

EINLADUNG ZUM GASTVORTRAG

im Rahmen eines Treffens des DK Entangled Antiquities

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Networks and the Emergence of Hellas

Hellas is a modern nation-state proclaimed in 1821. Maps of “ancient Greece” are merely an intellectual abstraction, often misguided. By 500 BCE, 1035 Greek city-states spread like dots along the coasts of the Black Sea and the Mediterranean, often with no contiguous territory. Yet, for some reason, instead of rapidly assimilating with their neighbors, they became even “more Greek.” Greek civilization, or “Hellas,” emerged precisely when Greeks distanced themselves from each other as far as possible. That is when commonalities, some self-aware, some observed by modern historians, crystallized. It was a process of convergence through divergence. Modern historians admire ancient Greeks because they managed to retain their civilization despite those distances. My claim is the reverse: the distance that created the virtual Greek center. By applying newly discovered, universal dynamics of “self-organization of complex systems,” i.e., the formation of de-centralized, non-hierarchical networks, we may better understand the history of ancient Greeks in the archaic period and the formation of Greek civilization.

Mittwoch, 19.10.2022 | 15:00 | Seminarraum 4

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(EG, eigener Eingang zum SR 4 nordseitig)