



8TH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS
ON BLACK SEA ANTIQUITIES
dedicated to memory of Gocha R. Tsetskhladze

14–18 September 2026, Warsaw, Poland

EIGHTH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON BLACK SEA ANTIQUITIES DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF GOCHA R. TSETSKHLADZE

**General Trends and Local Traditions in the Black Sea Area
(7th c BC–5th/6th c AD)**

(Warsaw – 14–18 September 2026)

University of Warsaw
Faculty of Archaeology

Polish Centre of Mediterranean Archaeology

Antiquity of Southeastern Europe Research Centre

PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME



icbsa2026.archeologia.uw.edu.pl



Honorary Patronage of the Rector
of the University of Warsaw



Secretary of the Congress - James Hargrave

Polish National Organising Committee: M. Matera, R. Karasiewicz-Szczypiorski, P. Dyczek, T. Scholl, A. Deptuła, N. Lockley

Photography of artefact on the title page:

The National Museum in Warsaw houses a fairly large collection of artefacts from the Black Sea region. The artefact we selected is a terracotta figurine depicting Cybele (inventory no. 225367 MNW) from Polish excavations at Myrmekion. The photography is reproduced from the online collection of the National Museum (<https://cyfrowe.mnw.art.pl/en/catalog/490581>)

All sessions, as well as coffee and tea breaks, will take place on the Main Campus of the University of Warsaw (26/28 Krakowskie Przedmieście Street), in the Old Library building.

Monday, September 14th

9.00 - Registration of participants

10.00 - Opening Session

10.45 - **James Hargrave** - Opening Lecture

11.15 - Tea and Coffee break

SESSION 1

The problems of early Greek colonisation on the Black Sea. A Session devoted to Gocha R. Tsetskhladze and his works

11.45

Liviu Mihail Iancu

The Archaic Sanctuary of Istros in the Light of Metal Finds from Recent Archaeological Excavations (1990–2025)

12.00

Alexandre Baralis and Vasilica Lungu

From the Fisherman to the Oikist? Reflections on the Importance of Deltaic Areas at the Very Beginning of the Greek Colonisation

12.15

Nadiya Gavrylyuk and Mykola Tymchenko

Paleoecological-Economic and Climatic Prerequisites of the Colonisation of the Northern Black Sea Area in the Archaic Period

12.30

Vasilica Lungu

The Problems of Early Greek Colonisation on the Western Side of the Black Sea: Orgame and Istros Revisited

12.45

Emzar Kakhidze

Acculturation of the Coastal Colchian Population in the Classical Period

13.00 - Discussion

13.15-14.45 – Lunch

SESSION 1

Varia

14.45

Hazar Kaba

Of Monsters and Men: On the Iconography of the Classical Pebble Mosaics at Sinope

15.00

Omari Dzadzamia

Sources of Energy in the Diet of Colchians in Classical Antiquity

15.15

Sujatha Chandrasekaran and Fatma Bağdatlı Çam

On the Question of Local Identity and Representation – A Zoomorphic Figure from the Southern Black Sea Littoral

15.30

Stela Tasheva and Sasha Lozanova

The Meander Motif: Forms and Roles in Architectural and Interior Environment

15.45

Tedo Dundua (†) and Natia Phiphia

General Trends and Local Traditions: Georgian Imitations of Alexander- and Lysimachus-type Staters

16.00

Zahra Kouzehgari

From Steppe Traditions to Black Sea Antiquities: Scythians, Cavalry, and Imperial Warfare from the Black Sea to Persia

16.15 – Discussion

16.30-17.00 – Tea and Coffee break

POSTER SESSION

Nicolaie Alexandru, Diana Sonu, Dragoş Hălmagi and Ana Hamat

Archaeological Research in the Hellenistic Necropolis of the Northern Sector of the City of Callatis

Alexandra Bivolaru, Irina Sodoleanu and Nicolae Alexandru

The Environment and the Chora of a Doric colony: Geoarchaeological Insights from Callatis

Livia Buzoianu and Nicolaie Alexandru

Callatis: Ceramic Materials from the 5th–2nd centuries BC. Recent Discoveries

Mila Chacheva and Daniela Stoyanova

Luxury Furniture from the Hellenistic Necropoleis of Odessos and its Surroundings

Alexandru Codescu

Mapping the Roman Workshops from the North-Western Part of Current Dobruja

Margarit Damyanov

A View of Archaic Sea Trade: Pottery from the Harbour of Apollonia Pontica

Tomasz Dziurdzik

Who, What, Where, When, Why: Challenges of Researching Minor Pre-Second World War Polish Collections of Black Sea Antiquities

Kate Maree Farrow

Inscribed Encounters: Reconstructing Scythian History from Epigraphic Sources in the Pontic Steppe

Lyubava Alexandrova Georgieva

Between the Odrysians and the First Delian League: Apollonia Pontica in the Late 5th–Mid-4th Century BC

Bianca-Elena Grigoraş and Despina Măgureanu

Amphora Imports in the Late Iron Age Settlement from Tinosu, Prahova County, Romania (1st Century BC–1st Century AD)

Mihaela Iacob

The Province of Scythia in the Time of Justinian - Archaeological and Numismatic Sources

Iulia-Alexandra Iliescu and Radu O. Stănescu

Understanding a Journey to the Afterlife – The Ceramic Finds from the Funerary Space of Beidaud, Romania

Salih Kaymakcı and Derya Çığır Dikyol

Landscape Archaeology of Ancient Sacred Sites in Giresun (Eastern Black Sea): The Interplay of Sacred Geography and Local Cult Traditions

Kacper Laube

An Egyptologist in Myrmekion

Vasil Markov

Rock-cut Monuments and the Cult of Immortality from the Western Black Sea Coast in the Context of the Megalithic Culture of the Balkan-Anatolian Region

Dragoş Măndescu

Greek Goods in the Ferigile Group. With a Special Focus on the Necropolis at Valea Stânii (Argeş County, Romania)

Elina Mircheva

Lead Mirrors from the Temple of the Pontic Mother of the Gods in Dionysopolis

Mykola Nikolaev

Achilles Will Not Catch up With the Turtle, or the Manipulation of Palaeographic Analysis

Eleonora Pawlikowska

Equestrian Equipment as a Medium of Tradition and Prestige in the Black Sea Region during the Migration Period

Alex Radkov

Archaic Cypriot Mortaria from Apollonia Pontica

Constantin Şova and Cristina Talmaţchi

Belt Pieces on the Lower Danube in the Late Roman Period

Cristina Talmaţchi and Constantin Şova

Some Considerations Regarding Digitated/Bow Fibulae Discovered in Istro-Pontic Territory

Gabriel Mircea Talmaţchi and Lucian Munteanu

Aspects of the Practice of Depositing Groups of Coins in Tombs Specific to the Hellenistic Necropolis of Callatis in the Context of Some Unprecedented Discoveries (4th–1st Centuries BC)

Alexandra Țârlea and Alexandra Liţu

Venus Born from Sea-foam. Sea Trade and the Development of the ‘Luxury Industry’ of the Early Roman Empire – A View from the Edges

Evgenia Velychko

Isis Jewellery from Barbarian Burials of the North Pontic Region

Kalina Yordanova

Ancient Weights of Apollonia Pontica

19.00 – Welcome reception

The welcome reception will take place in the Columned Hall at the Faculty of History, University of Warsaw (26/28 Krakowskie Przedmieście Street).

Tuesday, September 15th

SESSION 2

Greeks and indigenous peoples: mutual relations, cultural interactions, influences on material culture.

9.00

Marcin Matera

Περὶ τοῦ πῶς χρη̑ πολιορκουμένους ἀντέχειν. Once Again About the Hellenistic Fortifications of Tanais

9.15

Aleksandra Deptuła

Maeotian, Sarmatian or Local? About Technological and Stylistic Features as an Ethno-cultural Indicator of Gray Ware from the Lower Don Region.

9.30

Maya Vassileva

Greeks, Lydians and Persians in Gordion

9.45

Stanislav Zadnikov and Iryna Shramko

Greek Imports in the Material Culture of the Bilsk Hillfort: Common and Special

10.00

Tsvete Lazova

The Making of the Megalithic Culture in Bulgaria: Social Construction of Religious Landscape and its 'Authorised Heritage Discourse'

10.15 - Discussion

10.30-11.00 - Tea and Coffee break

11.00

Valeriu Sîrbu and Sebastian Matei

Ceremonies Dedicated to Dionysos Among the Dacians? A Modiolus with Figurative Representations from the Fortress of Pietroasa Mică (Romania)

11.15

Salih Kaymakcı and Derya Çığır Dikyol

Landscape Archaeology of Ancient Sacred Sites in Giresun (Eastern Black Sea): The Interplay of Sacred Geography and Local Cult Traditions

11.30

Gabriel Mircea Talmaţchi and Sebastian Matei

On the Pre-Roman Habitation Before the municipium Tropaeum Traiani. Archaeological Discoveries Specific to the 4th century BC–1st century

11.45

Francesca Fariello

Eurasian Connections. Greeks and Scythians: Cultural Influences from the Black Sea Area to the Nomadic Routes of China (Second Half of the 1st Millennium BC–Beginning of Our Era)

12.00

Luigi Gallo

Crimea, between the Persian Empire and the Athenian Empire

12.15 – Discussion

12.30-14.00 – Lunch

14.00

Marie-Christine Levesque

Decommoditised Containers: Reuse of Ancient Greek Amphorae around the Black Sea

14.15

Eugenia Michailidou

Monumental Tombs in Thrace: A Tale of Intercultural Influences and Emulations

14.30

Lynn E. Roller

The Mother Goddess in the Black Sea Region: Encounters between Phrygian and Greek Cult

14.45

Viktorya Vasilyan

Graeco-Roman Culture and Hellenistic Armenian/Pontic Iconography

15.00

Alexandar Portalsky

Ethnos and Polis circa Pontus Euxeinus and Beyond

15.15 – Discussion

15.30-16.00 – Tea and Coffee break

16.00

Jan G. de Boer

Highway to the Hinterland

16.15

Jacek Hamburg and Roland Isakadze

At the Crossroads of Cultural Traditions: New Archaeological Discoveries from Zeda Simoneti (Georgia)

16.30

Mustafa H. Sayar

Relations between Indigenous Thracian Tribes and the City-States of the Western Black Sea Coast

16.45

Stefania Gallotta

Tauroi and Greeks in the Southern Crimea

17.00

Liu Shumeng

Regional Governance and Diplomatic Strategies of the Bosporan Kingdom Driven by Grain Resources

17.15

Andrei Corobcean

The Fortified Site at Stolniceni (Hâncești district, Republic of Moldova) in the Context of the Getic Culture of the Pruth-Dniester Region

17.30 – Discussion

Wednesday, September 16th

Mid-Congress excursion

Thursday, September 17th

SESSION 3

New powers in the Black Sea region: Romans, Byzantines, Goths and Huns.

9.00

Natalia Lockley and Bogusław Franczyk

Common Ware from Apsaros: Insights into the Provenance and Supply Systems of the Roman Garrison

9.15

Irina Demetradze-Renz and Eka Avaliani

Roman Imperial Silverware: Diplomatic Gifts or Spoils of War?

9.30

Radosław Karasiewicz-Szczypiorski and Leszek Łęczyński

The Roman Fort of Apsaros (Gonio, Georgia) and Its Surroundings. Attempt at Reconstruction (Architecture and Environment)

9.45

Piotr Dyczek

Pontic Novae

10.00

Zdravko Dimitrov

Development of the Corinthian Order along the Western Pontic Coast During the Roman and Late Antique Eras

10.15 – Discussion

10.30-11.00 – Tea and Coffee break

11.00

Davit Lomitashvili, Besik Lortkipanidze and Nikoloz Murgulia

An Ostrogothic-Type Buckle from Nokalakevi-Archaeopolis (West Georgia) as Evidence for Ethnic Diversity in the Byzantine Army of Lazica

11.15

Adela Bâltac, Eugen Paraschiv-Grigore and Virgil Apostol

New Style in an Old City. A Roman Insula at Histria (Constanța County, Romania)

11.30

Karl Strobel

Names versus Ethnicity: New Approaches to the Ethnic and Socio-political History of the Northern and Western Black Sea-Region in Roman Times

11.45

Piotr Jaworski

An Unknown Type of Countermark on Coins Discovered at Apsaros: Analysis and Interpretation

12.00

Dan Ruscu

A Late Antique Elite Residence at Istros

12.15 – Discussion

12.30 – 14.00 – Lunch

14.00

Valentin-Victor Bottez, Iulia Iliescu, Alexandra Țârlea, Alexandra Lițu, Mihai Mănescu, Virgil Apostol, Mihaela Golea and Horia Dinu

Functioning Spaces and Function of Spaces. Recent Research in a Late Antique insula on the Acropolis of Istros/Histria (Romania)

14.15

Maciej Marciniak

Across the Black Sea with Jupiter Dolichenus

14.30

Oksana Ruchynska

Game Boards and the Cultural Context of Play in Chersonesos Taurica

14.45

Vlad Vornic and Sergiu Matveev

Contributions to the research of the Hun-Period in the Prut-Dniester area: The tomb with polychrome pieces from Costești

15.00 – Discussion

15.15-15.45 – Tea and Coffee break

15.45

Renata Ciołek

Coinage of the Western Black Sea Cities in the Roman Period: Between Hellenistic Tradition and Provincial Realities

16.00

Ligia Ruscu and Teodora-Ioana Bulai

Hymnodoi. Associations of Hymn Singers in Cities Around the Black Sea

16.15

Ștefan Honcu, Iulian Moga and Sever Boțan

The Fortress of Argamum in the 5th–6th Centuries AD: New Archaeological Data from the Small Gate Sector

16.30

Manuel Castelluccia

The Huns' Impact in Late Antique Caucasia: An Archaeological Overview

16.45

Adriana Panaite and Constantin Bajenaru

Aspects of the Organisation of the Rural Territory of the City of Tomis in the Roman Period

17.00

Eleni Montesidou

From the Capital of the Hellenistic Kingdom of Pontus to a Roman Colony: Religious Transformation in Sinope

17.15

Gaëlle Granier, Elodie Caserta, Valentin-Victor Bottez and Iulia Iliescu

Land Occupation and Funerary Practices in the Roman Period: An Interdisciplinary and Archaeothanatological Approach to the Settlement and Funerary Area of Beidaud in the Landscape of Moesia Inferior

17.30 – Discussion

Friday, September 18th

SESSION 4

New Excavations and Projects

9.00

Oksana Lifantii

From 'Golden Island in the Black Sea' to the 'Treasures of Crimea. Return': The Story of Disputed Collections from Four Crimean Museums

9.15

Füsün Tülek and Kaan Oytun Arabacı

A Group of Amphorae from the Southern Black Sea Shore

9.30

Hristo Preshlenov

House-Building in Deultum-Develtos-Debelt (Bulgaria)

9.45

Paulina Komar

Tracing Origins: Archaeometric Analyses of Amphorae from Ancient Apsaros (Today's Gonio, Georgia)

10.00

Lucrețiu Bîrliba

Roads-Customs-Army. About a New Project on Beneficiarii in Moesia Inferior and Dacia

10.15 – Discussion

10.30-11.00 – Tea and Coffee break

11.00

Mariana-Cristina Popescu, Dragoș Alexandru Măndescu, Gabriela Gheorghiu and Beatrice Mag

1001_Shards. Micro-regional Ceramic Centres in Pre-Roman Dacia (2nd century BC–1st century AD)

11.15

Fatma Bağdatlı Çam, Handan Bilici and Umut Bostancı

The New Excavations of a Paphlagonian Roman City: Amastris

11.30

Petre Colţeanu, Natalia Mateevici, Laura Gheorghiu, Irina Sodoleanu and Ioana Dorcu

Medgidia Hellenistic Project, an Emporion between Worlds?

11.45

Mariya Avramova

Continuity of Worship: The Sacred Spring of Aquae Calidae in Antiquity

12.00

Thibaut Castelli

Timbrer autour de la mer Noire: une pratique polysémique

12.15 – Discussion

12.30-14.00 – Lunch

14.00

Ayşe Fatma Erol and Ertaç Yıldırım

Evaluations of Iron Finds from the Fatsa Cingirt Kayası 2024–25 Excavation Seasons

14.15

Maria Girtzi

Discussing Conservation Projects and Suggestions of ‘Socialisation’ of the Ancient City of Nessebar’s Monuments

14.30

Adrianna Gizińska

Argamum: Investigating the Storage Quarter of the Northern Sector intra muros - Results from Recent Fieldwork

14.45

Martin Lemke, George Nuţu and Michal Pisz

A New Late Roman Fortified Settlement in the Northern Dobruja

15.00

Dragoş Hălmagi and Adela Băltăc

New Greek Inscriptions from Histria

15.15 – Discussion

15.30-16.00 – Tea and Coffee break

16.00

Valentin-Victor Bottez, Iulia Iliescu, Alexandra Țârlea, Radu Stănescu and Adrian Șerbănescu

Uncovering the Rural Landscapes of Istros/Histria during the Roman Period. New Research in the Beidaud Archaeological Microzone (Romania)

16.15

Alexandra Bivolaru and Tatiana Theodoropolou

Changing Environments, Changing Practices? A Geoarchaeological and Archaeo-ichthyological Perspective from the Southern Danube Delta in Graeco-Roman Times

16.30

Nicolas Garnier, Alexandre Baralis and Teodora Bogdanova

About the Actual Contents of Vases in Funerary Contexts. The Case of the Necropolis of Apollonia Pontica

16.45

Aikaterini Gounari and Manolis Manoledakis

Detecting and Predicting Archaeological Sites in the Southern Black Sea Littoral using Satellite Remote Sensing and Machine Learning

17.00

Paolo Maranzana and Adem Yurtsever

Recent Archaeological Investigations at Pessinus: From Landscape Survey to New Excavations.

17.15 - Discussion

17.30 - Closing Session

19.00 - Farewell reception

The farewell reception will take place at the Tyszkiewicz-Potocki Palace (Museum of the University of Warsaw), 32 Krakowskie Przedmieście Street.