

# ARCHAEOLOGY OF MIGRATION MOVING BEYOND HISTORICAL PARADIGMS

ONLINE SEMINAR SERIES, OCTOBER 2021 - MAY 2022

This seminar series examines different types of ancient and modern migration through a material lens. It aims to explore a variety of theoretical paradigms, perspectives, and methodologies for visualizing the movement and settling of migrants. To that end, scholars were invited to present archaeological or ethnographic case studies on a broad geographical, chronological, and thematic range of topics related to migration and mobility.

**Tuesday, December 14th, 2021, 17:00 (Brussels)**

**A river runs through it. The role of the Danube in facilitating population movements in Late Antiquity**

**Susanne HAKENBECK (University of Cambridge)**

The Danube occupied a complex place in the late Roman empire. Throughout the empire's existence, the river formed much of its northern frontier and was perceived as the boundary of Mediterranean civilisation. Yet, for an even longer time – extending back to human recolonization after the end of the last glacial maximum – the Danube has played an important part connecting European populations. Being the only river that crosses the continent from west to east, it has always been an important axis of communication, facilitating the movement of people, things and ideas. Drawing on a number of case studies, this paper will explore the tension between these dual functions.

**Migration, cultural encounters and economic changes: The emergence of specialized pottery workshop clusters in the Crusader kingdoms and states (12th-13th centuries)**

**Edna J. STERN (Israel Antiquities Authority & University of Haifa)**

The Eastern Mediterranean Latin States experienced change of regime, social change and economic growth during the twelfth and the thirteenth centuries. This was due to demographic changes in which Frankish settlers and foreign, mainly Italian, maritime merchant newcomers joined the local Christian and Muslim populations. The potters seized the new opportunities associated with these changes, and transformed some existing pottery workshops, along with emerging new workshops, into a thriving industry targeted for maritime export. Thus, ceramics became part of the lucrative maritime trade as attested by their wide circulation and by meagre textual evidence on the duties levied by the King or the Lord at ports for ceramic export and import that were paid willingly by the Italian maritime merchants.

Why and how did this happen? What was the involvement of the local potters in this process, of the Italian merchants and to what degree was the state involved in pottery production targeted for export? To try and answer these questions, I will shortly review four regional workshop clusters manufacturing a similar repertoire of wares. These clusters include the Paphos region in the Kingdom of Cyprus, the Principality of Antioch-The Kingdom of Armenian Cilicia region, both centers manufacturing standardized mass-produced glazed bowls; and two centres in the Kingdom of Jerusalem: Beirut, manufacturing mostly cooking ware and Acre, producing high quality, but simple, kitchen and dining ware. These clusters are situated on the seacoast or in its proximity, facilitating ceramic maritime distribution. The transformation of pottery into such a profitable export good, was by no doubt motivated by the flourishing maritime trade, in which numerous ships and boats of foreign and local merchants plied the Eastern Mediterranean shores. The cultural identity of the potters in these workshops will also be further investigated, whether they were locals (Muslims or Christians) or Frankish newcomers.

To register, please send an email until December 11th to: [ulbmigrationseminar@gmail.com](mailto:ulbmigrationseminar@gmail.com)

More information at: <https://crea.centresphisoc.ulb.be/fr/evenement/online-seminar-series-archaeology-migration-moving-beyond-historical-paradigms>

The seminar is organized by **Catharine JUDSON** and **Hagit NOL** (CRéA-Patrimoine, Université libre de Bruxelles).

For registration (for individual or all sessions), questions, and further information, please contact us at: [ulbmigrationseminar@gmail.com](mailto:ulbmigrationseminar@gmail.com)



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