



ARCHON research school
of archaeology

Cultural Interactions in the Ancient World

Presents

Treading the Middle Ground

April 12

Nina van Leerzaal, UvA Bijzondere Collecties

Oude Turfmarkt 129, Amsterdam

We cordially invite you to participate in the first meeting of the new research group *Cultural Interactions in the Ancient World*. The meeting is devoted to the concept of 'Middle Ground', a topic that stands at the core of the Cultural Interactions theme of our group.

'Middle Ground' was introduced as a concept in historical studies by Richard White in his seminal *The Middle Ground: Indians, Empires, and Republics in the Great Lakes Region, 1650-1815* (Cambridge, 1991). The concept draws attention to the essentially negotiated cultural forms that emerge when two cultures meet. Based on mutual (mis-) conceptions about the social significance of rituals and symbols on the 'other' side, such forms are often pragmatically adopted to mediate the needs of distinct cultural groups, but with time may attain the status of cultural institutions in their own right.

Program

09.30-10.00	<i>Reception</i>
10.00-10.15	Welcome
10.15-11.15	Keynote: Corinne Bonnet: "Gods, men, spaces and objects in the Phoenician middle ground."
11.15-11.45	<i>Coffee</i>
11.45-12.45	Short pitches by members of the group (Rolf Strootman; Floris van den Eijnde; Lucinda Dirven); public discussion
12.45-13.45	<i>Lunch</i>
13.45-14.45	Keynote: Michael Kerschner: "Ionian-Lydian interrelations in the Archaic period: Did they take place in a "middle ground"?"
14.45-15.15	<i>Tea</i>
15.15-16.30	Short pitches by members of the group (Miguel John Versluys; Christina Williamson; Elon Heijmans; Anique Hamelink); public discussion
16.30-16.45	Concluding remarks
17.00-	<i>Drinks and dinner</i>

Keynote Speakers

We are delighted to have found Corinne Bonnet (Université Toulouse) and Michael Kerschner (Austrian Archaeological Institute, Vienna) willing to grace our constituting meeting as keynote speakers. Professor Bonnet is an eminent scholar of Mediterranean religion and has applied 'Middle Ground' theory to Phoenician-Greek interactions, most notably in her recent book *Les enfants de Cadmos: le paysage religieux de la Phénicie hellénistique* (Paris, 2015). Michael Kerschner is director of the research group "Cult and Sanctuary" at the Austrian Academy of Sciences. He leads the Austrian excavations of the Artemision at Ephesos and has published widely on Greek sanctuaries in Greece and Asia Minor.

Sign Up

To sign up for the group's meeting, please mail Pim Möhring (p.f.a.mohring@students.uu.nl). Please note that attendance is free of charge and includes coffee, tea and lunch. Drinks and dinner afterwards at own expense (please indicate if you wish to join for dinner, and, if so, if you have any dietary requirements).

Some bibliography on the Middle Ground

(for pdf's contact p.f.a.mohring@students.uu.nl)

- Carla M. Antonaccio, 'Networking the Middle Ground? The Greek Diaspora, Tenth to Fifth Century BC'. *Archaeological Review from Cambridge* 28.1 (2013), 237-251.
- Corinne Bonnet, *Les enfants de Cadmos: le paysage religieux de la Phénicie hellénistique* (Paris, 2015).
- Corinne Bonnet, 'The Religious Life in Hellenistic Phoenicia: 'Middle Ground' and New Agencies', in J. Rüpke (ed.) *The Individual in the Religions of the Ancient Mediterranean* (Oxford, 2013), 41-57.
- Irad Malkin, *A Small Greek World* (Oxford, 2011 – esp. chs. 4 and 5).
- Richard White, *The Middle Ground: Indians, Empires, and Republics in the Great Lakes Region, 1650-1815* (Cambridge, 1991).