

Archipelago

June 2006

1. F.I.R.E. News

Introducing new F.I.R.E. coordinators

In 2003 F.I.R.E. was established by Helen Dawson and Jago Cooper, at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London. Since establishing this forum Helen has now obtained her PhD and Jago is in the final stages of his doctoral research. This year two new research students have joined the F.I.R.E. team, Varina Delrieu and Rebecca Rennell. Varina and Rebecca will be organising the forthcoming F.I.R.E. conference 'Exploring concepts of identity within island research'.

Varina and Rebecca are currently studying at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London and are engaged in island based research in the Mediterranean and in Scotland respectively. Varina's research includes involvement in both the Kythera Island Project and the Antikythera survey project in Greece. Rebecca works in the Western Isles of Scotland. Both maintain an interest in exploring methodological and theoretical approaches with respect to island based research.

2. F.I.R.E. Conference: Call for Papers

"Exploring Concepts of Identity within Island Research"

FIRE (The Forum for Island Research and Experience) is organising a one day conference to be held at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London, during November 2006.

This conference aims to bring together researchers who address the concept of identity within an island context. Within archaeology a renewed interest in islands has seen traditional island views challenged: Islands are no longer seen as representing the world in microcosm or laboratories for studies of social and cultural change, instead the distinctiveness of islands has been emphasised. Similarly, the perceived isolation of islands has been debated with an emphasis on the potentially connected and dynamic nature of island communities. How do these new approaches to the study of islands impact upon our notions of identity?

- ◆ Are there elements in the creation, transformation or representation of identity that are common to islands generally, or is the unifying notion of 'island' in this context misplaced?
- ◆ At what geographical scale or scales are identities associated – the individual island or the island archipelago?
- ◆ How do relationships between island and mainland effect the construction of identity?
- ◆ What assumptions are made about islands that influence how we approach the study of identity?

- ◆ What theoretical and methodological issues are raised by studying identity within an island context?

It is not necessary for your research to address these themes directly - the aim is to provide a context in which these themes can be discussed. Whilst there is an initial focus upon the *archaeological* study of identity, F.I.R.E. maintains an emphasis on the interdisciplinary study of islands and therefore we encourage participation from a range of academic backgrounds. If you are interested in presenting your research at this forthcoming conference please register your interest by emailing Rebecca and Varina at: ioa-fire@ucl.ac.uk. The deadline for the submission of a title and abstract is the 30th September 2006.

3. Oxford University, Continuing Education, Seminar Series The Archaeology of Island Cultures Organised by Fay Stevens, University College London

"This seminar series will explore the concept of islands as land-bound and water-bound entities and how islands, in many ways, shape societies. Papers will consider islands as either clearly bounded or representative of more fluid land and island scapes. This will include the consideration of how islands are tied in with the social and ritual construction of island cultures and how perceptions of time and place are embedded in the construction of island identities"

For further details see attachment or contact Fay Stevens directly at: fay.stevens@ucl.ac.uk

4. Postgraduate Cypriot Archaeology Conference Island Dialogues: Cyprus in the Mediterranean Network

The sixth annual POCA (Postgraduate Cypriot Archaeology) conference will take place on the 27th and 28th of October 2006, at the University of Edinburgh. Information on the conference including a call for papers can be found at www.arcl.ed.ac.uk/poca2006.

5. Next Archipelago

If there are any other island related events or news that you think other people in the Forum might be interested in, then please email us at ioa-fire@ucl.ac.uk and we will include it in our next bulletin.

Forum for Island Research and Experience

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