

MIGRATION IN THE FIRST MILLENNIUM

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Migration in the first millennium AD has become a highly contentious subject area. Up to the 1960s, it was usually argued that the large-scale migration of 'complete' social groups – men, women, and children – was a major periodic characteristic of the period. Archaeologists considered that its importance was visible in the rise and fall of geographical areas of distinctive material culture, each produced by particular 'peoples'. Such cultures arose, it was supposed, when a people arrived in an area, and disappeared when they left, and hence the changing patterning of material remains could be held to reflect the movements of named groups recorded in historical sources. In the last scholarly generation, however, some, particularly Anglophone, archaeologists have rejected the whole paradigm of so-called 'culture history' with its inherent tendency to see mass migration of mixed social groups as a major force in the distant reaches of European history. This has generated a marked tendency to dismiss any reference to migration as 'simplistic', and, at most now, archaeologists tend to recognise the importance of only limited population movements in particular contexts, drawing inspiration from comparative examples: the so-called 'elite transfer' model being most commonly applied. At the same time, some early medieval historians have similarly begun to argue that literary references to the migration of large, mixed population groups reflect no more than a topos of ancient historiography. Greek and Roman writers report 'barbarians' moving in large, mixed social groups, only because that is what they expected to find. But at least some of the historical evidence is too substantial to be summarily dismissed, and many first millennium archaeologists, particularly but not solely from continental European intellectual traditions, remain confident that archaeological cultures can be traced, and that their rise and fall at least sometimes reflects the operation of migratory processes. The end result has been the complete breakdown of intellectual consensus, and, to a very considerable extent, the division of researchers into surprisingly hostile camps of opinion.

Despite the overall importance of the subject, no comprehensive attempt has been made to harness all the evident intellectual interest generated by this topic area in recent years. No session of any group in the recent pan-European ESF project on *The Transformation of the Roman World*, for instance, was devoted to the problem of migration, even though particular instances of it occurred repeatedly in discussion and in the published papers. In the view of the applicants, the intellectual moment is ripe to generate a much more sophisticated level of debate and a deeper level of understanding within this crucially important topic area of early European history. The proposed workshops are designed to bring together a wide range of interested parties to reconsider the currently rather entrenched positions and stimulate the generation and application of new methodologies and innovative ways of thinking to old problems, in order to break through this impasse.

To this end, we are envisaging a workshop series that will combine a mixture of methodological sessions, and particular case studies. The first will examine issues raised by the traditional range of available historical and archaeological evidence relating to first millennium migration, before going on to explore innovative methodologies suggested by recent advances, for instance, in isotope and DNA analysis. The second and third will be devoted, respectively, to a reconsideration of major case studies. The second will consider migratory patterns outside of and into the Roman Empire during the high and late imperial eras, and of migratory patterns during the Slavic and Norse diasporas. All three workshops will benefit from the input of sociologists working in the field of modern comparative migration studies, so that first millennium evidence for and patterns of migration can be considered against those of better-documented eras. A final workshop will pull the series together and draw conclusions, considering both the new methodologies might transform traditional thinking about the each of the case studies, and what new avenues of future research are likely to prove most fruitful. Time will also be devoted at this workshop to mapping out the shape of the edited volume which will one of the main outputs from the series.

The workshops will each comprise up to fifteen main participants, with up to half a dozen postgraduate students in addition. A core group of about half a dozen scholars will attend all the meetings. This will comprise the two co-applicants, both of whom have long-standing interests in the topic, and between them encompass much relevant expertise in the history and archaeology of the mid-first millennium. They will be joined by Dr. Lesley Abrams and Dr. James Barrett with similar interests in a slightly later period, Dr. Heinrich Harke whose knowledge of the approaches of different intellectual traditions to first millennium migration is unparalleled, and Professor Steven Vertovec from the Centre on Migration Policy and Society, attached to Oxford University. In addition, nine or ten speakers-cum-participants will be invited to individual workshops according to their relevant expertise. Generating the necessary intellectual range for this project will require the participation at all the workshops of continental European

scholars. The other participants will be invited from a wide range of UK higher education institutions. The applicants wish to stress that the breadth of invitation will be designed to cover the full range of scholarly opinion in the field. As a whole, the workshop series is designed absolutely to encourage the airing and discussion of disagreement, not to generate any cosy but false consensus.

THE WORKSHOP SERIES

SESSION 1: APRIL 21ST/22ND

METHODOLOGICAL ISSUES

1. The Comparative Dimension

Prof. Robin Cohen (Warwick): "Migration Theory: Recovering the Macro"

Dr. John Sutton (Oxford): "African History: Diffusion, Migration, Expansion"

2. New Methodologies

Janet Montgomery (Bradford): Passports from the Past. What can isotope analysis tell us about ancient human mobility?

Beth Shapiro (Oxford) Ancient DNA

Mark Thomas (UCL, London)

3. Archaeological Approaches

Howard Williams (Exeter): "Britain AD or Britain OD?: The Anglo-Saxon Migration in British Archaeological Academic & Popular Culture c.1996-2006"

Stefan Burmeister (Hamburg): "Theoretical Problems of Migration in Archaeology: Continental & Anglo-American Traditions Compared"

4. Literary Sources

Peter Heather (Oxford): "Is There a Migration Topos in Classical Historiography? – Ammianus Marcellinus & Procopius of Caesarea"

David Dumville (Aberdeen) 'Migration and construction since Clark and O Corrain'

11.30 Judith Jesch (Nottingham): "Writing the Settlement of Iceland: Diaspora, Migration and Icelandic Identities"

SESSION 2: MAY 12TH/13TH

MIGRATION & THE ROMAN ERA

Session 1: Methods & Frameworks

Wolfgang Haubrichs (Saarbruecken) "The Burgundians. Origins, language and acculturation from a linguistic point of view."

Michael Schmauder (Bonn): German/continental approaches to Germanic migration

Heinrich Härke (Reading): physical anthropology/biological evidence for migration

Session 2: Continental Case Studies

Guy Halsall (York): 'The archaeology of northern Gaul and the settlement of the Franks: Implications for the North Sea world'

Lotte Hedeager (Oslo): "Cosmologies and Migrations"

Peter Heather (Oxford): "Inner & Outer Peripheries, Germanic Social Development, and 'Mixed' Migration Units"

Session 3: British Isles Case Studies

James Campbell (Oxford): Anglo-Saxon identity & migration

Thomas Charles-Edwards (Oxford): The Irish Sea world

Alex Woolf (St Andrews): "Irish in the West and Germans in the East: Migration and Ethnogenesis in Dark-Age Britain" Questions/Discussion session 2

SESSION 3: JUNE 16TH/17TH

SLAVS & VIKINGS

1. Networks & the Comparative Dimension

Steve Vertovec (Oxford): "Networks in migration theory"

Hannes Schröder (Oxford): "Slavery and the Geographically Dispossessed: a Cross-chronological Study of Forced Migration"

2: Vikings in Britain & Beyond

Agnar Helgasson (Iceland): "Using genetics to trace the impact of Norse activities in the North Atlantic region during the Viking Age".

James Barrett (York): "Migration and Identity in Viking Age Scotland: Interdisciplinary Approaches"

David Parsons: (Centre for Name Studies, Nottingham) "Linguistic evidence for Scandinavian settlement in eastern England"

3: Viking Worlds n the continent

Neil Price (Oslo), "The Vikings on the Continent: murder, migration and merchandise"

Nikolaj Makarov (Moscow): "Slavic and Finnish Settlement in North-Eastern Rus: Written sources and Archaeological records"

4. Slavs & Avars

Peter Heather (Oxford): "Slavic Migration & the Balkans"

Falko Daim (Mainz): "Rise and Decline of Avar Power in Central Europe"

Andre Buko (Warsaw): "How did the Slavs get to Polish lands?"

SESSION 4: TO BE CONFIRMED (OCTOBER 2006)

ROUNDUP AND PUBLICATION