

Czech – TAG (Theoretical Archaeology Group)

“The meaning of things: artefacts and narratives”

Call for Papers

Conference date: 3rd - 4th March 2014

Department of Archaeology
University of West Bohemia in Pilsen
Czech Republic

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The two-day conference constitutes as the 1st meeting of the Czech national chapter of the theoretical research group known internationally as TAG (Theoretical Archaeology Group). We aim to develop a broader interest in the discussion of theoretical issues in Central European archaeological research, establish the event as an annual meeting, and potentially, to extend the national chapter to include more Central European countries in the following years. In 2014, we would like to focus on the most current issues, crucial for further development of archaeology in Central Europe.

The overarching topic will be “*The meaning of things: artefacts and narratives*”. The following themes outline the general focus of the conference. It is aimed to accommodate everyone as there will be no Call for Sessions - the official Programme including sessions will be produced on the basis of accepted papers. The official language of the conference is English.

1. Developing theory

- Does multivocality has a place in theory-informed archaeology in Central Europe?
- What theoretical heritage can we build upon? – syntheses of past theoretical research
- Is “doing theory” for everyone? – established academics, students, lecturers, researchers, commercial archaeologists...?
- Academic archaeology – How should theory be taught and practiced at universities? The importance of confrontation with multiple perspectives

2. Joining the international debate

- Do we truly recognise theoretical streams developed abroad? What and how can we add to the debate?
- Contributions to the discussion on theoretical trends in current international archaeology
- Archaeology *of* Central Europe or Archaeology *in* Central Europe? - Should we (and can we) get more involved in global archaeology? Reports of research in countries outside Czech Republic/Central Europe
- Making archaeology relevant – on the importance of creating stories, dealing with public issues, informing present-day society

3. Theory in practice

- “In theory, theory and practice are the same, in practice they are not.”
- How do we understand “interdisciplinary archaeology”? Is it a joined enterprise of archaeology and the natural sciences, or can we work on a more interdisciplinary ground with other social sciences too?



INVESTMENTS IN EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT