

**SCIENTIFIC REPORT OF THE ESF EXPLORATORY WORKSHOP**

**“EARLY SYMBOLIC SYSTEMS FOR COMMUNICATION IN  
SOUTHEAST EUROPE”**

**KARLOVO (BULGARIA), 14-20 APRIL 2002**

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## **Executive Summary**

The workshop on the early symbolic systems for communications in Southeast Europe and their cultural context was an attempt to present innovative directions of the investigations of the symbols and communication in prehistory.

The multi-aspect character of the problem was the grounds for a workshop to gather together prominent and young scholars to discuss and elaborate new research directions of this important aspect of development of human civilization that for a long time had remained a research problem of individual scholars.

The success of the workshop is based on the significant contributions of the participants to the different aspects of the problem of the early symbolic systems of communication.

The communications of M. Stefanovich, L. Nikolova and K. Leshtakov represented a general new view on Balkan Neolithic, Copper and Bronze Age reconstructed as an evolution process including transformations and innovations, without considerable outer forces. As Prof. M. Stefanovich stressed,

“Today the symbolic repertoire of Southeastern European social prehistory rests conventionally on the work of M. Gimbutas and followers. She identified two primary symbolic systems: Pre-Indo-European also called by her Old Europe and Indo-European, which is identified with the spread of speakers of the Indo-European languages in the 5th-4th millennia. Gimbutas presented evidence from the two symbolic systems that were different in organization and metaphor. This theory rests on the identification of Indo-Europeans as different ethnic, linguistic and socially organized communities from those existing earlier in Old Europe.

However, recent research in archaeogenetics posits less differentiation in the palaeo-gene pool in Southeastern European prehistory from 10,000 BC to 1000 BC. This research brings into question the thesis that Indo-European speakers were intruders from outside the areal of Southeastern European prehistory as presented by Gimbutas. The further implications is that the symbolic system differences that exists between Old Europe and the later Indo-Europeanized Southeastern European areal cannot be attributed to the presence of the newly arrived Indo-European speakers. This paper will discuss what possible alternatives exist to account for the changes in the symbolic repertoire that takes place during the 5th and 4th millennia”.

A critical view on the records base for symbols and their documentation by K. leshtakov was accepted by all participants. The central topic of systematic approach to the signs and

symbols including computerization of the base-data were in the focus of the contributions of G. Lazarovici, S. Chokhadzhiev, K. Leshtakov, Cornelia Magda Lazarovici, etc. Further, K. Kostova, I. Dimitrov and A. Chokhadzhiev represented innovative approaches to the communications through rituals and to the emergence of the ornament.

The advanced reconstruction of the communication between generations (V. Nikolov and D. Karastoyanova), supported by possible evidence for re-painting of crusted ware (E. Christmann) and by analysis of the house structure of Banjica (B. Tripkovic) developed the problem of the communication in Balkan prehistory as a diachronous process. L. Nikolova on her hand argues that the communication function of the signs and symbols characterized not only the cult but also the everyday life of the individuals, households and communities.

M. Budja and Ts. Tsonev represented a complex view on the transition from hunter-gathering to farming analyzed in the context of the earliest symbolic systems for communication. The global direction of scholar analysis was continued by D. Popovici and I. Manzura whose topic was Copper Age in the Northeast Balkans, as well as by the report on the role of the shepherds in the long-distance contacts in the Adriatic region (E. Montagnari Kokelj). Further, C. Lichter and K. Bacvarov represented reconstruction of the burial customs in context of the problems of communication between communities, supplemented by case studies (G. Stratouli, I. Dimitrov).

The contributions also included:

Contextual analysis of the symbols based on new unpublished data for pottery from Bulgaria (N. Todorova, P. Leshtakov, R. Pejkov, M. Hristov, K. Nikov, etc.) and Romania (V. Sirbu and S. Pandera);

Thematic analyses of symbolic aspects of the material culture – fire symbolic, the meaning of the pinthaderas, weaving, disk and wheel –like small objects, figurines and ornamentation, signs on pottery and figurines, etc. (C. Schuster, T. Dzhanfezova, L. Nikolova, V. Petrova, S. Ignatova, P. Kalchev, etc.);

Cutting-edge research on the material culture by combination of the different sorts of records (E. Skafida and S. Souvatzi);

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Diachronic analysis of the distribution, function and meaning of specific symbolic objects for Balkan pre- and early history (T. Stoyanov);

Contributions to the symbolism of the Thracian culture (M. Tacheva and G. Kitov) and to the communication system during Later Bronze Age (I. Kulov);

Paleoecological research that contributes to the problems of the factors of the development of the prehistoric communication systems (B. Hocaoglu and E. Oner), etc.

The discussion after every report contributed additionally to the scholar results of the workshop.

## **Scientific Content of the Workshop**

The workshop on the early symbolic systems for communications in Southeast Europe included different sorts of communications:

Theoretical contributions

Interpretations

Reporting new archaeological data.

### **Theoretical contributions**

Mark Stefanovich. His report was on the Diversity of Symbolic Communication in Southeastern European Social Prehistory. In his understanding of symbols as culture the system is a methodological tool for interpretation of the symbolic changes including Later Balkan Prehistory not as a change of population but as a cultural transformation.

Lolita Nikolova. In this report the symbolism, as one of the most characteristic features of the prehistoric culture, was argued to be based on the stage of development of the human thought, in which the language and the symbols were two equal systems for communication, and the writing was not or only initially developed. In spite of the ambiguous nature of the material culture (after Jan Hodder), the symbols transmission could be direct and very realistic (or expressive) but it could be also included in a special system of communication, in which the sign or symbol was an integral part of the message. The report argued that the symbolic communication characterize not only cult but also the everyday life of the Balkans early population.

Krassimir Leshtakov (“Signs on the Neo-and Chalcolithic figurines”). The scholar represented a classification of the signs: simple ornamental units, motifs, compositions and additional elements of decoration. According to him, some signs or their groupings are out of ornamental schemes. They consist of so simple elements that could get the name elemental or nuclear ‘things’ – the minimum bits of information, which are so similar to the later Linear A and B signs that provoked controversial debates several decades ago. His contribution was to the theory of analysis of the signs and to the critical view on the documentation of symbols and signs.

### **Contributions to the interpretation of the prehistoric signs**

The rich Balkan prehistoric signs have been a subject of numerous publications and discussions – from Tartaria problem to the newly discovered signs from Drama (Bulgaria) interpreted as Linear A or B.

The most significant result of our workshop was that the authors who focused their research interest on the prehistoric signs prefer systematization of the data. Then, the contributions were in following direction:

Development of the statistic base of the Balkan prehistoric signs and symbols (G. Lazarovici)

Systematization of signs from West Bulgaria (S. Chokhadzhiev)

Discussing of new signs from Copper Age (K. Leshtakov)

Systematization of numerous data on prehistoric altars (the so-called cult table) and their signs (Cornelia Magda Lazarovici)

The discussion on the meaning of some signs and the methods of interpretation helped to understand that modern science is only at the beginning of scientific research of problem and we need development of the theory and methods of interpretation.

### **Symbolic communications through the ritual**

It was an innovative topic and represented by the youngest generation in the Balkans prehistoric scholar research.

K. Kostova focused on the newly discovered Cherna Gora ritual ditches and cult features and interpreted the site as a central for different neighbour communities from Early Bronze Age. The conclusion of the author was that “the complex Cherna Gora has served as a ritual place for the inhabitants of more than one settlement; the area of the complex was a place for contacts between people of different professional groups from both sexes; within the area of the sanctuary different rituals were performed most probably by different groups of participants in definite zones”.

I. Dimitrov systematized for the first time the data on the dogs in Early Bronze burials in Southeast Europe and Anatolia as an evidence not only of specific ritual, but also of contacts. According to this participant, the sporadic appearance of the graves with human burials and dogs probably is an argument about the role of individual factor in the burial custom. They may well have a religious symbolism in addition to their dedication to their owners. It seems acceptable to

think that the dogs like men are subject of cult and their death is a part of a custom which is included in the whole burial ceremony. Maybe the written and mythological data were echo of earlier customs. Probably these graves could be regarded as a bit of additional evidence in favour of the statements about close contacts between the cultures in Southeastern Europe and Anatolia in the Prehistory as well as for Thracian-Hittite analogies in the rituals, mythology and means of communication in the first millennium BC.

The report was a subject of special interest and was evaluated as a considerable contribution to the workshop.

A. Chokhadzhiev represented innovative approach to the interpretation of the loom weights. The participant concluded that some of the “pre-writing signs” are not means for communication, but probably some magical incantative formulas.

### **Symbolic communications between generations**

V. Nikolov and D. Karastoyanova represented an advanced reconstruction of the communication between generations based on the Neolithic pottery from Kazanluk. The authors argued that during its period of reproduction - 450-500 years or 27-30 generations - white-painted ornamentation has been laid on according a strictly defined ornamental design, which comprises several main types of local compositions (ornamentation under the mouth rim, central composition, ornamentation of the pedestal), and form more than a dozen types of ornamental compositions. This suggests a necessity of purposeful training of the artists, who have been members of the local communities. The author emphasized that white-painted ornamentation is a manifestation of the religio-mythological system, and this is one more clue that it has been an important part of the communication system between the generations.

E. Christmann discussed possible evidence for re-painting of crusted ware, while the diachronic analysis of the house structure of Banjica was the contribution of B. Tripkovic.

### **Diachronic view on Prehistoric Balkans**

The contacts and symbolic communication were included in the general view on Balkan prehistory by M. Budja and Ts. Tsonev whose subject was the transition from hunter-gathering to farming analyzed in the context of the earliest symbolic systems for communication.

According to M. Budja, the Mesolithic population contributed to the formation of the Early Neolithic culture systems in the Northwest Balkans. E. Montagnari Kokelj continued the topic for the Adriatic coast by model for long-distance contacts of the shepherds.

### **The Northeast Balkans and the prehistoric contacts**

The global direction of scholar analysis was continued by D. Popovici and I. Manzura whose topic was Copper Age in the Northeast Balkans. D. Popovici represented a complex view on the Cucuteni culture while I. Manzura discussed the distribution of the metal finds based on the newly systematized data.

In the communication of I. Manzura were discussed the result of systematization of 1533 items: 1294 shaft-hole axes and 293 bracelets. The purpose of the report was to demonstrate to which extent the changing distribution of certain metal finds in the second half of the 5th and first half of 4th millennia B.C. is able to reflect some cultural processes in the European prehistory. According to this participants, the quantitative, spatial and contextual alterations in the distribution of finds obviously demonstrate: 1) significant growth of metalworking in the LCA in comparison with ECA; 2) development of an intensive and extensive exchange network precisely in the LCA; 3) tools are largely removed from the domain of ritual to that of economic activities. These observations do not support the idea of a catastrophic invasion from the North Pontic to the area of farming cultures in the end of ECA.

### **The Burial customs and symbolic culture**

C. Lichter and K. Bacvarov represented reconstruction of the burial customs in Southeast Europe during the Neolithic and Copper Age. According to the former author, some regional characteristic of the burial customs in the Carpathian basin corresponds on the area of



distribution of particular recourses. K. Bacvarov argued that the missing burials from Early Neolithic could be a result of special symbolic rituals. G. Stratouli represented the Neolithic burial customs from North Greece. (See above for I. Dimitrov).

### **Pottery and symbols**

The ornamentation of the pottery was a subject of the reports of N. Todorova, P. Leshtakov, R. Pejkov, M. Hristov, K. Nikov, V. Sirbu and S. Pandera. All participants reported new material. They prefer a contextual analysis of the ornaments, respectively of the symbols in case in which they had data. P. Leshtakov showed that the regionalism of the pottery style can result in the development of specific technologies.

### **Symbolic aspects of the material culture**

Fire symbolic, the meaning of the pintaderas, weaving, disk and wheel –like small objects, figurines and ornamentation, signs on pottery and figurines, etc. are widely discussed on the workshop in the reports of C. Schuster, T. Dzhanfezova, L. Nikolova, V. Petrova, S. Ignatova, P. Kalchev, etc. They were supplemented by cutting-edge research on the material culture by E. Skafida and S. Souvatzi who interpreted the architecture of Dimini.

### **The Thracian culture and the symbolism**

One of the most important contributions was the diachronic analysis of the distribution, function and meaning of rhyta in Balkan pre- and early history (T. Stoyanov) supplemented by the analysis of the ancient spears (M. Tacheva). G. Kitov represented the newly discovered Temple near Starosel.

### **Multidisciplinary research**

Paleoecological research that contributes to the problems of the factors of the development of the prehistoric communication systems was the contribution of B. Hocaoglu and E. Oner.

### **The scientific discussions**

There was a discussion after every report. All the communications were evaluated as contributive too the topic. In the discussions were stressed the significance of the particular report for development of investigation of the symbolic communication, as well as additional data were represented from different parts of the Balkans. Some reports were followed by many questions, especially the ones with new material.

### **Visiting the Starosel Temple-Tomb and Stara Zagora**

In the program of the Workshop was visiting the newly discovered Temple-Tomb of Starosel where the excavator G. Kitov represented the Thracian Monument as one of the most expressive material evidence of the Thracian Culture. At the same time in Stara Zagora, visiting the Neolithic houses was an opportunity on place to discuss the problem of the household pattern and symbolism. In addition, the rich Malka Vera Depo was the place where a numerous pottery could been seem from different periods and to discuss different problems of the pottery and prehistoric symbols.

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**Assessment of the results, contribution to the  
future direction of the field, outcome**

The ESF Karlovo Workshop in April 2002 has demonstrated the new directions of the investigation of the symbols in prehistory. They have been understood as components of communication system between individuals, households, communities and generations. Many of the approaches require further deep research that would be in the best scholar manner realized as a part of broader program for the investigation of the communication function of the symbols. Having in mind the contributions in Karlovo, my understanding is that the topic is very fruitful for future essential contribution to the prehistory of Southeast Europe, and to the theory of the communication. And the results would be most significant if the topic of the Karlovo workshop is to be included in a broader theme such as “Symbol and Communication”.

This theme makes possible eventual network to be proposed for the program of ESF. Along with the participants in Karlovo Workshop including those who wanted but were not able to come, in this network can be invited prominent scholars on the history of the symbols and communication in Europe, as well as on the theory of the symbols and communication.

As a result, possibly a modern diachronic view on the symbols and communication from prehistory to modern times in Europe will be elaborated in this long-term program. The benefit for Karlovo workshop from such theme is the opportunity for integration with the modern theory of the symbols and communication, as well as the development of the prospective-retrospective analyses on the already selected and new topics or researching in depth of already selected topics.

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### **Outcomes**

The most important outcome of this workshop is the new complex view on the symbolic communications that was argued in different directions, as well as the opportunity all the communications to be collected and published in a book by British Archaeological Reports. Additionally, the summaries will be published on Web and in Reports of prehistoric Research Projects.

The innovative directions of research on the topic demonstrated on the workshop is a foundation to develop the project towards Network and future publications on Web and in Reports of prehistoric Research Projects.

# European Science Foundation

*Standing Committee for the Humanities (SCH)*

*ESF/SCH EXPLORATORY WORKSHOP*

## Early Symbolic Systems for Communication in Southeast Europe

*Karlovo, Bulgaria, 14-20 April 2002*

Convened by

**Elmar Christmann\* and Lolita Nikolova\*\***

\* *Institut für Ur- und Frühgeschichte, Universität Heidelberg, Germany*

\*\* *Prehistory Foundation, Sofia-Karlovo, Bulgaria*

Additional support provided by

**Prehistory Foundation, Sofia-Karlovo, Bulgaria**

### FINAL PROGRAMME

#### **Sunday, 14 April 2002**

**14.00** Bus departure from Sofia, Alexander Nevski Cathedral parking lot, for Karlovo and Banya

**14.00 – 19.00** Registration at the Constructor Rest House in Banya, Karlovo District

**20.00** Dinner

#### **Monday, 15 April 2002**

**7.00 – 9.00** Breakfast

**10.00** Official opening of the workshop at *Koprinarov House, Karlovo*

- ◆ Official greetings
- ◆ **Pilar Lopez**. European Science Foundation – Standing Committee for the Humanities, and the Exploratory Workshops: Objectives and Activity
- ◆ **Mark Stefanovich**. The Diversity of Symbolic Communication in Southeastern European Social Prehistory

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- ◆ **11.00** Opening the exhibition "*Symbols for Communication in Prehistory*"  
**at Karlovo Art Gallery**

**13.00** Visiting the Museum of History, Karlovo

**14.30** Lunch

**16.00** *Session one. Theory of the symbol and the prehistoric material culture in Southeast Europe and Anatolia: problems of implications. Chairmen: Mark Stefanovich, Lolita Nikolova and Clemens Lichter*

- ◆ *Gheorghe Lazarovici*, Sacred symbols on Neolithic cult objects from the Balkans
- ◆ *Mihael Budja*, Symbolic systems in the context of transition to farming in Southeast Europe
- ◆ *Elmar Christmann*, Communication through specific ceramics in the Greek Chalcolithic (A hypothesis for discussion)
- ◆ *Krassimir Leshtakov*, Signs on the Chalcolithic figurines
- ◆ *Alexander Chohadzhiev*, Some Comments on the Decoration of the Neolithic and Chalcolithic loom weights

**20.00** Dinner

**Tuesday, 16 April 2002**

**7.00 – 8.30** *Breakfast*

**9.00** *Session two. Prehistoric religion in the prehistoric Balkans: evidence and interpretations. Chairpersons: Totko Stoyanov and Nenad Tasić*

- ◆ *Clemens Lichter* Continuity and change in burial customs - examples from the Carpathian basin
- ◆ *Krum Bacvarov*, Where are the burials in Southeast European and Anatolian Neolithic?
- ◆ *Georgia Stratouli*, Neolithic societies of SE Europe and symbolic behaviour: some thoughts about death and burial rites in Neolithic Greece
- ◆ *Ivan Dimitrov*, Myth-ritual value of the graves with dog skeletons in SE Europe and Anatolia in Late Prehistory
- ◆ *Cristian Schuster*, The Bronze Age in Romania: periodization, chronology and relation to the prehistoric fire symbolism

**13.00** Lunch

**16.30** *Session three. Cultural pattern and prehistoric communication: new interpretations. Chairpersons: Tsoni Tsonev, Emanuela Montagnari and Igor Manzura*

- ◆ **Tsoni Tsonev**, Metaphors of "Ever-Giving Nature": Mesolithic landscapes in Southeastern Europe.
- ◆ **Vanya Petrova**, Clay Models of Wheels in Later Prehistory - Evidence for Transport or Symbols of the Eternal Motion (Sun Symbols) of wheels
- ◆ **Boban Tripkovic**, The dialogue between household and community: a case of Banjica
- ◆ **Igor Manzura**, Copper axes and bracelets in cultural context of prehistoric Europe
- ◆ **Emanuela Montagnari**, At the edge of the Balkans: indicators of long distance connections in northern Italy (Neolithic and Copper Age)
- ◆ **Kristina Dimitrova Kostova**, Communication through and in the ritual in Ancient Thrace in the Bronze Age (according to archaeological data)

19.00 Dinner

20.00 Visiting the Art gallery of Dimitur Bakardzhiev in Karlovo

### Wednesday, 17 April 2002

07.00 – 08.00 Breakfast

8.30 – 11.00 Visiting the Starosel Temple-Tomb, Hissar District.

11.30 **Session four. The symbolism of the Thracian culture. Chairmen: Margarita Tacheva, Georgi Kitov and Totko Stoyanov**

- ◆ **Iliya Kulov**, Towards the communication systems in Late Bronze Age: A Case Study from Southwest Bulgaria
- ◆ **Totko Stoyanov**, Rhyta in Thrace: Questions of development and meaning
- ◆ **Georgi Kitov**, Starosel Temple-Tomb
- ◆ **Margarita Tacheva**, The symbolism in the classical Antiquity (a Case study from Thrace)

13.00 Lunch

15.30 **Session five. Pre-writing signs: problems of interpretation. Chairmen: Michael Budja, Tsoni Tsonev and Stefan Chokhadzhiev**

- ◆ **Stefan Chokhadzhiev**, Pre-writing signs from Early Copper Age in Western Bulgaria
- ◆ **Valeriu Sîrbu & Stanica Pandrea**, Symbolic signs engraved on vessel bottoms belonging to the Boian culture, in the Danube Plain
- ◆ **Panikos Chrysostomou**, 'Signs' from Giannitsa, West-Central Macedonia, Greece
- ◆ **Bogdan Brukner** (Expected report on Vinča culture)
- ◆ **Cornelia-Magda Lazarovici**, "Pre-writing" signs on the Neo-Eneolithic altars
- ◆ **Stoilka Ignatova**, Flat Bone Idols from Yunatsite Tell: Iconography and Semantics

20.00 Dinner

**Thursday, 18 April 2002**

7.00 – 8.30 Breakfast

**9.00 Session six. Prehistoric pottery in the Prehistoric Balkans: pattern and symbolism. Chairmen: Vassil Nikolov and Stefan Chokhadzhiev**

- ◆ *Vassil Nikolov & Desislava Karastoyanova*, The Early Neolithic painted pottery as a system for communication between generations (On the base of materials from Kazanluk Tell)
- ◆ *Petur Leshtakov*, Technique and stylistic characteristics of the ornamentation of the pottery from the Chalkolithic settlement near Suvorovo Village, Northeast Bulgaria
- ◆ *Rumen Pejkov*, Ornamentation of the Early Chalcolithic pottery from Dzhuliyunitsa Tell (Central North Bulgaria)  
*Martin Hristov*, Early Copper Age pottery from the region of Panagyurishte
- ◆ *Nadezhda Todorova*, The ornamentation of the Late Chalkolithic pottery from Yunatsite Tell (Pazardzhik District). Systematization and Analysis. Similarity and differences in compare to synchronous sites from the Eastern and Central Balkans
- ◆ *Krassimir Nikov*, The meaning of Regionalism in South Thracian Pottery decoration during Early Iron Age

14.00 Lunch

**16.00 Session seven. The symbolism and the Ancient Balkan culture. Chairmen: Gheorghe Lazarovici and Bogdan Brukner**

- ◆ *Evangelia Skafida & Stella Souvatzi*, **Neolithic communities and symbolic meaning: perceptions and expressions of social and symbolic structures at Dimini, Thessaly**
- ◆ *Tanya Dzhanezova*, **The ornamentation of the Neolithic pintaderas from Bulgaria: typology and similarities with the decoration of other finds**
- ◆ *Tatyana Kuncheva-Rousseva & Vesselin Ignatov*, Signs on ceramic pintaderas and anthropomorphic figurines from the region of Nova Zagora (An attempt for interpretation)
- ◆ *Dragomir Popovici*, Changes, Influences and Evolution in Aeneolithic. The Cucuteni culture (A case study)
- ◆ *Petur Kalchev*, Towards the Interpretation of Some Signs and Ornament Motifs on Prehistoric Artefacts

20.00 Dinner

**Friday, 19 April 2002**

7.00 – 8.30 Breakfast

**9.00 Session eight in Stara Zagora. Visiting the Prehistoric dwelling exposition and Malka Vereva ceramic depot. Hosted by Petur Kalchev.**



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**13.00** Bag-Lunch

**16.00** *Round-table: Cutting-edge research and culture reconstruction (problems and diversity). Chairpersons: Lolita Nikolova and Elmar Christmann*

- ◆ *Complementary communication: Beycan Hocaoglu & Ertug Oner*, Geo-archaeological research around Tarsus-Gözlükule, Southwest Turkey
- ◆ *Lolita Nikolova*, The symbolism of the prehistoric culture and the Balkans

**19.00** Official closing of the Workshop

**20.00** Dinner

**Saturday, 20 April 2002**

**7.00 – 9.00** Breakfast

**9.00** Bus departure for Sofia

### **Final List of Participants**

**1. Prof. Lolita Nikolova, Ph.D.**

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Title of contribution: The symbolism of the prehistoric culture and the Balkans

Key-words: communication, symbolic signs, pottery, burial rites, innovation, technology

**2. Elmar Christmann, Ph.D.**

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Title of contribution: Communication through specific ceramics in the Greek Chalcolithic (A hypothesis for discussion)

Key-words: Chalcolithic, ceramic, ornamentation, Greece

**3. Assoc. Prof. Totko Stoyanov, Ph.D.**

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Title of contribution: Rhyta in Thrace: Questions of development and meaning in the Eastern Mediterranean

Key-words: banqueting; table ware; economic and cultural relations; adoption and adaptation; religious behaviour;  
Heros cult; clay and metal artefacts

**4. Prof. Georgi Kitov, Ph.D.**

Institution and address: Archaeological Institute, Suborna 2, Sofia 1000, Bulgaria.

Tel.: + 2 882 406

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Title of contribution: Starosel Temple-Tomb

Key-words: classical Antiquity, tombs, temples, architecture, ancient finds, trade

**5. Prof. Vassil Nikolov, Ph.D.**

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Title of contribution: Painted Ornamentation on Vessels as a Communication System between Generations (Based on evidence from Tell Kazanlak Early and Middle Neolithic layers)

**Key-words: Early Neolithic, pottery, ornamentation, communication**

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**6. Prof. Mihael Budja, Ph.D.**

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Title of contribution: Symbolic systems in the context of transition to farming in Southeast Europe  
Key-words: tokens, boundaries, transition to farming, Balkans, Adriatic

**7. Assoc. Prof. Stefan Chokhadziev, Ph.D.**

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Title of contribution: Vorschriftliche Zeichen aus dem Frühchalkolithikum in Westbulgarien  
Key-words: Early Copper Age, Bulgaria, pre-writing, signs

**8. Petur Leshtakov, M.A.**

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Title of contribution: Technique and stylistic characteristics of the ornamentation of the pottery from the Chalkolithic settlement near Suvorovo Village, Northeast Bulgaria  
Key words: pottery, ornamentation, Chalkolithic, Bulgaria

**9. Nadezhda Todorova, M.A.**

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Title of contribution: The ornamentation of the Late Chalcolithic pottery from Yunatsite Tell, Pazardzhik District. Systematization and Analysis  
Key-words: pottery, ornamentation, communication

**10. Martin Hristov, M.A.**

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Title of contribution: Early Copper Age pottery from the region of Panagyurishte

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**11. Krasimir Nikov, Ph.D.**

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Email: k\_nikov29@yahoo.com  
Title of contribution: The meaning of Regionalism in South Thrace Pottery decoration during Early Iron Age  
Key-words: prehistoric pottery, ornamentation, Early Iron Age

**12. Assoc. Prof. Krassimir Leshtakov. Ph.D.**

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Title of contribution: Signs on the Neo-and Chalcolithic figurines (An attempt of their classification).  
Key words: Neolithic, Chalcolithic, prehistoric figurines, signs

**13. Ivan Dimitrov, M.A.**

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Title of contribution: Myth-ritual value of the graves with dog skeletons in SE Europe and Anatolia in Late Prehistory  
Key-words: Bronze Age, burials, dog

**14. Assoc. Prof. Tsoni Tsonev, Ph.D.**

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Title of contribution: Metaphors of "Ever-Giving Nature": Mesolithic landscapes in Southeastern Europe.  
Key words: natural/cultural landscapes, arenas of social power, architecture, art.

**15. Tanya Dzhanfezova, B.A.**

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Title of contribution: Ornamentation of the Neolithic Pintaderas in Bulgaria (Typology and Comparison with the Decoration of Other Finds)  
Key-words: Neolithic, pintaderas, Bulgaria

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Title of contribution: The Ornamentation of the Dzhuljunitsa Tell Pottery from the Earlier Chalkolithic (Central North Bulgaria)

Key words: prehistory, pottery, ornamentation, Neolithic

**17. Petur Kalchev, M.A.**

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Title of contribution: Towards the Interpretation of some signs and ornament motifs on prehistoric artefacts

Key-words: prehistory, ornaments, symbols, cult of fertility

**18. Dragomir Popovici, Ph.D.**

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Title of contribution: Changes, Influences and Evolution in Aeneolithic. The Cucuteni culture (A case study)

Key-words: Cucuteni culture, pottery, communication

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Title of contribution: Communication through and in the religion in ancient Thrace in the Early Bronze Age

(According to archaeological data)

Key words: Bronze Age, communication, ritual

**20. Krum Bacvarov, M.A.**

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Title of contribution: Where are the burials in Southeast European and Anatolian Neolithic?

Key-words: Burial, Neolithic, the Balkans

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Karlovo, Bulgaria, 14-20 April 2002

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Title of contribution: The magic of the signs or signs for magic (Some Comments Based on Decorated Loom-weights from the Neolithic Tell Samovodene, near Veliko Tyrnovo, Central North Bulgaria)

Key-words: Chalcolithic, loom weights, ornamentation, Bulgaria

**22. Vanya Petrova, M.A.**

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Title of contribution: Clay Models of Wheels from Later Prehistory: Evidence for Transport or Symbols of the Eternal Motion (Sun-Symbols)?

**Key-words: Symbols, prehistory, clay models of wheels**

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Title of contribution: Painted Ornamentation on Vessels as a Communication System between Generations (Based on evidence from Tell Kazanlak Early and Middle Neolithic layers) (together with Vasil Nikolov)

Key-words: Early Neolithic, pottery, ornamentation, communication

**24. Assoc. Prof. Cristian Schuster, Ph.D.**

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Title of contribution: The Bronze Age in Romania: Periodization, Chronology and Relation to the Prehistoric Fire Symbolism

**Key-words: Romania, periodization, chronology, fire symbolism**

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Title of contribution: The “Signs” on the Bottom of Several Vessels from the Developed Neolithic, in the Carpathian-Balkan Area (together with Stanica Pandrea)

Key words: prehistory, ceramic style, Karanovo IV culture, Boian culture

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Title of contribution: Neolithic communities and symbolic meaning: perceptions and expressions of symbolic and social structures at Late Neolithic Dimini, Thessaly (together with Stella Souvatzi)

Key-words: Dimini, communication

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Title of contribution: Neolithic communities and symbolic meaning: perceptions and expressions of symbolic and social structures at Late Neolithic Dimini, Thessaly (together with Evangelia Skafida)

Key-words: Dimini, communication, social organization, space, symbolism, ideology

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Title of contribution: Neolithic societies of SE Europe and symbolic behaviour: some thoughts about death and burial rites in Neolithic Greece

Key-words: Neolithic, SE Europe, Greece

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Title of contribution: Continuity and change in burial customs: examples from the Carpathian basin  
Key-words: SE Europe, Neolithic, graves

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Title of contribution: The Dialogue between Household and Community: a Case of Banjica  
**Key-words:: Vinca culture, household, community, ideology**

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Title of the contribution: Copper Axes and Bracelets in the Cultural Context of Prehistoric Europe  
Key-words: Copper Age, metal, cultural transformation

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Title of contribution: Geo-archaeological research around Tarsus-Gözlükule, Southwest Turkey (together with Ertug

Oner and Levent Unku)

Key-words: geo-archaeology, Turkey, prehistory

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Title of contribution: The Diversity of Symbolic Communication in Southeastern European Social Prehistory

Key words: prehistory, communication, the Balkans

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Title of contribution: The symbolism in the classical Antiquity (a Case study from Thrace)

Key words: symbols, spears, calssical Antiquity

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Title of contribution: "Pre-writing" signs on the Neo-Eneolithic altars

Key words: symbols, prehistory, altars, pre-writing signs

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Title: Sacred symbols on Neolithic cult objects from the Balkans

**Key-words: symbols, signs, Neolithic, Romania, the Balkans**

**41. Stoilka Ignatova, M.A.**

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Title: Flat bone idols from Yunatsite Tell: Iconography and semantics

Key-words: symbols, flat idols, iconography

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Karlovo, Bulgaria, 14-20 April 2002

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Title of contribution, key-words: Evidence of long distance connections at the edge of the Balkans: economic or symbolic value ?

Key-words: symbols, long-distance contacts, the Balkans

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Title of contribution: Towards the communication system in Late Bronze Age: A case Study from Southwest Bulgaria

Key-words: symbols, communication, Late Bronze Age

**Statistical Information on Participants**  
**(title, age group, country of origin)**

**Titles**

<b>Professors</b>	<b>Assoc. Professors</b>	<b>Ph.D.</b>	<b>M.A.</b>	<b>B.A.</b>
6	5	26	14	3

**Age Groups**

<b>20-25</b>	<b>25-30</b>	<b>30-35</b>	<b>35-40</b>	<b>40-45</b>	<b>45-50</b>	<b>50-55</b>	<b>55-60</b>	<b>60-65</b>
5	7	4	2	6	7	7	3	2

**Countries of origin**

<b>Bulgaria</b>	<b>Romania</b>	<b>Greece</b>	<b>Turkey</b>	<b>Slovenia</b>	<b>Serbia and Montenegro</b>	<b>Italy</b>	<b>Germany</b>	<b>Moldova</b>
24	6	5	2	1	1	1	2	1

**Individual Statistical List of participants**

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Georgi Kitov	Assoc. Professor, Ph.D.	55-60	Bulgaria
Vassil Nikolov	Professor, Ph.D.	50-55	Bulgaria
Mihael Budja	Professor, Ph.D.	50-55	Slovenia
Stefan Chokhadziev	Assoc. Professor, Ph.D.	45-50	Bulgaria
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Nadezhda Todorova	M.A.	25-30	Bulgaria
Martin Hristov	M.A.	30-35	Bulgaria
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Krassimir Leshtakov	Assoc. Professor, Ph.D.	40-45	Bulgaria
Ivan Dimitrov	M.A.	20-25	Bulgaria
Tsoni Tsonev	Assoc. Professor, Ph.D.	40-45	Bulgaria
Tanya Dzhanfezova	B.A.	20-25	Bulgaria
Rumen Pejkov	B.A.	25-30	Bulgaria
Petur Kalchev	M.A.	40-45	Bulgaria
Dragomir Popovici	Ph.D.	45-50	Romania
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Krum Bacvarov	M.A.	25-30	Bulgaria
Alexander Chohadzhiev	M.A.	20-25	Bulgaria
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Desislava	M.A.	25-30	Bulgaria

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 Karlovo, Bulgaria, 14-20 April 2002

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