

Call for papers

Archaeological Reenactment and Living History from a gender perspective

6th meeting of the working group Gender Studies during the conference of the Nordwestdeutschen Verband für Altertumsforschung in Hannover, September 3rd/4th 2015

During the last 20 years experience-oriented representation and adoption of history has increased constantly, which includes Reenactment and Living History. These are used by several museums, including archaeological open-air museums, to provide an attractive approach to history and give the chance to experience historical everyday-culture. Living History presents past technologies and skills which can be tried out by visitors and visualise (pre)historic living conditions. In addition to that Living History is often used to explain (pre-)historic everyday life in TV documentaries.

Next to this there are numerous groups and individuals who personate historic and prehistoric characters and try not only to imitate their clothing, equipment and behaviour as authentic as possible but also try to acquire their skills. In doing so, the performers mostly create a permanent persona which occasionally becomes an alternate part of their own identity.

During the meeting, these presentations and acquisition of history will be thematised in reference to their practise of gendered behaviour. Questions could be: Who takes part in Reenactment and Living History and why? Are there gender related reasons and distinctions? Which situations are the most visualised by TV documentaries? Who takes over which tasks during the preparation and personates which character? Which male and female characters are personated? Do the performers represent historic gender roles or are modern perceptions transferred into history? What is the presentation of historical gender roles based on? How do these presentations affect the audience and the performers themselves?

Lecture proposals can be submitted to the spokespersons by 30.04.2015. The lectures should not take more than 30 minutes. We ask you to send a 200 word summary of the lecture to one of the spokespersons. Conference language will be German and English. We plan to publish the lectures in the series Frauen – Forschung – Archäologie.

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