



INSTITUTE OF
ANTHROPOLOGY,
ARCHAEOLOGY
AND LINGUISTICS
DEPARTMENT OF
PREHISTORIC ARCHAEOLOGY

Symposium & PhD course

Material Culture, Identity and Globalisation in Past and Present Societies

Name and title Professor,
dr.phil. Helle Vandkilde

Date: 1 July 2007

- *Location:* Helnan Marselis Hotel in Århus. Strandvejen 25, DK-8000 Århus C (+45 86144411)
- *Date:* 3rd -5th October 2007
- *Organising body:* University of Aarhus, Institute of Anthropology, Archaeology and Linguistics, Moesgård DK-8270 Højbjerg, Denmark
- *Organisers:* The Danish PhD School in Archaeology represented by School secretary Jytte Ringtved (farkjr@hum.au.dk). Professor Helle Vandkilde is responsible while assisted by the research students Tim Flohr Sørensen, Niels Nørkjær Johannsen and Frode Kvalø
- *Expected arrival:* October the 2nd in the afternoon/evening at the Helnan Marselis Hotel. Only participants from outside Aarhus University are expected to stay at the Helnan Marselis during the conference. To keep expenses at an acceptable level, junior researchers will share double rooms. Please contact Jytte Ringtved, if you represent Aarhus University and nevertheless need accommodation
- *Lunch & dinner:* For all participants who present papers and/or function as discussants.
- *Participation without paper:* This is possible. Please contact Jytte Ringtved or Helle Vandkilde.
- *Presentations:* please see separate programme.

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The symposium will, as announced earlier, bring together invited scholars and PhD students to discuss cultures of contact, networking and globalisation from the perspective of material culture. Several times in our past, flows of foreign techniques, discourses, objects, and people have challenged the familiar domain of the local community under conditions that resemble the globalisation of our own time. The materiality of power in a global context, things and commodities in a global perspective, the material and the mental in a global world, and homes, houses, and buildings as global places are all topics central to the symposium. The general aim is to provide possible answers to the seminal questions of how global flows of culture commence, develop and decline and how globalisation interacts with processes of social change. Two interconnected analytical perspectives can be outlined within the general theme of globalization studies:

- a. *Super-regional flows of culture* represent one level of analysis, which can provide important information on the complexity of interaction and on the nature of contact. The aim is here to account for the ways global forms of material culture move across geographical space.
- b. Another indispensable dimension of analysis is the *variability of local responses to, and receptions of, external culture*: Along with much recent research it is pertinent to ask if global things and styles are merely emulated in 'copy and paste' fashion. Oppositely, resistance culture such as inventing and reinventing past traditions may be the response, or any translational stage in between. The wider, short- and longer-term social impacts of globalisation must likewise be addressed.

This symposium, which is cross-disciplinary, takes place over two and a half days starting on October the 3rd in the morning and will be concluded on the October 5th around 14.00. There are paper presentations by both invited senior scholars and by research students (see programme). The papers of PhD students have been pre-circulated and will be discussed by a senior colleague after the presentation itself: a fruitful dialogue between paper presenter and discussant is aimed at, at the end also including the audience if time permits. It is strongly recommended that junior papers are circulated and presented in a form that can readily be transformed into a chapter in the planned dissertation. The possibility should also be



mentioned to collect the rewritten and peer-reviewed papers and publish them in an anthology at Aarhus University.

The Danish Research School in Archaeology provides the main financial and organisational frame for the seminar. Thus, funding is generously provided by the Danish Research School in Archaeology, with additional contributions by The Danish Research Council for the Humanities, and Aarhus University's current research focus on globalisation.

<http://www.aal.au.dk/global/index> & <http://www.globalisering.au.dk/humaniora/forskning>.

All invited scholars (see list below) will have their travel and accommodation (including meals) expenses paid for. Please remember to save your tickets and similar documentation for your expenses. Jytte Ringtved (farkjr@hum.au.dk) will take care of, and answer any questions relating to, practical matters.

Best regards

Helle Vandkilde

List of senior participants (with an outline of their research field)

Anders Andrén – Professor, University of Stockholm, Sweden.

anders.andren@ark.su.se:

Roman hybridization outside limes. A comparative perspective

In Scandinavian archaeology the impact of the Roman empire was observed a long time ago. Already in the second part of the 19th century the period 1-400 AD was coined as "The Roman Iron Age", due to all the Roman objects. However, in recent decades the Roman artefacts have been reinterpreted as not merely passive imports but as markers of profound social changes, partly based on Roman models. Still, this Roman influence is often viewed in too simplistic and monolithic terms. Consequently, I will try to explore some alternative perspectives in this paper.

Fredrik Fahlander – Senior Lecturer, University of Gothenburg, Sweden.

fredrik.fahlander@archaeology.gu.se:

Materiality and hybridity in inter-societal encounters

Generalising models of culture-contact have recently been challenged by ideas and notions from so called postcolonial theory. For instance, Homi Bhabha's concepts of hybridity, the third space of enunciation and



mocking mimicry, may serve as a more elaborate and promising theoretical framework. Bhabha points out that situations of inter-social confrontations are complex processes; often involving a number of differently empowered individuals and groups, and the effects and consequences may impute a quite great variety of possible strategies and responses (misunderstandings, ambivalence, negotiation, tension and confusion).

In order to address such effects, studies of large-scale inter-societal relations need to depart from local cases, in particular settings. From a series of such detailed studies more general fictions of a region and time-period can emerge that consider both local and global aspects of inter-societal relations and social development.

Chris Gosden – Professor, University of Oxford, UK.

chris.gosden@arch.ox.ac.uk: *Charting global flows of material through museum collections: issues of identity*

Museums of archaeology and ethnography contain materials from all over the world, creating the world in microcosm. They represent sets of relations between people and things which span the globe, which often made use of colonial networks. The assembling of collections also raised profound issues of identity, in that people putting together the collections had their own identity challenged and redefined in the process of representing the identities of others. In this paper I shall look at recent work in the Pitt Rivers Museum, Oxford which looks at the sets of relations lying behind the collections and which has asked how far the collections represent a map of the British Empire and to what extent these collections have raised questions about being British or English.

Hans Christian Gulløv – curator, National Museum, Denmark.

hans.christian.gullov@natmus.dk:

From an Arctic Pioneer Culture to Arctic Cultures in Contact

Focusing on the Arctic global world of present day Inuit, the presentation first discusses the emergence of humans – pioneers of the Palaeo-Eskimo culture – who entered the so-called Eastern Arctic from the Bering Strait region some 4,500 years ago. Attention will here be put on the cultural material homogeneity, exploitation of natural resources, and characteristic appearance of dwellings, which form a recognizable and communicative human world for subsequent generations of Palaeo-Eskimos and Inuit.



When the latter people – the Neo-Eskimos – arrived from the west some 3,500 later, Eastern Arctic then had had a long history of occupation and cultural remains were found everywhere. The second part of the presentation discusses the impact of post-Norse European presence on Inuit communities as reflected in communication and distribution of ideas and goods, in settlement patterns, and not at least in native thoughts now taken down by foreign colonizers. The two cases – Palaeo-Eskimo and Neo-Eskimo – illustrate how the concept of globalization can describe a prehistoric ethnic situation and the impact of recent Western geopolitics.

Lise Hannestad – Reader in Classical Archaeology, Aarhus University, DK
 Hellenism as colonialism, culture flow, and culture reception. Will be discussant only. klashl@hum.au.dk

Richard Hingley – Reader in Archaeology, Durham University, UK.
Richard.Hingley@durham.ac.uk:

Assimilation and marginalization: Global processes of local incorporation in the Roman Western Empire

This paper addresses the ways in which local societies across Western Europe were incorporated into the Roman empire, together with the concomitant response of indigenous people to contact with Rome. It is argued that an international language of assimilation, represented by a broadly defined, highly flexible and locally-defined ‘Roman’ culture, enabled the incorporation of disparate groups in ways that concurrently extended imperial networking while marginalizing the incorporated. The grammar of Latin language and culture (dress, architecture, diet, etc) articulated a culture of incorporation and exclusion that both attracted and repelled those on the margins of imperial control; hybrid and transformational identities emerged characterised by a complex amalgam of Roman and indigenous elements. Military force and intervention were used by Rome to promote or force compliance, but the hybrid and international culture that grew with the expansion of Rome, offered widespread opportunities to communicate identity, status and contact across great distances, creating dependency on the part of those incorporated.

Kristian Kristiansen – University of Gothenburg, Sweden. k.kristiansen@archaeology.gu.se: *The complexity of culture - the Bronze Age as case.*

It is suggested that the Bronze Age is a laboratory for understanding the complexity of culture, due to the widespread use of bronze and its important role in both production, rituals and prestige building. It allows us to differentiate between different uses of material culture, showing a



complexity that can be linked to different social and economic institutions, some of which formed political communities and some of which formed ethnic identities of a regional scale (much like Hall has demonstrated for Greece). It is further suggested that in a long term perspective it is possible to distinguish between shorter periods of transformation and cultural hybridization, and longer periods of consolidation, cultural continuity and homogeneity.

Stephen Lumsden – University of Copenhagen, lumsden@hum.ku.dk:
Globalization in the Old Assyrian Colony Period

During the early part of the Second Millennium B.C. Anatolia was enmeshed in global flows of people, things, technologies and discourses. Texts reveal one part of this complex phenomenon, in the trade within Anatolia by merchants from Northern Mesopotamia. Mutual dependencies included infrastructure and protection on the Anatolian side and advanced administrative technology and ability as foreigners to move freely between polities on the Assyrian side. Indications are that labor practices, production, exchange, and consumption within Anatolia were transformed during this period. An explosion in productivity in material culture, of creativity and innovation, suggests that things played important roles in working out new values, ideas and identities in a relatively short period of time. While there are some obvious hybrid characteristics, much is new, with no connections to earlier elements in any material culture. The variable reception in the non-literate environment within Anatolia of the standard Mesopotamian information technology toolkit of writing in cuneiform on clay tablets and using cylinder seals to certify and secure illustrates one aspect of this process.

Helle Vandkilde – University of Aarhus, Denmark. farkhv@hum.au.dk:
 This presentation will introduce the theme of globalisation in the past and the present with examples from Late Neolithic and Bronze Age Europe and contemporary Papua New Guinea. Issues of material culture, identity and societal change will be highlighted

Rane Willerslev – University of Aarhus, Denmark. etnorw@hum.au.dk: the reception of global culture in historical and contemporary Siberia; visual anthropological perspectives on globalisation. Will be discussant only.



List of junior participants (with title of presentations)

Henriette Hafsaas, Bergen University, Norway (F): *The Kingdom of Kush – a centre on the periphery of the Bronze Age world system in Afro-Eurasia*

Mogens Skaaning Høegsberg, Aarhus University, Denmark (M): *Social status and the spread of cultural ideas in Norse Greenland*

Mads Dengsø Jessen, Aarhus University, Denmark (M): *Global Mission and local Church – building new ideologies in the religious environment*

Niels Nørkjær Johannsen, Aarhus University, Denmark (M): *Turning wheels in changing minds. Recognizing conceptual resources in the spread of technology*

Juho-Antti Junno, Oulo University, Finland (M): *The first colonisation of Fennoscandia – The case of archaic Homo Sapiens*

Frode Kvalø, Aarhus University, Denmark (M): *Towards an aquacentric notion of the Nordic Bronze Age*

Kristján Mímísson, Iceland University, Iceland (M): *The abscondance from globalisation and the individual choice of isolation.*

Roy Anders Nilsen, Tromsø University, Norway (M): *Networks of transformation and meaning in the early Iron Age*

Anna-Kaisa Puputti, Oulu University, Finland (F): *Farming, hunting and urbanisation in early modern Tornio, northern Finland*

Christina Seehusen, Copenhagen University, Denmark (F): *Death Travelling. Burial customs discussed in relation to ethnicity and ideologies.*

Tim Boaz Bruun Skuldbøl Copenhagen University, Denmark (M): *The formation of Mesopotamian Cities as a global phenomenon and the world's first 'clash of civilizations'.*

Tim Flohr Sørensen, Aarhus University, Denmark (M): *Global disposal: Corporality, cremation and the staging of non-places*

Mervi Suhonen, Turku University, Finland (M): *Globalization in medieval urban way of life? Reflections on (post)modern globalization in Vyborg (Karelia) in the 14th century.*

Peter Andreas Toft, National Museum, Denmark (M): *Glass beads, knives and clay pipes – The transformation of function and social meaning of European commodities in 17th-19th century Greenland*

Juha-Matti Vuorinen, Turku University, Finland (M): *Christianization and 'Europeanization' of a small village in the periphery: Identities and material culture in Raisio Ihala (S.W.Finland) c. 1000-1280 AD*