

Einladung zum Gastvortrag

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YAUNA ON THE WESTERN AND NORTH-WESTERN BLACK SEA COAST AND THEIR CONTACTS WITH THE NEAR EAST IN THE ARCHAIC PERIOD

The study of the intricate contacts between the Greeks and the ancient Near East usually ignores the Greek colonies on the western and north-western Black Sea such as Istros at the mouths of the Danube, Berezan/Borysthenes and Olbia at the mouths of the Bug and Dnieper or Apollonia and Messambria, close to the southern foothills of the Balkans, although the distance on land from the Levant and Mesopotamia to Istros, for example, is several hundred kilometers shorter than that to Athens. A dearth of ancient written evidence and a long modern scholarly disconnection between East and West due to older (and unfortunately more recent) geopolitical issues may stand as likely explanations for this situation.

Archaeological finds from the West and North-West Pontic colonies show however that certain mediated or even direct connections were established between them and the Oriental world in the Archaic period. In the late 7th and 6th centuries BC, Levantine objects reached these shores of the Black Sea, whereas at least several worshippers of Levantine deities visited the sanctuaries of the region or perhaps even settled in these cities. At the end of the 6th and the beginning of the 5th century BC, these same communities were embroiled in the international turmoil stirred by the Persian imperial project. The discussion of these pieces of material evidence and their underlying historical phenomena can help in drawing a more accurate picture of the connectivity between East and West in antiquity.

Mittwoch, 22.11.2023 | 18:00-19:30 | Seminarraum 7

Ágnes-Heller-Haus (1. Stock)
Innrain 52a | 6020 Innsbruck

Organisation: **Sebastian Fink**