Gocha R. Tsetskhadze | Opening up the ‘Pontic Space’

The Black Sea region, once thought of as a self-contained or closed space, is opening up, step by step. Thanks to recent investigations and excavations, not just around the Pontus but in the Mediterranean and Anatolia, new data reveal many similar, comparable or comparative developments, placing those in the Pontic area in a broader overall context. It is the aim of this opening lecture briefly to highlight the main strands and developments, not only in the ‘Pontic space’ but also in the Mediterranean and Anatolia, thus opening onto the distinctive theme of the present workshop and the individual papers to be presented at it.

Miroslav Ivanov Vasilev | Βόρυζα πόλις Ποντική

The article deals with three major problems concerning the Persian polis Boryza. First, it focuses on its disputable location. After analyzing the information provided by Hecataeus and some other ancient authors, the author arrives at the conclusion that Boryza was situated south of the cape of Thylias and north of Salmydessos, i.e. as far as the Pontic coast is concerned Hecataeus enumerates in the south-north direction. The second problem is related to the duration of the Persian control over Boryza. Most probably the Persians settled there immediately after Darius’ Scythian march and lost their control in the years following the capture of Byzantium by the Greeks (478). At the end the author concludes that the Great King might have garrisoned Boryza.

Alexandre Baralis | Latest excavation results in Apollonia Pontica : The Territory

Since the early works of K. Hablitz on the rural developments surrounding Chersonesos, the Black Sea remains a reference area for the organization of territories in the ancient Greek colonies. These observations are, however, focused on the northern shores, leaving other Pontic coasts almost unexplored, with the exception of Istros. Excavations around this city have resulted in the innovative studies of P. Alexandrescu on the relationship between the Milesian colony and its immediate hinterland, raising the question of the internal structure of its chôra. In order to provide a first overview on this topic, the Aix-Marseille University, in cooperation with the National Archaeological Institute of Sofia and the Romanian Academy, launched in 2010 a new research program based on a comparative study of the territories of two Greek settlements : Orgame in Romania and Apollonia Pontica in Bulgaria. Based on a multidisciplinary approach, this program – now headed by the Louvre Museum and subsequently funded by the French National Research Agency and the French Foreign Office – has shed light on the variety of conditions prevailing on the Western Pontic coast, from the mouth of the Danube to the Thracian coast. Around Apollonia, five years of archaeological excavations and surveys highlighted the several stages of development in the formation of its territory, as well as the internal organization of the city’s adjacent areas, gradually revealing the origins of its early prosperity.

Margarit Damyanov | Votive and other pottery from a sanctuary of Demeter in Apollonia Pontica

In 2011, excavations took place on the rocky Skamni Promontory at the northeastern end of the peninsula of ancient Apollonia Pontica, present-day Sozopol. Because of the complex later history of the place, the strata from the Archaic through Hellenistic periods were badly disturbed. However, the preponderance of some groups of materials from the site indicates that there was a sanctuary there, most probably of Demeter and Kore. Along with terracotta figurines, the site yielded hundreds of miniature vases – mostly hydriae, jugs, and amphorae – that are typical for sanctuaries of Demeter throughout the Greek world. They can help trace
the evolution of practices related to the sanctuary. The earliest identifiable materials date from the 6th c. BC, with well-presented groups from the latter half of the century. These are mainly imported small vases – banded olpai, Attic black-figure lekythoi, etc. An accumulation of such vases could be interpreted as a bothros. Later deposits contained mainly plain, crudely made miniature vases. The ceramic assemblage from the site comprises, although in much smaller proportions, black-glazed cups, plain dishes, cooking ware, lamps, etc. The presence of some could be explained by ritual feasting that took place in the sanctuary.

**Mila Chacheva | Adornments or amulets? Personal ornaments from graves of children in the necropolis of Apollonia Pontica**

The necropolis of Apollonia is the most extensively excavated of all Western Pontic Greek necropoleis. Of the grave goods that accompanied the deceased Apollonians, personal ornaments are among the least popular. In view of this fact it is interesting that they are found far more often in the graves of children – some 20 percent of all investigated graves. Small items and ornaments of non-precious metals rarely attract the attention of scholars, more often than not, they are of modest appearance and cannot be dated with precision. Therefore, necropoleis are crucial as sealed contexts. It is difficult to say what the exact purpose for placing these items in graves was, but further investigation of the material could lead to intriguing results and some new hypotheses. The presentation aims to offer a broad overview of the regularities in the occurrence of different groups of personal ornaments. In particular material related to children's graves seems to raise more questions than answers. Were they simply adornments, or did they carry additional meaning? If the latter is true, then what was that meaning – general protection from evil or something else? Currently, the state of research does not allow definitive answers, but provides directions.

**Iulian Birzescu | Archaic pit-houses from Tariverde in the Histrian territory**

Archaeological researches conducted by the Vasile Pârvan Institute of Archaeology of Bucharest between 1951 and 1958 at the modern village of Tariverde have uncovered a small Archaic settlement (about 3-5 ha), which was founded by Histria in the second quarter of the 6th century BC. The settlement is situated in the inland, 17 km from the city, near a stream that played an important role for the Greek settlers. Based on the extant excavation documentation and on the archaeological finds, the present paper examines the site's domestic architecture. Characteristic of the settlement are pit-houses, which have parallels in the North Pontic area and other regions (e.g. Karabournaki, near Thessaloniki). Compared to Histria, where pit-houses are rare (only one pit-house has been discovered so far), the evidence from Tariverde indicates either that the settlers adapted a type of local dwelling or one from elsewhere in the Black Sea region.

**Adela Sobotkova | Farmers or Pastoralists? Subsistence strategies in Ancient Thrace**

Using data from a surface survey, isotopic analysis and ethnography this paper models the footprints of various agro-pastoral regimes, from pure cereal agriculture to pure stock-breeding, in order to examine which of these models best corresponds with the observed settlement patterns in Central Bulgaria during the first millennium BC.

**Dmitry Chistov | Archaic houses of the Berezan settlement**

A large quantity of data has been accumulated concerning the spatial organisation of the Archaic Greek Berezan settlement during the ‘urbanised’ period (i.e. the second half of the 6th century-early 5th century BC). Substantial progress has been made in the study of town-
planning and the localization of the archaic urban civic centre on the territory of the modern Berezan Island. Multi-chamber houses with walls of adobe and stone occur at the Berezan settlement during the large-scale construction in the early third quarter of the 6th century BC. As a rule, these were one-story structures grouped into housing blocks. Residential and household rooms were situated around a courtyard. A notable feature of these archaic houses was s.n. semi-basement rooms, the floor of which was dug into the soil to a depth of 0.3 - 1.0 m. An example of this specific type of construction, dated to the second to third quarters of the 6th century BC, is the so-called "Colonist's house." It is a single-chamber rectangular building dug into the ground with walls made of mudbrick and stone, or wattle and daub. These structures represent the transitional type between the dugouts of the early Berezan settlement period (late 7th to first half of the 6th century BC) and the later multi-chamber houses. Typologically, however, they are closer to the latter type and probably belonged to the first inhabitants of the urbanized settlement on Berezan in the 540’s BC.

Alfred Twardecki | Polish excavations at Tyritake 2008-2014: A small revolution in archaic architecture

A team of Polish archaeologists has worked at the site of Tyritake (Kerch, Crimea) for 6 seasons from 2008 until 2013. The Polish Archaeological Mission “Tyritake” headed by Dr Alfred Twardecki, a chief curator at the Ancient Art Gallery, is the first archaeological project launched by the National Museum in Warsaw in some 50 years. The mission was a part of a wider Polish-Ukrainian cooperative project, with the archaeological aspect primarily under the auspice of the Ukrainian Project “Bosporan City Tyritake” headed by Professor Victor Zin'ko, which started in 2002. In the course of its activities the Polish Archaeological Mission has excavated over 600 square meters in trench XXVII. The most interesting results were obtained in the western and eastern parts of the trench. In the eastern part remains of a kitchen complex from the Roman period (3rd-4th century AD) with well-preserved installations were discovered. Moreover, remnants of the Saltovo-mayak culture dugout with a smoke-dry installation made of stone were located at the same location. Analysis of the organic material preserved in the excavated hollow related to the installation resulted in some interesting conclusions about Saltovo-mayak dietary habits. In the western part a defensive wall from the beginning of the 5th century BC was discovered. Part of the wall was unearthed by Professor Gaidukevich during his excavations in the 1930s. Furthermore, the Polish Archaeological Mission discovered some earlier remains of buildings from the very first period of Tyritake as a Greek colony. Results of the excavations at the western part of the trench led to a number of conclusions, including a challenge to professor Gaydukevich's interpretation of House A as one of the earliest examples of Greek architecture in Tyritake and the Bosporus. This presentation will interpret the above results and discuss the consequences they might have on our understanding of archaic Greek architecture in the Bosporus.

Alexey Belousov | Some observations on defixiones from Olbia and the Bosporus

The report reviews the state of modern research in the field of Greek magic on the northern Black Sea coast, focusing in particular on the defixionum tabellae from Olbia and the Bosporus. To date, we know of about forty such documents, which the authors have compiled into a unified epigraphic corpus. This report will address the use of materials, forms and language formulae related to this body of evidence from the region.

Ioannis Xydopoulos | Chersonesos Taurike in the Greek literary tradition (5th-1st c. B.C.)

The ancient Greeks were trying to find or invent a Greek past in every new place they visited,
so that it would be enclosed in their “world”. This practice, obviously, had to do with perception and identity issues. For the area we are dealing with, i.e. the Black Sea in general and the Chersonesos Taurike in particular, the same practice was followed. Already at an early date, there were myths concerning the presence of known heroes (Hercules, Achilles, Iphigenia, the Argonauts) in the area, depicting the early Greek presence in these places. Nevertheless, there was no effort exerted either by Herodotus or the Greek settlers to “recategorize” those peoples as Greeks. On the contrary, they were depicted as totally alien to the latter, with customs so drastically different from the ones practiced in the Greek world, that one could easily draw the line between the Greek and the barbarian. The question arisen, therefore, is why this re-categorization of the barbarians as Greeks was not applied to the Taurians.

**Polyxeni Adam-Veleni | Macedonia and the Black Sea during the reign of Philip II and Alexander the Great**

The colonies and trading posts that were established in the second colonization of the Black Sea coast were developed during the Archaic period and flourished during the Classical. But what happens during the time of the peak of the Macedonian Kingdom and after the reign of Philip II and the policies he implemented in order to extend his influence to the Black Sea? How were the farmsteads organized and in what way was the land managed? How were the city-states shaped in the regions of the Black Sea after the crossing of Alexander the Great? Which cities survived in the Hellenistic period and which were renewed in the Roman times? How did the economy and the urban planning of the most powerful cities evolve? Which new cities were founded and why? The paper will attempt to answer these questions and determine the elements which influenced the social and political situation in the Black Sea cities after the reign of Philip II, as well as the fate of most of them after the passing of Alexander the Great.

**Georgia Aristodemou | Nemesis’ Cult and the Arena Spectacles. Evidence from the Black Sea Region**

Starting as an abstract sense of righteous anger, Nemesis soon developed into a powerful deity of the Graeco-Roman pantheon, while her cult gained a significant popularity during the Roman period and late antiquity; one of the most characteristic features of Nemesis during the Imperial period is her intense presence in spectacle monuments throughout the Empire. Archaeology provides us with strong testimonies of the connection between Nemesis, spectacle monuments and the gladiatorial combats and beast-hunts held there. Votive inscriptions and statuary from theatres and amphitheatres, which reveal the relationship between the cult of Nemesis and the arena monuments, are found in the West prior to the 2nd or 3rd c. AD and in the East and the Balkan-Danubian Provinces during the 2nd and 3rd c. AD. This paper deals with the presence of the cult of Nemesis in theatres and amphitheatres of the Roman provinces of the Black Sea region, especially those of the western coast. It discusses the presence of Nemesis in correlation with the Roman legionnaires established in the newly annexed territories. Furthermore it discusses the connection between the arena monuments as the symbol of Roman presence and power in the provinces, the Emperor as the image of the Imperium Romanum and Nemesis as an imperial ally that confirms, enforces and supports the imperial propaganda of the 2nd c. AD.

**Anna Argyri - Ioannis Birtsas & Manolis Manoledakis | Coins from the Propontis and the Black Sea found during the Metro excavations in Thessaloniki**

Over the past few years more than seventy bronze coins minted in the cities of the Propontis and the Black Sea were found at the excavations of the Metro of Thessaloniki. These coins
were found both in sites of the ancient city proper and in the cemeteries. They come from
Constantinople, Cyzicus, Nicomedia, Heraclea, Troas, Bithynia and Pantikapaion, and are
dated from the third and fourth centuries. All of the coins have been conserved and are
presented here for the first time. Their publication is followed by an interpretation of them in
their historical context.

Sümer Atasoy | Excavations at Tios: 2006 – 2015

The ancient city of Tios lies near the mouth of the river Billaios (Filyos), at the western end of
this coastline not submerged under modern buildings or deep deposits. It, therefore, presents
a unique opportunity for archaeological research to investigate the development, structure
and character of a long-lived settlement on this coast. The location of Tios provides the
principal route from the central Anatolian plain through the western Black Sea mountain range
and Amastris to the Black Sea. It is a small but important site controlling this major route and
dominating a rich agricultural, especially vinicultural, enclave. According to a legend the city
was founded by the Milesian religious figure called Tios in the seventh century BC.
Throughout its history the city was known by different names (Tieion, Teion, Tion, Tios). The
excavations of Tios, conducted by S. Atasoy, started in 2006 and continue today. Some parts
of the acropolis (Upper City), city centre (Lower City) and theatre were excavated, a surface
survey made, and geomagnetic studies carried out. On the acropolis some pottery sherds
dating from the Archaic and Classical periods were found. The size of the ancient city and its
layout remain unknown. The acropolis raises 75 metres above sea level in a series of three
terraces which are buttressed by walls. On the middle terrace there are remains of a Roman
temple and a Byzantine church. Several types of burials (10th – 12th c. AD) were
documented around the church and the temple. The Lower City is centered on the sloping
plain southwest of the acropolis and to the east of the modern town of Filyos. Many standing
monuments are dotted in this area, such as the theatre, a defensive tower, an aqueduct, a
vaulted cistern, sea walls and a number of tombs, all dated to the Roman and Byzantine
periods. Two Roman baths and three paved roads were partially uncovered in the Lower City.

Şahin Yıldırım | The Rescue Excavation of Hacilarobası Tumulus

The Hacilarobası Tumulus is located in the village of Hacilarobası, 30 km from the center of
the town of Safranbolu in Karabük, in the western part of the Black Sea coast of Turkey. In
June of 2014, with the Directorate of the Kastamonu Museum and the participation of
Karabük University’s Archaeology Department, a rescue excavation was conducted following
the almost complete destruction of the tumulus and its chamber by illegal excavations. A
circular tomb structure lying in a north-west to south-east direction was found 1 m below the
tumulus earth fill. The tumulus was constructed with ceased limestone blocks and had a long
dromos and a square-planned chamber that was covered by a cradle vault. This tomb, which
has circular walls that support earth cones, is dated to the 1st century B.C.

Julia Koch | Hellenistic Tombs of Paphlagonia

Since the late 19th century Paphlagonian rock-cut tombs and tumuli graves of the Persian
period were investigated multitudinously in the Amnias River Valley. While the pictorial
decorated tombs such as Terelik, Donalar and Salarköy provided an in-depth insight into
Achaemenid Paphlagonia, a lack of evidence was apparent with regards to the Hellenistic
northern Anatolia. This paper will survey the archaeological record related to the monumental
tombs of the Hellenistic period in the region in an attempt to address this lack.
Latife Summerer | Pompeiopolis: Ten Years of Research

Pompeiopolis, one of the seven cities founded by Pompei the Great in the Southern Black Sea Region, is hardly mentioned in the written sources. The collaborative research project "Pompeiopolis" seeks to explore the city involving several interdisciplinary and internationally organized teams. After ten years of excavation, many important insights on the urban development of the city could be revealed. The paper will provide a summary of results of the research between 2006-2015.

Burcu Erciyas & Mustafa Tatbul | The Roman Period at Komana

The ancient city of Komana is situated in the north-central Black Sea region of Turkey and is best known for its sanctuary, dedicated to the goddess Ma. During the Hellenistic period Komana was a site of attraction both for its bi-annual festivals and for the wealth it acquired through trade and agriculture. The priest who oversaw the temple's estate was second to the king in rank and the sanctuary was visited by people from the Kingdom of the Mithridatids as well as neighboring kingdoms. The sanctuary kept its semi-autonomous status under the Roman rule. In the mid-1st century B.C. following the death of Mithradates VI, a priest was assigned to the sanctuary by Pompey, a practice continued by subsequent Roman emperors. In the early Christian texts the name Komana first appears around AD 250 in the panegyric about Gregory Thaumaturgus (AD 335-394). Later, the site became a rural Byzantine center. Archaeological explorations at Komana began in 2004 with surveys and continue since 2009 with excavations. Both during the surveys and the excavations, which concentrated on a central hill called Hamamtepe, material dated to the Roman period was collected. This paper aims to bringing together this material in an attempt to further clarify the Roman period at Komana.

Emine Sökmen | Surveying Pontic Landscape through Defense Systems of Mithradatids

There are dozens of similar fortresses in the Pontic landscape. These fortresses are situated on ridges surrounding plains or on entrances to valleys - commanding positions with roads clearly visible. Observing that the backbone of the kingdom's economy was agricultural activity taking place in rural settlements, it seems plausible that a regional defense network was established in order to protect these settlements. Furthermore, fortifications can be powerful visual expressions of dominance. These fortresses, positioned as links in the defense system, were control points built in strategic places by the Mithradates', and served to project their dominance over the area. They played an important role in mitigating threats to wealthy temple states of the kingdom, which were established in the middle of the fertile plains. This study aims to shed light on the defense systems of the kingdom through the use of GIS analyses.