG, we initiated a conversation about me

stepping in. I was honored to have been elected as the new Chair earlier this year. I want to thank Owen for all he has done and continues to do for our AIA Interest Group. He inherited a fantastic group of scholars and created a vibrant community.

Although we generally only see each other once per year, it is a thrill to hear about the brilliant work all of you are conducting in your corners of Eastern Europe and Eurasia. As I wrote in an email back in September, we have nearly 70 members from many parts of the USA, Canada, Europe, and Australia. Please spread the word about the EEEIG to anyone who works in the region and is a member of the AIA. In addition to the annual meeting at AIA/APA, I thought a newsletter may help to unite us and allow us to share information and opportunities. Please feel free to reach out to me in the coming year with your ideas for the EEEIG and/or for research / funding opportunities for students and scholars and I will send periodic emails with your announcements. My email is: (ericcdesena@gmail.com).

EEEIG at AIA Chicago

I am looking forward to seeing many of you at the AIA/APA Meetings in Chicago (Jan. 4-7, 2024). There will be an in person meeting of our interest group, time/place to be determined. The Program shows that the archaeology of Eastern Europe and Eurasia will be well represented. In addition to several stand-alone lectures and posters, three colloquia are (co-) sponsored by the EEEIG:

Saturday, Jan. 6, 8:00-10:30 a.m.

4D: Cultural Encounters in the North Pontic Region after Antiquity (*Sponsored by AIA Medieval and Post-Medieval Archaeology Interest Group and AIA EEEIG*).

Organizer: Adam Rabinowitz, The University of Texas at Austin

Saturday, Jan. 6, 2:00-5:00 p.m.

6A: Small Worlds of the Milesian Colonial System (*Sponsored by the AIA EEEIG and the AIA Anatolia Interest Group*).

Organizer: Owen Doonan, California State University Northridge

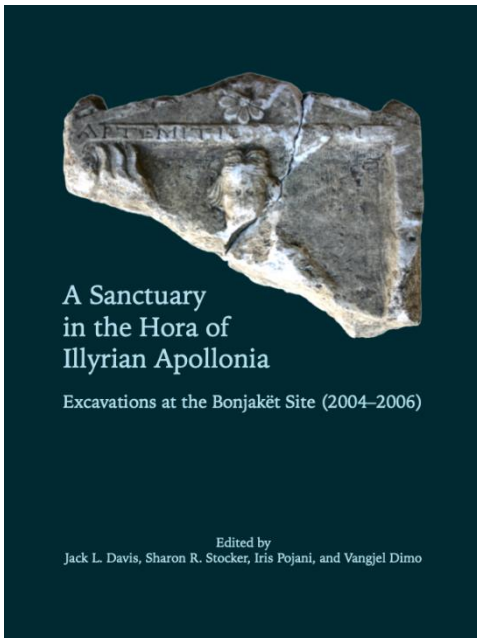
6E: Breaking New Ground in Southeastern Europe with Innovative Strategies: Research by Emerging Scholars (*Sponsored by AIA EEEIG*).

Organizers: Sterling Wright, Penn State University, and Erina Baci, University of Michigan

News and Announcements from our Members

Jack Davis and **Shari Stocker** (University of Cincinnati) announce the publication, *A Sanctuary in the Hora of Illyrian Apollonia. Excavations at the Bonjakët Site (2004-2006)*, edited by Jack L. Davis, Sharon R. Stocker, Iris Pojani, and Vangel Dimo and published by Lockwood Press.

(<https://www.lockwoodpress.com/product-page/a-sanctuary-in-the-hora-of-illyrian-apollonia-excavations-at-the-bonjak%C3%ABt-site>).



In the years 2004–2006, a joint team from the International Centre for Albanian Archaeology in Tirana, Albania, the Institute of Archaeology in Tirana, and the University of Cincinnati conducted excavations in the plain west of the walls of the ancient Greek colony of Apollonia, near modern-day Pojan. The site lies almost entirely within a complex of farm buildings known locally as Bonjakët.

This volume represents the full publication of the results of three campaigns of excavation at the site. The new excavations discovered and documented a previously unknown monumental temple and have made it possible to describe for the first time the material

remains of Greek rituals as practiced at the time of, or not long after, the foundation of Apollonia.

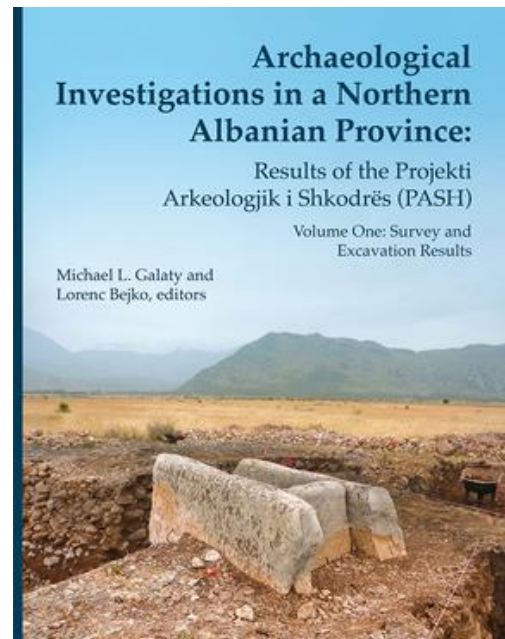
Mike Galaty (University of Michigan's Museum of Anthropological Archaeology) announces the publication of a two-volume report on the results of the Projekti Arkeologjik i Shkodres (PASH), a multi-year collaboration with the University of Tirana in Albania, is now out. Michael L. Galaty and Lorenc Bejko (eds.), *Archaeological Investigations in a Northern Albanian Province: Results of the Projekti Arkeologjik i Shkodres (PASH): Volume One: Survey and Excavation Results, and Volume Two: Artifacts and Artifact Analysis*.

Ebook ISBN: 978-1-951538-68-2.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.3998/mpub.12201317>

Ebook ISBN: 978-1-951538-67-5

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.3998/mpub.12208577>



Hard copies are available, but e-books have also been produced (see links above). The e-books are free-to-read (but not download) to anyone, anywhere for six months. Michigan Press e-books are presented via a system called Fulcrum. Each book is accompanied by "additional resources," arranged by chapter. There

are links to high resolution images, the data archive, and an interactive site map. You may find the archive of particular interest. All of our data are stored open access in Michigan's Deep Blue Data repository and have been strategically linked to the book.

Dominic Moreau (University of Lille, France) highlights a large network in Europe dedicated to the history and archaeology of the Balkans in Late Antiquity, the HAEMUS International Research Network.

Founded in 2021, HAEMUS brings together researchers working on the archaeology and history of the Balkan peninsula and/or the surrounding lands—*viz.* on the territory covered by the Tetrarchic Dioceses of Pannonia, Moesia, and Thrace—during the Late Roman and Early Byzantine periods. This scientific network is designed around ongoing archaeological excavations and other research programs in the region. This is the first time that the entirety of the Balkans is considered from the perspective of ancient administrative boundaries, rather than from contemporary borders. In order to shed light on the phenomenon of the historical transition from Roman Antiquity to the Middle Ages, the network does not hesitate to look beyond established temporal benchmarks and the spatial framework.

The network aims to facilitate the sharing of scientific knowledge and practices between partners by setting up a mobility program specifically designed for students and colleagues from South-Eastern Europe, in order to give them access to the unique documentary network constituted by the pooling of partners' resources, as well as to accelerate their full integration into the European Research Area. HAEMUS circulates knowledge and practices on the field, between scholars and students, to encourage interdisciplinary approaches and favor the emergence of both Euro- and trans-Balkan projects. Moreover, we share equipment in archaeology, archaeometry and digital humanities, to support the emergence of occasional or long-term collaborations.

HAEMUS currently has over 400 members on the mailing list (you are invited to subscribe to it). We organize many activities, including online lectures. Please visit our website: <https://haemus-network.univ-lille.fr/>

Karen Rubinson (Research Associate, Institute for the Study of the Ancient World, NYU) announces two recent publications. *Borders in Archaeology: Anatolia and the South Caucasus ca. 3500-500 BCE*, edited by L. d'Alfonso and K.S. Rubinson, Peeters Publishing (2021) is devoted to the search for borders in archaeology and takes as a case study the archaeology of Anatolia and the South Caucasus in the Bronze and Iron Ages.

Up until the mid-first millennium BCE, these regions differ in interregional and macro-regional interactions, political complexity, economic and mobility strategies, and communication of identities, among which is the use and spread of writing through time. They are united by their representation in ancient sources and modern literature as borderlands. These features represent the core of the discussion developed in the volume. Chapters include theoretical discussion of borders and boundaries, and regional investigations of the Early, Middle and Late Bronze Age (Assyrian colony period, Hittite empire in Anatolia, Kura-Araxes, Trialeti-Vanadzor, Van-Urmia and other traditions in the South Caucasus), the Early Iron Age and Middle Iron Age (Troy, Phrygia, Urartu), until the unification under the Achaemenid Empire. They offer a balanced interplay between site-based investigations and landscape archaeology in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Turkey.

Katheryn M. Linduff and Karen S. Rubinson, *Pazyryk Culture Up in the Altai*, Routledge (2021) reconsiders the archaeology of the Pazyryk, the horse-riding people of the Altai Mountains who lived in the 4th–3rd centuries BCE, in light of recent scientific studies and excavations not only in Russia but also Kazakhstan, Mongolia and China, together with new theories of landscape. Excavation of the Pazyryk burials sparked great interest because of their wealth of organic remains,

including tattooed bodies and sacrificed horses, together with superb wooden carvings and colorful textiles. In view of this new research, the role of the Pazyryk Culture in the ancient globalized world can now be more focused and refined. In this synthetic study of the region, the Pazyryk Culture is set into the landscape using recent studies on climate, technology, human and animal DNA and local resources. It shows that this was a powerful, semi-sedentary, interdependent group with contacts in Eurasia to their west, and to their east in Mongolia and south in China. This book is for archaeologists, anthropologists, art historians, social and economic historians as well as persons with general interests in mobile pastoralism, the emergence of complex societies, the social roles of artifacts and the diverse nature of an interconnected ancient world.

Carolyn Snively (Professor Emerita at Gettysburg College) received the Blaže Koneski International Recognition Award from the Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts in Skopje, North Macedonia on October 7, 2022. The award, which recognizes special contributions to the development of science, culture, and art in Macedonia, honors her involvement in archaeology and related fields in Macedonia for fifty years, especially at the sites of Stobi and Golemo Gradište.

Prof. Snively and Goran Saney of the Archaeological Museum in Skopje directed the 23rd consecutive season of archaeological excavation at Golemo Gradište, village of Konjuh in the Kratovo region (2023). An episcopal complex, residences, fortifications, streets, and a possible public square have come to light at this anonymous, Late Antique City. It was the only city in a series of forts guarding a road through the Kriva River valley, part of a secondary route from Scupi (Skopje) to Serdica (Sofia).

Vanča Schrunck (University St. Thomas, St. Paul, MN) has been involved in Archaeological and Environmental Research at the Roman villa site in Soline Bay on Sv. Klement Island, Croatia for

several years (croatia.stelarprojects.net). This is a summary of the Summer 2022 season:

The 2022 Croatia excavation research project was made possible by a generous grant from The Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation. Interdisciplinary research at the Roman villa site in Soline Bay and its island environment, in its 14th year, involved three St. Thomas faculty, five undergraduate and two graduate students, and Croatian archaeologists. All worked in the trench in addition to their specialized field research. Dr. Ivančica Schrunck (History), collaborating with two History majors Joe LaPorte and Sully Marshall, co-directed the excavation in the production sector of the villa, where spaces and facilities for making olive oil and wine, and for salting fish were documented in previous years. The most important find of 2022 was a large stone block with two square holes, which served as the base for holding two vertical wooden posts, one of the components used in the pressing device for grapes or olives.



Dr. Vanessa Rousseau (Art History) led the study of several thousand fragments of polychrome wall paintings with her Young Scholar collaborator Sophia Ritacco, who also performed chemical and geological analysis of the pigments upon return with the assistance of Professor Codrina Popescu (Chemistry) and Anik Regan (Geology lab manager). Dr. Rousseau also led two graduate students, Ingrid Cologne and Mari Kuennen, in a project on cultural heritage

and tourism in Croatia, supported by the St. Thomas Graduate Research Team Grant.

Dr. Kevin Theissen, Geology program director, conducted environmental research in geological coring with the assistance of Leah Boccignone and Sophia Link. In interpreting the production facilities and their agricultural role, we need data on past environmental conditions that is best obtained using geological methods. Geological field work included collection of multiple sediment core samples from the shallow Bay of Soline, which the geology students Andrew Cienciwa and Emilio Urbina analyzed in the Geology lab. At the bottom of the core sample,

Emilio got a radiocarbon age of 1670 yr BP +/- 30 yr. The calibrated calendar age of highest probability is 329-435 CE. This date fits well with the best represented period of Roman occupation, although the finds of pottery and coins date the human habitation at the site from the period of Greek colonies in the Adriatic to the Late Roman and Byzantine Empires (4th c. BCE-7th c. CE).

For more on the 2022 research season, visit <https://news.stthomas.edu/publication-article/a-world-of-science-ancient-art-and-history-under-the-st-thomas-microscope/>

Fellowship and Grant Programs

CAORC (Council of American Overseas Research Centers) announces its annual **Multi-Country Research Fellowship**. This fellowship enables US scholars to carry out trans-regional and comparative research in countries across the network of Overseas Research Centers as well as other countries. The fellowship supports advanced research in the humanities, social sciences, and allied natural sciences for US doctoral candidates, who are ‘all but dissertation’ and scholars who have earned their PhD or a terminal degree. Applicants are eligible to apply as individuals or as teams. Scholars must carry out research in two or more countries outside the US, at least one of which must host a participating Overseas Research Center. Twelve awards of \$12,600 each will be granted. Funding is provided by the US Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. **The deadline is December 6, 2023.** For more information: <https://www.caorc.org/multi-fellowship-guidelines>

The **CAORC - National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Research Fellowship** provides the opportunity for scholars to spend significant time in one country with an Overseas Research Centers as a base. The fellowship supports advanced research in the humanities.

Fellowship awards are for four to six consecutive months (i.e. you can hold the fellowship for four, five, or six consecutive months). Selected fellows are awarded \$5,000 per month of the award. This program is funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) under the **Fellowship Programs at Independent Research Institutions** (FPIRI). **The deadline is January 24, 2024.** <https://www.caorc.org/neh-fellowship-guidelines>

The **American Institute for Southeast European Studies** (AISEES) offers several funding opportunities:

Lynn Roller Fellowships for Senior US and Southeast European Faculty and Scholars. AISEES announces the availability of two fellowships for senior scholars, defined as someone who is more than five years beyond the Ph.D. *One fellowship of \$5000 will be awarded to a university faculty member or independent scholar based in the USA, and one fellowship of \$3000 will be awarded to a faculty member or independent scholar based in southeastern Europe.* The fellowships will be used to support research in southeastern Europe (Albania, Bosnia

and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, and Slovenia). The research project must be conducted within the 18-month period of May 2024 and October 2025. Projects in fields within the Social Sciences, Humanities, and related disciplines are eligible. **The deadline is December 15, 2023.** For more information, see: <https://aisees.org/fellowships-grants/lynn-roller-research-fellowships/>

AISEES 2024-25 Fellowships. AISEES offers 3 fellowships for US graduate students and early postdoctoral scholars in the United States to support research in southeastern Europe (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Romania, Serbia and Slovenia). The 2024-25 AISEES Fellows will be awarded \$3000 each. Projects in fields within the Social Sciences, Humanities, and related disciplines are eligible. **The deadline is March 31, 2024.** For more information, see:

<https://aisees.org/graduate-postdoctoral-fellowships>

AISEES 2024 Travel Grant Program. We invite applications for the AISEES Travel Grant Program (**deadline on March 15, 2024**). The travel grants are for the travel expenses of advanced students or scholars living in and traveling from southeastern Europe (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, and Slovenia) to present original research at a professional conference or symposium of international importance within the domains of the Humanities and Social Sciences. The conference/symposium must take place outside the scholar's country of residence and must be of international importance (for example, European Association of Archaeology, American Anthropological Association, ASEEES, Byzantine Studies Association). The travel grant may be used for a one-time or recurring conferences/symposia hosted by a university or an academic institute. For more information, see:

<https://aisees.org/travel-grants>

The AIA-EEEIG Community

Susan E. Alcock (University of Oklahoma)

Susan E. Allen (University of Cincinnati)

David W. Anthony (Hartwick College)

Erina Baci (University of Michigan)

Beryl Barr-Sharrar

Alexander Bauer (CUNY)

Nicolas Beaudry (University of Quebec)

Leah Bernardo-Ciddio (University of Michigan)

Glenn Bugh (Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University)

Joe Carter (University of Texas at Austin)

John F. Cherry

Kevin Clinton (Cornell University)

S. Colelo (Stanford University)

Jeanine Davis-Kimball

Eric C. De Sena (American Institute for Southeast European Studies)

Owen Doonan (California State University, Northridge)

C.J. Downin (SUNY Potsdam)

Douglas Edwards

Ernestine S. Elster (UCLA)

Michael Fuller

Mike Galaty (University of Michigan's Museum of Anthropological Archaeology)

Alex Gantos

Margarita Gleba (Università degli Studi di Padova)

Andrew Goldman

Andre Gonciar (University at Buffalo, SUNY)

Denver Graninger (University of California, Riverside)

Atila Gyucha (The Field Museum)

Frederik Hiebert

R.C. Hughes (University of Michigan)

Mark Hurst

Spencer Hurst (Cornell University)

Lori Khatchadourian (Cornell University)

Ulrike Krotscheck (The Evergreen State College)

Matthew McCarty (University of British Columbia)

Walda Metcalf

Aleks Michalewicz (University of Melbourne)

Barry Molloy (University College Dublin)

Andrew Moore (Rochester Institute of Technology and Archaeological Institute of America)

Dominic Moreau (University of Lille)

Kevin Mullin (Archaeological Institute of America)

Helen Nagy (University of Puget Sound)

Andy Overman

Bill Parkinson (The Field Museum, Chicago)

Karl M. Petruso

Jennifer R. Pournelle

Adam Rabinowitz (University of Texas at Austin)

Claire Rasmussen (Bryn Mawr University)

Jane Rempel

Lynn Roller (University of California, Davis)

Karen Rubinson (Institute for the Study of the Ancient World, NYU)

M.D. Schuler (William and Mary College)

Ivancica Schrunk (St. Thomas University)

David Seigle (Yale University)

Lilian Sellati (Yale University)

Adam Thomas Smith (Cornell University)

Carolyn Snively (Gettysburg College)

Myron Stachiw

Mark Stefanovich

John H. Stubbs

Michael Werner (University at Albany, SUNY and Roman Emperors Route)

Bona Wescoat (Emory University)

Sterling Wright (Penn State University)