

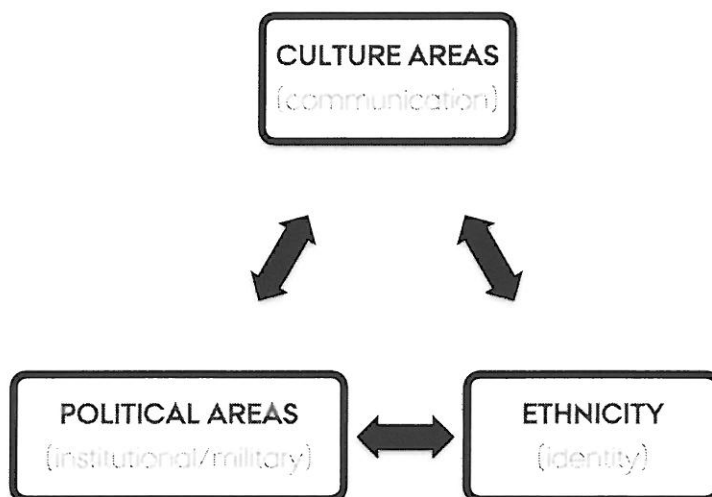


Spatial, Cultural, Political, and Ethnic Discontinuity

Iron Age Seminar, 30th of January, 2013

10.30 – 17.00

Moesgaard, Auditorium 5



The seminar will be open to all having an interest in the research of the Iron Age, and we especially welcome archaeologists from the Danish museums as well as university scholars and students to participate in this exciting seminar.

With a spatial point of departure various perspectives of cultural, political and ethnic discontinuities and/or breaks in the Iron Age will be presented at this seminar. The three main themes of the seminar will thus be the interplay between culture areas focusing on communication, political areas focusing on institutions and military, as well as ethnicity focusing on identity. Whether it would be the crisis of the 5th Century AD in a Europe undergoing radical change following the collapse of the Roman Empire, or the curious notion of so-called Iron Age outskirts areas situated at the West Coast of Jutland, as well as the organization of military institutions related to war and defense, this seminar will present different aspects of the Iron Age research with the goal set to create new ways of interpreting this crucial period of the prehistory.

Continuity as well as discontinuity is relevant studying the Iron Age societies, but what kind of knowledge do we actually hold of the organizing institutions, and their meaning towards the social development, in the societies of that day? Further on it is a question where we can acknowledge the breaks and what kind of meaning we ascribe to these breaks? Hence the seminar will present versatile and differing interpretations of the dynamic, prehistoric societies.



Another topic is the military institutions and their meaning to society, when new results of the ongoing research excavation of Alken Enge is presented with a focus on the military as the unifying perspective in a time of unrest and upheaval.

A further topic relating to the main themes is continuity and discontinuity in settlements focusing primarily on the western part of Denmark closely related to the North Sea shoreline creating possibilities to connect with other people.

With the seminar focus will remain on the interplay between culture areas (communication), political areas (institutional/military) and ethnicity (identity) in a spatial perspective. The various aspects of this interplay hold a key to understand the past societies. This will make it possible to create new suggestions on how to take the research further by allowing us to unite further pieces of the prehistoric puzzle.

In order for the Moesgaard Cafeteria to keep up the supply of lunch, please notify your participation to Katrine Balsgaard Juul (farkkj@hum.au.dk) no later than January the 21st, 2013.

The seminar is arranged by Mads Kähler Holst and Katrine Balsgaard Juul, Department of Culture and Society – Section for Prehistoric Archaeology, Aarhus University, Moesgaard, Moesgaard Allé 20, 8270 Højbjerg. The seminar is affiliated with the Materials, Culture and Heritage Programme, Aarhus University.