

The History and Material Culture of the Middle East in the Late Antique and Medieval Periods

One of the most defining and –from various aspects – scantily researched areas is the age of Late Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages – especially the Age of the Crusades - contrary to the fact that this period has carried and currently still carries a considerable cultural, historical and political significance both for the eastern and the western cultural sphere in our era too.

Due to the above mentioned reasons the field is heavily politicized, consequently a more objective research attitude and understanding would be greatly enhanced if the historical sources were evaluated in the light of the material culture of the period, which carry an immensely rich amount of information about the historical, economic and cultural interactions of the period.

A considerable role could be played by the extensive range of architectural finds, and the amount of objects that were unearthed by the Syro-Hungarian Archeological Mission of the PPCU, which is a research program initiated in 2000 in the Syrian Coast and from 2007 al-Marqab castle and the surrounding settlements. The artefacts found in the area of the most important fortress and civil settlement of the region if placed in a wider context based on the support of historical resources may serve as a significant and objective basis for the study of the lifestyle, interaction of cultures and religions in the period concerned. The material collected in the past 15 years in the Syrian Coast with special regard to al-Marqab offers several subject of PhD research work worthy of international interest.

The Syrian finds are organically supplemented by the material originating from the joint archaeological mission with the University of the Holy Spirit at Kaslik in Lebanon, and also by the material retrieved and collected through archaeological research done in Iraqi Kurdistan and other fieldworks under development in various countries of the region. Based on the specialized library established in line with the research program of the past decade and on our network with the international research community, our students are sufficiently qualified for an internationally acclaimed research level also in the field focusing on military architecture, settlement network or the lifestyle of the late antique and medieval Middle East.

Topics announced

1. Economic and cultural interactions in the Middle East at the time of the Crusades.
2. Military architecture and military technology in the Levant in the 11-13th centuries.
3. Late antique and medieval settlement networks in the Middle East.

Required qualifications

1993-2000 ELTE BTK (School of Humanities) Department of Semitic Philology and Arabic Studies – Arabist/ Orientalist Degree

1996-2003 ELTE BTK Institute of Archaeology – Department of Medieval Archeology – Archaeology degree

1993-2004 ELTE BTK Institute of History – Degree in History

1999-2000 University of Damascus - Department of Archaeology

2003-2008 Cardiff University, School of History and Archaeology - PhD