Medieval Nomads (MeN)

Eighth International Conference on Medieval History of the Eurasian Steppe

“Nomads and their Neighbours in the Middle Ages”

Sofia, Bulgaria
November 20–23, 2019

PROGRAM

NOVEMBER 20

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<td>9:00–10:00</td>
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<td>10:00–10:30</td>
<td>Opening Ceremony (Prof. Marin Drinov Hall at the Central Building of BAS)</td>
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<td>10:30–12:00</td>
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<td>Lorenzo Pubblici</td>
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<td>Experiencing Alterity: Italian Merchants and Local Population in 14th Century Venetian Azov Sea. Changes and Continuity</td>
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<td>Hao Chen</td>
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<td>Some Considerations on the Türk Khaganate’s Ruling Family</td>
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<td>Szabolcs Felföldi</td>
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<td>The Capitals of the Nomads Near Rrivers</td>
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<td>Richárd Szántó</td>
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<td>The Carpathian Basin in the Cosmography of Anonymous of Ravenna</td>
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<td>17:30–19:00</td>
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<td>István Zimonyi</td>
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<td>The Role of Volga Bulgaria in the History of Eastern Europe</td>
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9:00–10:30: Panel 2/1
Hall A, Sofia University
Chair: Borislav Pavlov
Ayman Dossymbayeva
A Turkic Way to Europe
Borislav Pavlov
Precious Cargo. The Transportation, Packaging and Deposition of Malaja Pereščepina Hoard
Katalin Pintér-Nagy
One of the Avar Customs in the Historical Work of Theophylact Simocatta

9:00–10:30 Panel 3/1: The Cumans and Medieval Bulgaria
Hall B, Sofia University
Chair: Francesco Dall’Aglio
Albena Milanova
“Late” Nomads and the Everyday Life in Byzantine Bulgaria (Eleventh-Twelfth Centuries)
Plamen Pavlov
Pechenegs and Cumans as Factors in the Bulgarian Uprisings in the 11th c.
Francesco Dall’Aglio
Moving Foundations: the Cumans in Paristrion and the Birth of the Second Bulgarian Kingdom

10:30–11:00 Coffee Break

10:30–12:00 Panel 2/2
Hall A, Sofia University
Chair: Michal Holeščák
Michal Holeščák
Tatar Coin Hoard from Slovakia
Irina Shingiray
‘Bir Tengri:’ Pluralism of Nomadic Islam in the Caspian Steppe during the 9th-11th Century CE
Deyan Rabovyanov
Bone Appliques for Quiver from Medieval Bulgaria – Steppe Military Fashion in European South-East during 13th-14th c.

10:30–12:00: Panel 3/2: The Cumans and Medieval Bulgaria
Hall B, Sofia University
Chair: Alexander Nikolov
Ivelin Ivanov
Nomads vs. Knights. The Cumans in the Bulgarian-Latin Wars (1205-1211)
Konstantin Golev
The Winter is Coming: A Comparison Between the Seasonal Campaigns of the Cuman-Qïpchaqs in Eastern Europe and Central Asia
Alexander Nikolov
Eurasian Nomads in the Chronicle of Morea: Reality and Stereotypes
12:00–14:00 Lunch

14:00–15:30 Panel 4/1: Early Medieval Nomads between Iran, Central Asia and Europe: The Issues of the Archaeological Evidence (pre-organized panel)
Hall A, Sofia University
Chair: Bruno Genito

Bruno Genito
The Archaeology of the Nomads in Iran: Premises, Development and Aims
Krizstina Hoppál
Count Zichy and His Nomadic Finds. The Zichy Collection of the Ferenc Hopp Museum of Asiatic Arts in Budapest
Tamás Hajdu
Mobile Pastoralists and the Physiological Consequences of their Lifestyle – a Paleopathological Approach

14:00–15:30 Panel 5: The Mongols and Hungary (Pre-organized Panel)
Hall B, Sofia University
Chair: Konstantin Golev

Balázs Nagy
Reflections for the 1241-42 Mongol Invasion of Hungary in the Medieval European Historiography
Stephen Pow
The Mysterious Battle in Hayton’s Manuscript, the Death of Batu, and Russia’s St. László Legend
Dorottya Uhrin
Perished Codices and Charters in Hungary during the Mongol Invasion

15:30–16:00 Coffee Break

16:00–17:30 Panel 4/2: Early Medieval Nomads between Iran, Central Asia and Europe: The Issues of the Archaeological Evidence (pre-organized panel)
Hall A, Sofia University
Chair: Bruno Genito

Tamás Szeniczey
Biological Reconstruction of the Avar Period Population Changes in Eastern-Transdanubia
Andrea Montella
Nomadic Peoples and the Chinese Perspective on the Basis of the Archaeological Evidence
16:00–17:30 **Panel 6**  
*Hall B, Sofia University*  
Chair: **Tatiana Skrynnikova**

**Tatiana Skrynnikova**  
*Chinese Sources about Yeke Mongol Ulus Emergence*

**Yihao Qiu**  
*Topoi Relating to the Bajuna Legend: Various Narratives on the Beginning of Epoch of the Mongols*

**Simon Berger**  
*Nomadic State in the Sedentary World: The Military Mode of Government of Conquered Lands in the Mongol Empire*

**Márton Vér**  
*The Administration in the Turfan Region under Mongol Rule: Regular Practice and Exceptional Cases*

**18:00–19:30 Short City Tour**  
**19:30 Dinner**

**November 22**

**9:00–10:30: Panel 7/1**  
*Hall A, Sofia University*  
Chair: **Yihao Qiu**

**Fangyi Cheng**  
*Reshaping Medieval China through Shock Cavalry with Northern Nomadic Origin*

**Kürşat Yıldırım**  
*Some Notes on Missions of Pei Ju to the Turks*

**Jinxiu Li**  
*From North of the Gobi Desert to East of Yellow River: Sassanid silver coins and the Steppe Silk Road*

**9:00–10:30: Panel 8**  
*Hall B, Sofia University*  
Chair: **Éva Kincses-Nagy**

**Nilgün Dalkesen**  
*The Religious and Political Basis of Anatolian Revolts Rooted in the Mongolian Period*

**Tatiana A. Anikeeva**  
*The Battle of the Epic Hero with the Death: to the Question of the Relationship between Medieval Turkic and Byzantine Folklore*

**Éva Kincses-Nagy**  
*It is Better to Die with a Good Name than to Live with a Bad One*

**10:30–11:00 Coffee Break**
11:00–12:30 Panel 7/2
Hall A, Sofia University
Chair: Fangyi Cheng

Ah-Rim Park
The Turks and the Sogdian Relations in the Arts of Mongolia and the Eastern and the Western Turkestan

Sun Hao
The Khitan-Liao Dynasty Westward Expedition and the Communication between the Khitan Liao and the Qirqiz Khanate

11:00–12:30 Panel 9: Between Descriptive and Political Strategy: The Image of Nomads in Central and East European Medieval Historiographic Traditions (pre-organized panel)
Hall B, Sofia University
Chair: Aleksander Paroń

Kiril Marinow
Between Narrative and Reality or How to Deal with the Bulgarians: Intricacies of Byzantine Thinking and Acting

Aleksander Paroń
Steppe Fauna or Ugly, but Human Beings? Considerations on Perception of Nomads in the Latin and the Byzantine Written Sources (10th-12th Century) and on the Policy Towards Steppe-Dwellers

Tsvetelin Stepanov
Late Medieval Nomads in the Bulgarian Historical-Apocalyptic Literature: Images and Realities

Adrian Jusupović
Independence of Country and Independence of Literature. Image of Basqaq in Russian Chronicles

12:00–14:00 Lunch

14:00–15:30: Panel 10
Hall A, Sofia University
Chair: Aleksei Kalionski

Delyan Rusev
Lost in Historiography: The Unsettled Dispute on the Turcoman Settlement in Thirteenth-Century Dobrudja and its Consequences

Chaim Nissim, Hatim Mahamid
Rakb al-Hajj al-Shāmī; Between Nomads (ʿurbān) and Pilgrimages’ Caravans in Late Middle Ages

Harun Yeni
Nomads and Ottomans: The Evolution of Serving the Ottoman Military

Aleksei Kalionski
Sedentary and Nomad Yörüks in the Sixteenth-Century Ottoman Rumelia
14:00–15:30 Panel 11  
Hall B, Sofia University  
Chair: Antti Ruotsala  

Aaron Molnar  
*Crossing the Grassy Sea: Steppe Urban Networks, Koryo Merchants, and Travelers in Comparative Perspective*  
Antti Ruotsala  
*The Franciscans and Conversion of the Mongols in Mongolia and China (c. 1245-1370)*  
Ishayahu Landa  
*The “Global North” of the Eurasian Steppe in the Aftermath of the “Mongol Moment”: A Reassessment of the Geopolitical, Ethnical and Religious Developments*  

15:30–16:00 Coffee Break  

16:00–17:30 Panel 12  
Hall A, Sofia University  
Chair: Uli Schamiloglu  

Uli Schamiloglu  
*Bubonic Plague and Southeastern Europe in the Medieval and Early Modern Periods*  
Csaba Göncöl  
*Sources of Ötämiš Häjjī and 'Abdu l-Ǧaffār. Critical remarks on the lost chronicle of Dōst Sulṭān*  
Evlogi Stanchev  
*Symbolism of Tatar Identity in Russian Historical Context*  

16:00–17:30 Panel 13  
Hall B, Sofia University  
Chair: Irina Konovalova  

Szabolcs Jozsef Polgar  
*The Nomads of the Eastern European Steppe in the Eyes of their Settled Neighbours: The Russian Primary Chronicle on the Nomads (from the Sarmatians to the Pechenegs)*  
Irina Konovalova  
*Pechenegs in the Imperial Space of Byzantium in The Middle of the 10th Century*  
Edina Dallos  
*Bashkirs and a „Piece of Wood the Size of a Phallus“*  
Tatiana Kalinina  
*Kitāb Gharāʾib al-funūn wa-mulaḥ al-ʿuyūn” (XI cent.) about Middle Asia*  

19:30 Official Closing of the Conference and Dinner  

NOVEMBER 23  

Excursion to the Rila Monastery