

THE NINTH IEMA VISITING SCHOLAR CONFERENCE

2-3 APRIL 2016

NORTH CAMPUS, GREINER HALL
UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO
BUFFALO, NY 14261

IEMA

Institute for European and
Mediterranean Archaeology

COMING TOGETHER:

COMPARATIVE APPROACHES TO POPULATION AGGREGATION AND EARLY URBANIZATION

MODIFIED IMAGE OF A MURAL PAINTED BY MONICA WICKELER IN TORONTO

ORGANIZER: ATTILA GYUCHA

The current, fast-growing tendency of people moving from small settlements to cities has resulted in increased scholarly interest into the origins and different aspects of population nucleation. Coalescence has been a global phenomenon for human societies during the past several millennia, and the long-term perspective of archaeological research has a great potential to provide insights into how urban environments formed and their implications for humanity.

Through the reorganization of smaller scale social units into more complex configurations, early centers of economic and political organizations occurred throughout the world at various times and places, and in fundamentally different socio-political contexts. Their architectural and functional characteristics varied extensively, and their evolutionary trajectories took dramatically diverse courses. Nevertheless, one common feature of these nucleated settlements was that they offered a variety of opportunities to their residents that overrode the multitude of challenges of living in close quarters.

This symposium will focus on the origins of and variations in prehistoric population nucleation and ancient urbanization in a cross-cultural framework. An international group of anthropologists, prehistorians, and Classical archaeologists will explore the integrative mechanisms that brought large populations together, the social practices and institutions that fostered the maintenance of aggregated settlements, as well as the impacts of aggregation on socio-cultural developments in Europe, the Near East, and the New World.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Michael E. Smith Arizona State University

CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS

Bradley A. Ault University at Buffalo, SUNY

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Clemens Reichel University of Toronto/Royal Ontario Museum

Susan C. Ryan Crow Canyon Archaeological Center

Inés Sastre Spanish National Research Council

REGISTRATION INFO

All are welcome to attend the conference.

Please register through: www.iema.buffalo.edu/conference

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