

# Conference Scythians and other early Eurasian nomads

Friday 27 October – Sunday 29 October 2017  
BP Lecture Theatre, British Museum

This conference draws together scholars of all ages and many nationalities to share the results of their research projects, latest archaeological discoveries and new scientific research. Presentations vary in length according to subject matter. Many of these results are presented here for the first time and they evoke the world of the steppe, a natural open corridor without borders which connected China and Europe.

Papers will be presented in English and illustrated with PowerPoint. Additional research will be displayed in the form of posters.

*Supported by the European Research Council*



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The conference is part of the programme associated with the BP exhibition *Scythians: warriors of ancient Siberia*.

## Friday 27 October

### Scythians and other early Eurasian nomads: origins and eastern connections

- 09.00 Registration
- 09.30 Welcome  
Hartwig Fischer,  
Director of the British Museum
- 09.35 Opening remarks  
St John Simpson, British Museum
- 09.45 The Okunevo culture of southern  
Siberia and its links with later Scythian  
and Tashtyk cultures  
L S Marsadolov, State Hermitage Museum

- 10.15 The 'royal' burial-memorial complex of  
Arzhan-2, Tuva (southern Siberia): stages  
of function and internal chronology  
K V Chugunov, State Hermitage Museum
- 10.45 The formation of the early Scythian  
complex in the Kuban region of the north  
Caucasus according to the materials  
from the burial mounds at Kelermes  
T Ryabkova, State Hermitage Museum
- 11.15 Coffee
- 11.35 New fieldwork in the Altai  
Peter Shulga, Novosibirsk
- 12.05 From Taksai to Tatarlı  
Yana Lukpanova, History and Archaeology  
Center of Western Kazakhstan & Latife  
Summerer, University of Munich
- 12.35 Elements of the funeral rite of the Saka  
area population of central Kazakhstan  
I K Akhiyarov, A Z Beisenov & D B  
Duisenbay, Institute of Archaeology, Almaty
- 13.05 Lunch
- 14.05 'Jiang Yuan' and north Chinese nomads  
Daniil P Shulga, Novosibirsk
- 14.35 Scythia and China: innovations and  
formation processes on the boundaries of  
empire  
T Taylor, University of Vienna, C Havlicek,  
University of Vienna, James Johnson,  
University of Copenhagen & Sergey  
Makhortykh, Institute of Archaeology, Kiev
- 15.05 Tarim basin/Chinese connections (TBC)  
Armin Selbitschka, NYU

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| 15.35 | Tea  | 11.00 | Coffee  |
| 15.55 | Sandaohaizi: a newly deerstone-khirigsuur complex in northwest China<br>Catrin Kost, Shenzhen  | 11.20 | Scythian gold from private collections of the 19th and early 20th centuries in the Department of the Ancient World at the State Hermitage Museum<br>Olga Gorskaya, State Hermitage Museum |
| 16.25 | Mummies and dummies in family graves at Oglakhty: different rites from different ancestors?<br>Svetlana Pankova,<br>State Hermitage Museum | 11.50 | A Scythian treasure in the lands of the Getae: considerations regarding the hoard of Stâncești<br>Alexandru Berzovan, Iași Institute of Archaeology, Romania                              |
| 16.55 | The Hephthalites: a keynote lecture<br>Hans Bakker, University of Groningen  | 12.20 | Interaction between urban societies and mobile peoples: some highlight examples<br>Nikolaus Boroffka, German Archaeological Institute, Berlin   |
| 17.40 | Free admission for conference attendees to BP exhibition <i>Scythians: warriors of ancient Siberia</i> (until 19.30)                       | 13.00 | Lunch   |
| 18.30 | Evening lecture by Barry Cunliffe – book via <a href="http://britishmuseum.org/events">britishmuseum.org/events</a>                        | 14.00 | Ceremonial swords and daggers of early nomads of Eurasia<br>Denis Topal, Republic of Moldova  |

## Saturday 28 October

### Nomads and nomadic relations

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| 09.00 | Registration  | 14.30 | The Scythian banquet<br>Oleksandr Halenko, Kiev   |
| 09.30 | Burying contacts, building communities: early Iron Age monumentality in Eurasia<br>Chris Gosden, University of Oxford, Peter Hommel, University of Oxford & Courtney Nimura, Griffith University, Australia                 | 15.00 | Settled, not saddled, Scythians: the easternmost Sakas<br>Borzine Waghmar, SOAS, University of London                     |
| 10.00 | New investigations on Scythian kurgans in Ukraine: non-invasive studies and excavations<br>Sergei Polin, Kiev, Marina Daragan, Institute of Archaeology, Kiev & Ksenia Bondar, Taras Shevchenko National University of Kiev | 15.30 | Tea   |
| 10.30 | Landscape, community and labour in the Pontic Iron Age forest-steppe region, c. 650–300 BC<br>James A Johnson, University of Copenhagen   | 15.50 | Life and death in the Scythian world of southern Siberia: a keynote lecture<br>Eileen Murphy, Queen's University, Belfast |
|       |   | 16.30 | Bioarchaeology of Scythian burials in the Orkon valley, Mongolia<br>Ursula Brosseder, University of Bonn                  |
|       |   | 17.00 | Traditional nomad economies: an ethnographic perspective<br>Thomas Barfield, Boston University                            |
|       |   | 18.15 | Group photograph on forecourt or in the Great Court (weather dependent)   |
|       |   | 18.30 | Evening reception (until 20.30)   |

# Sunday 29 October

## Objects in focus: style, transmission and technology

- 09.00 Registration
- 09.30 'Animal Style' art: influences and traditions in the nomadic world  
Elena Korolkova, State Hermitage Museum
- 10.00 Openwork style in the art of early nomads of Eurasia  
Elena Miklashevich, Museum-reserve 'Tomskaya Pisanitsa', Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography of the Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Kemerovo
- 10.30 'Animal Style' in the art of the Saka era population of central Kazakhstan  
Arman Z Beisenov, Gulnara S Jumabekova, Galiya A Bazarbayeva, Institute of Archaeology, Almaty
- 11.00 Coffee
- 11.20 'Steppe Style' in south-eastern Gansu Province, China, in the 4th and 3rd centuries BC  
Raphael Wong, University of Oxford
- 11.50 The 'Animal Style' and the Hindu pantheon: new observations on east-west connections  
Tim Taylor, University of Vienna
- 12.20 Scythians, Persians, Greeks and horses: reflections on art, culture, power and empires in the light of Berel' 11 frozen burial excavation (Altay, Eastern Kazakhstan): a keynote lecture  
Henri-Paul Francfort, Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres, Paris
- 13.05 Lunch
- 14.05 Differing dress codes: sleeves and trousers in Persian and Greek culture  
Lloyd Llewellyn-Jones, Cardiff University
- 14.35 The production technology of Scythian archery equipment: bows, arrows and quivers  
Marina Daragan, Institute of Archaeology, Kiev
- 15.05 Testing Herodotus: leather species identification of Scythian quivers using novel scientific methods  
L Spindler, BioArCh, University of York, M Gleba, McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research, University of Cambridge, M Daragan, Institute of Archaeology, Kiev & M Collins, Natural History Museum of Denmark
- 15.35 Tea
- 16.00 Gold working techniques in the Siberian collection of Peter the Great  
Elena Korolkova, State Hermitage Museum & Aude Mongiatti, British Museum
- 16.30 Scythian and Sarmatian weapons with gold decoration  
R Minosian, State Hermitage Museum
- 17.00 One of the secrets of Achaemenid jewellery  
E A Shablavina, State Hermitage Museum
- 17.30 Dyes of the Scythians: the first evidence  
Margarita Gleba, McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research, University of Cambridge, I Vanden Berghe, Royal Institute for Cultural Heritage, Brussels & M Daragan, Institute of Archaeology, Kiev
- 18.00 Closing remarks  
S V Pankova, State Hermitage Museum

Please note that the programme is subject to minor changes due to visas and rescheduling.