From Central Space to Urban Place (1:2)

Social organization of land in South Scandinavia AD 400-1100.
Methods, challenges and possibilities

Odense City Museums, Thursday May 24th 2018

With a generous donation from the VELUX FOUNDATION the project “From central space to urban place. From the central spaces of the Iron Age to the cities of the Middle Ages” is conducted over the years 2017-2020. The project analyzes the earliest urbanization process in South Scandinavia within the chronological frame c. AD 400-1100. The means is, with Odense and Aalborg as cases, to explore the development from the central spaces of the Late Iron Age, defined as concentrations of localities characterized by wealth and functions like trade, crafts, cult and defense to the urban places (cities) of the Middle Ages, where the structures of power are concentrated at one spot (http://museum.odense.dk/forskning/projekter/from-central-space-to-urban-place).

The theoretical dialogue between space and place is a general perspective for the project, both in research and mediation. The same goes for the two international seminars, as part of the project. The first seminar deals with aspects of space, whereas the second seminar, in 2019, will focus on the aspects of place and the connection between space and place.

This first seminar is concerned with reconstruction and analyzes of the social organization of landscapes from the period Late Iron Age to Early Middle Age. Hence the first session deals with different methods and datasets to landscape reconstruction. The second session presents experiences from former or ongoing largescale landscape projects.

The seminar will be published online in the form of abstracts, the power point-presentations as well as summaries of the presentations and discussions, written by two archaeologists with this dedicated function of the day.

Price: 250 DKK, including lunch and coffee/tea. It is also possible to sign up for dinner in the evening at a restaurant in the city center. The price for dinner including two glasses of wine is 500 DKK. Register by payment of either 250 DKK (participation in seminar) or 750 DKK (participation in seminar and evening dinner) to Odense City Museums (registration number: 6866; account number: 1074044. Write: name, email, phone number, institution, certain wishes for vegetarian food, allergic states etc. and mark it “seminar May 24th”). Deadline for registration: May 1st 2018.
10-10.30: Coffee/tea & introduction

10.30-12.30: Session 1: Landscape reconstruction. Methods, perspectives and challenges

- 10.30-10.50: Søren Munch Kristiansen (GeoScience, University of Aarhus, Denmark): Reconstructing the Iron Age landscape. Possibilities and limitations in new methods from the natural sciences.
- 11.10-11.30: Per Grau Møller (University of Southern Denmark): Reconstructing the Iron Age infrastructure by historical and topographical sources.
- 11.50-12.10: Mogens Bo Henriksen (Odense City Museums, Denmark): Portable antiquities as source to organization of Iron Age landscape. Limitations and possibilities. Spatial and functional organization and dynamics.
- 12.10-12.30: Lene Feveile (Museums of Eastern Funen, Denmark): The dialogue between research and mediation of large scale Iron Age cultural landscapes.

12.30-13: Lunch

13-16.30: Session 2: Social organization and manipulation of landscapes in the period Late Iron Age to Early Middle Age. Background, methods, results and unused potentials in large scale projects of landscape archaeology


14.30-15: Coffee/tea

- 15.30-16: Mateusz Bogucki (Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw, Poland): The Truso-project. From local landing place to Viking-Age emporium.
- 16-16.30: Mads Dengso Jessen (The National Museum of Denmark): Reflections on the day related to landscape archaeology of South Scandinavia in the present and the future.

16.30-16.45: Concluding remarks

18.: Banquet