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ABSTRACT BOOK

EVERYDAY LIFE IN BORGUND AND THE REVITALISATION OF DATASETS ANNO 1950

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Abstract format: Oral

The deserted town Borgund was found by archaeologists in 1953. Borgund is located on the west coast of Norway and was one of the countries only 16 towns during the Middle Ages. With the discovery Norway's first excavation of ordinary medieval peoples' settlement traces began and a new era of medieval archaeology was born with archaeologist Asbjørn E. Herteig as lead investigator. During the 50's and into the 70's, 5300 m² were excavated and today some 90.000 objects and faunal material, along with drawings, dairies, and other 'raw documentation' are stored in the University Museum of Bergen's repositories. Data has hardly been touched since the 1970's. How do we process these 'Big data' legacy sources to become assets in modern research? In the multi-disciplinary Borgund Kaupang Project our ambition is to study everyday life in this small town in the periphery of Europe. We treat the whole town as one site, so we are not satisfied with just sampling areas of the excavated site. The paper presents technical and intellectual challenges in transforming analogue handwritten datasets to a digital scientific platform and translation of datasets anno 1950 to state-of-the-art anno 2020s.

RE-EVALUATING OLD ARCHEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE TO YIELD EXCITING NEW POTENTIAL: THE MEDIEVAL CASTLE OF PETRUS (CENTRAL SERBIA)

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Abstract format: Oral

Robert Chapman and Alison Wylie have stated, material evidence is a rich scaffolding for (re)interpretation that allows for revision based on novel (digital) tools, ranging from improvements in digital (re)documenting to opening new research questions. From this perspective, a critical re-examination of legacy data needs to be conducted of the Medieval Castle Petrus, a well-known archaeological site, which received repeated small-scale excavations throughout the 1970s to the 2000s to date its structures.

Petrus holds a valuable strategic position above the gorge of the river Crnica, which secluded nine churches/monasteries as well as one hesychastic cave. Prior archaeological work has shown the castle to consist of a lower town and an upper town in which there are the remains of a fresco painted palace. The castle was constructed in an area known by historical sources as that assigned primarily as a march to lord Crep Vukosavić (14th c.) and the "hesychastic desert" of the 14th and 15th centuries.

The excavations in the 1970s and 80s resulted in simplified technical drawings of the palace's foundations in the upper town, but were done only preliminarily. Moreover, after the small-scale excavations at the time, the areas excavated of the palace were then covered by soil. A new excavation campaign initiated in 2021 on the palace in Petrus included new documenting standards based on digital technologies such as photogrammetry, drone scanning and GIS, which pointed to great excavation potential. The archaeological record of the castle itself is more precise in its technical aspects. Furthermore, the animal bones that were not previously considered an important source of information were collected and recorded at this time. All these data and new methods to analyze them point to a promising wealth of potential that the site may yield upon further re-evaluation.

BRIDGING THE GAP: A SEMANTIC-BASED ARCHITECTURE TO BRING TOGETHER THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORD AND WRITTEN EVIDENCE

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Abstract format: Poster

Either Big or Smart, HSS studies are dealing with digitalized data more and more frequently. This tendency leads scholars to the construction of information systems or digital repositories capable of managing datasets more properly. The issue is that these organisational information schemes often suffer from a lack of interoperability and stay isolated from other data collections. Technically, this sort of insular management framework occurs when the dataset is gathered as means of meeting the particular needs of someone's study, whilst it fails to exchange its information with others adequately. From a conceptual perspective, problems arise once our data model cannot go beyond the expertise domain nor employ the same concepts in other contexts.

In Medieval and Postmedieval contexts, this panorama is more noticeable, as the use of a heterogeneity of sources is very common in our day-to-day research. In our contribution, we aim at introducing a procedure that nourishes from analogous tools and projects, such as the cultural heritage management tool HORAI, or the integrated information system GREYWARE for pottery studies. Our approach does not only make use of archaeological working procedures, but also enhances them by extending and enabling abstract equivalences of its main concept: the Unit of Stratigra-