

Session Proposal

European Association of Archaeologists (EAA) 12th Annual Meeting
Krakow, Poland
19th to 24th September 2006

Organizer: Tove Stjärna and Lotta Fernstål

Theme: *Archaeology in the Modern World: Theoretical and Methodological Perspectives*

Session Title:

Beyond gender – on the importance of a ‘gay’ rather than a ‘grey’ past

Abstract:

In this session, archaeology and queer theory is explored. Within the field of queer theory, topics are often chosen that concern sexualities and desires that differ from the normative, mainly monogamous, heterosexuality. Queer theory is, however, much more than Gay and Lesbian studies and it often concerns different kinds of power relations and a questioning of supposed true biological facts. It is an important field of theory in humanities and social sciences and we consider it time to collect the current queer theoretical, archaeological research into one session as a summing-up of where archaeology and queer theory is today. At the bottom line, it is a question of allowing many prehistoric voices and not passing on modern ‘truths’ that are considered truths only because they are unreflectively taken for granted. Thus, we invite speakers to contribute with a wide range of papers.

The papers may, for example, present interpretations of archaeological materials from a queer theoretical point of departure or discuss what different kinds of archaeological materials that are used as well as what materials that are not chosen and why that is so. We are also interested in discussions concerning what benefits there are in using queer theory in archaeological interpretations and what sort of difficulties there may be, as well as what sort of critique that has been put forward and how this is answered. Other angles are also welcome as long as there is a strong connection between queer theory and archaeological material. Our aim is to publish the contributions in an anthology during 2007 and we hope that the speakers will be interested in participating in this.

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