

SESSION TITLE: Enclosed Space – Open Society. Contact and exchange in the context of Bronze Age Defensive Settlements in Central Europe

ORGANISER: Mateusz Jaeger (*Poland*)

CO-ORGANISER: Klára Fischl (*Hungary*), Janusz Czebreszuk (*Poland*)

SESSION PROPOSAL:

The planned session will focus on the questions of contact and exchange in the context of Bronze Age defensive settlements. Considering the fact that the spreading of defensive settlements across central Europe in the first half of the 2nd millennium BC is believed to have been an effect of stimuli coming from the Aegean and Anatolia, we think this to be a key element of proposed discussions.

In European archaeology a firm view holds that defensive settlements played a key role in Bronze Age exchange systems. What is stressed in this connection is the importance of fortified settlements and certain groups of their inhabitants – elites – for the promotion and keeping alive the network of long-distance ties connecting central Europe in the north to the Aegean and Anatolia in the south. The chief facilitators of contacts between these remote areas were, it is believed, copper and amber.

What is worth noting is a significant advance in excavations on defensive settlements made in recent years. We suggest that at the session a discussion be taken up to verify the role of defensive settlements. We hope that it will be possible to name records not only bearing out the views hitherto prevailing but also supplementing them or even supporting entirely different views on the subject. As particularly interesting in this context we consider the question of the involvement of defensive settlement inhabitants in exchange on two levels: first, related to long-distance ties and, second, connected to regional links.

PLEASE CONTACT:

Mateusz Jaeger

Adam Mickiewicz University Poznań
Poland

T: +48698312955

E: jaeger@amu.edu.pl