

EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT EAA 2020, BUDAPEST

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The 26th Annual Meeting of the European Association of Archaeologists (EAA) will be held in Budapest. The meeting will be hosted by the Eötvös Loránd University, together with the Hungarian National Museum and the Castle Headquarters Nonprofit Ltd. To be held between August 26 and 30, 2020, with an expected turnout of over 2500 participants, the conference is of outstanding importance for Hungarian archaeological scholarship. In the following, we shall briefly summarise the most important aspects of this conference that will hopefully be of interest to non-EAA members as well.

THE EAA AND ITS ANNUAL MEETINGS

Founded in 1994, the EAA is a non-profit umbrella organisation for specialists involved in archaeology and cultural heritage protection. The organisation has over 15,000 members from sixty countries (this number includes all those who have signed up for membership during the past twenty-five years of EAA's existence; obviously, the number of active members is lower). An appreciation of its activity is amply reflected by the EAA's participatory status in the Council of Europe (CoE), which enables it to participate in the creation of the CoE's directives. In 2017, EAA joined the European Heritage Alliance 3.3 platform, which coordinates the networks involved in European heritage protection. This organisation will probably be familiar since it was one of the partners of the "European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018" coordinated by the Council of Europe, which also had several Hungarian events in its programme. One of the primary goals of the EAA is to promote the development of archaeological research and the exchange of archaeological information (https://www.e-a-a.org/Home/About_EAA/EAA/Navigation_About/About_EAA.aspx), which is in part achieved through its annual meetings, its newsletter, *The European Archaeologist* (TEA), its scholarly journal, the *European Journal of Archaeology* and its monograph series, *Themes in Contemporary Archaeology* (<https://www.e-a-a.org/EAA/Publications>).

EAA meetings have to conform to the criteria of both permanence and diversity – the former are guaranteed by the organisation's strict regulations, the latter by holding the meetings in a different European city each year. The long decision-making



Fig. 1. Site visit in Budapest, Spring 2018. From the left: Karen Waugh †, Eszter Bánffy, Krisztina Pavličková, Katalin Wollák, Eszter Kreiter, Alexandra Anders, Margaret Gowen Larsen, Szilvia Fábíán, Erzsébet Jerem, Sylvie Květinová, Dávid Bartus, Felipe Criado-Boado, László Borhy. Photo: Katka Kleinová. <https://www.e-a-a.org/EAA2020/Contact/EAA2020/Contact.aspx>



Fig. 2. Announcement of the 26th Annual Meeting in Bern, September 2019 (Photo: Katka Kleinová)

and preparatory process that eventually led to the decision to hold the 2020 Annual Meeting in Budapest began in Vilnius in 2016 (BORHY, 2016). The EAA Executive Board first visited Budapest in spring 2018 (Fig. 1), while the public announcement was made in Bern, in September 2019 (Fig. 2). Since then, we have worked closely with the EAA Executive Board and the Secretariat based in the Prague centre to ensure that EAA 2020 Budapest should simultaneously uphold its traditions and offer new, unforgettable experiences for all participants.

MOTTO AND LOGO

In addition to identifying each annual meeting with a well-known archaeological object and the conference's logo, in 2017 EAA introduced the practice of having a motto expressing the main concept and message of a given conference. In agreement with the Executive Board, we chose *Networking!* as the motto of EAA 2020. One of the main tasks of archaeology and cultural heritage protection is the identification of the networks determining the lives of human communities through their material and spiritual culture. As archaeologists, we are linked in many ways to many networks. Collaboration between networks, sharing knowledge and experience, exploiting the power of interaction and communication is beneficial for all actors and contributes to the creation of new networks. Our choice of motto has a distinctly Hungarian flavour – Albert-László Barabási's research in network theory brought him international acclaim. His studies and research methods can be fruitfully applied in archaeology too. Our motto has an exclamation mark – in our dynamically changing world fraught with individualisation, loneliness and social isolation alongside the many challenges we face on an almost daily basis, collaboration and networking has a particularly important role to play, and we encourage all members of the European Association of Archaeologists not to shy away from networks. We found the perfect logo to accompany our motto on one of the magnificent Roman-period silver ewers covered with a geometric design, part of the dazzling Seuso Treasure exhibited in the Hungarian National Museum. Decomposing the strictness of the geometric network pattern, we opened up the closed design, alluding thereby to the openness and receptiveness of our networks. The colours and elements of the logo and the motto refer to the never-ending cyclicity of nature, the relationship between the Sun and the Moon, and the declared intention of the host institutes to organise the Annual Meeting in a way that is consistent with our commitment to sustainability (Fig. 3).



Fig. 3. Silver ewer from the Seuso treasure
(© Hungarian National Museum)

THE CONFERENCE THEMES

Similarly to the motto, the conference's main themes also contribute to making meetings unique. According to the EAA's regulations, these themes must cover the members' colourful and diverse research and archaeological activities as well as their research interests. It was therefore self-evident that we chose networks as

our first theme: “Networks, networking, and communication: The archaeology of interactions”. Our second theme, “From Limes to regions: The archaeology of borders, connections and roads” is intended to encourage the participation of archaeologists involved in the study of the Roman period, who are underrepresented at EAA meetings. One of our priorities was that our choice of themes also address one of the challenges we face today, and thus our third theme focuses on sustainability: “Sustainable archaeology and heritage management in an unsustainable world”. The fourth theme is closely allied to the previous one: many of the EAA’s previous annual meetings were held in cities on or near the sea, and thus issues relating to the sea and to seaborne travel are often on the conference agenda. However, freshwater is equally important to us, hence our choice of the fourth theme: “Waterscapes: The archaeology and heritage of fresh waters”. The fifth theme, “Theories and methods in archaeology: Interactions between disciplines”, invites papers and presentations focusing on interdisciplinary approaches in archaeology, while the sixth theme, “Embedded in European archaeology: The Carpathian Basin”, again blends tradition and novelty in the history of the annual meeting by including the Carpathian Basin among the regions that played a prominent role in human history. Last, but certainly not least, we celebrate the 25th anniversary of the first official EAA conference, held in Santiago de Compostela: “25 years after: The changing world and EAA’s impact since the 1995 EAA Annual Meeting in Santiago”. (A detailed description of the conference’s themes can be found on the [EAA homepage](#).)

VENUES, ACADEMIC AND OTHER SOCIAL EVENTS

We deliberately chose easily accessible venues in the city centre for the different events of EAA 2020 Budapest (Fig. 4). The main venue of the conference will be the ELTE Faculty of Humanities Campus (Trefort Garden), where roughly 2600 lectures and posters will be presented in 220 sessions in the course of three days between August 27 and 29. Registration and the EAA helpdesk, as well as the European Archaeological Fair where publishers of archaeological books and companies supplying archaeological excavations will showcase their products will be in the Gólyavár of the ELTE Campus.

The Opening Ceremony will be held in the afternoon on August 26 in the Castle Bazaar, a blend of traditional and modern spaces. The Welcome Reception will take place in the imposing hall of the Hungarian National Museum, which also undertook the renewal of the exhibition displaying the Seuso Treasure, which inspired the conference logo. The Annual Party, always an important social event, will be held in a cultural centre with a wide musical repertoire. All participants are the guests of the local organisers at these events. Information on the conference’s other events and the archaeological excursions can be found on the conference homepage.



Fig. 4. Venues of the AM: ELTE Campus and the Hungarian National Museum

THE ORGANISERS AND THE COMMITTEES

EAA conferences have an established order and scenario, which include not only various scholarly and social events, but also the organisations and committees that structurally guarantee the successful man-

agement of each annual meeting. All these units are in close cooperation with the EAA Executive Board and the Secretariat.

On the local level, the most important role is played by the organisation committee, whose members represent the hosting institutions: Alexandra Anders, Dávid Bartus, László Borhy, Szilvia Fábíán and Eszter Kreiter. Our work is supported by the Advisory Board led by László Borhy, whose members were invited to participate in order to ensure that all major institutions involved in Hungarian archaeology should be represented, demonstrating thereby the immense importance of this event not only for the organisers, but for all archaeologists. Eszter Bánffy, Erzsébet Jerem and Katalin Wollák play a prominent role in this committee, not least because they have been members of various EAA committees over the past years and thus their expertise and advice are indispensable to our work (for the members of the Advisory Board, see <https://www.e-a-a.org/EAA2020/>).

The Scientific Committee is responsible for the scholarly work of the conference. Six of its members were delegated by the local organisers, six by EAA. The Hungarian members are Alexandra Anders (President), Erzsébet Jerem (Archaeolingua), Attila Kreiter (Hungarian National Museum), Orsolya Láng (Budapest History Museum), Zsófia Rácz (Eötvös Loránd University) and Csilla Zatykó (Institute of Archaeology, Centre for the Humanities). The EAA delegated Manuel Fernandez-Götz (Edinburgh University), Albert Hafnert (Bern University), Hajnalka Herold (Exeter University), Hrvoje Potrebica (Zagreb University) and Margarita Sánchez Romero (Granada University). One of the Committee's tasks was the assessment of the proposed sessions and the approval of the presentations in the sessions based on the reviews by the session organisers.

The organisation of such a large-scale event would be unimaginable without a professional conference organiser company, which in our case is KYAT Events. Volunteers recruited from the ranks of university students will also ensure the smooth operation of the conference: a 50-strong international group will be selected from the applicants.

FUNDING

The EAA is a non-profit organisation whose costs are predominantly covered from the annual membership fees, while the annual meetings are funded from the registration fees. Only those can attend the conference, who have paid their annual membership fee and the registration fee, the latter depending on the applicant's country and the date of payment (for more info, see [the website](https://www.e-a-a.org/EAA2020/)).

In other words, the host country can use the registration fees, which, however, do not cover all the expected costs. The difference is usually covered through external sources provided by various sponsors. At present, only the National Cultural Fund has generously provided additional funding for organising the conference through the Association of Hungarian Archaeologists and Art Historians aside from the host institutions (ELTE, Hungarian National Museum, Castle Headquarters Ltd.). We are currently looking for additional sponsors and we would greatly appreciate all help in this matter: <https://www.e-a-a.org/EAA2020/Sponsors>.

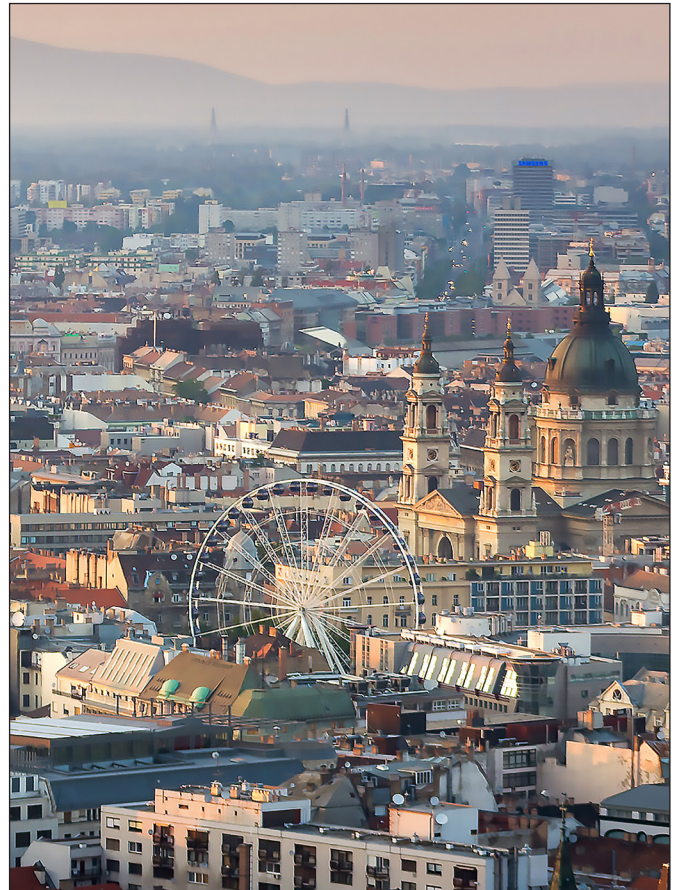


Fig. 5. Welcome to Budapest

SUSTAINABILITY

One of the conference's themes is sustainability. As the organisers of the conference, we are deeply committed to reducing the conference's ecological footprint, in line with the [UN's Sustainable Development Goals](#) and the [EAA Annual Meeting guidelines](#).

What can we do and what can participants do to reduce our ecological footprint? We can request participants to arrive by train rather than by plane, to use community transport, to ride a bike or simply walk; we can minimise our printing needs; we can provide eco-friendly catering, by offering local and seasonal dishes; we do not provide bottled water for conference participants; and we can organise selective waste collection. We will offer participants the option to calculate their carbon footprint and to compensate for the travel carbon footprint by planting a native fruit tree on a national heritage site in collaboration with the GreenDependent Institute.

The conference is less than six months away. Although we are past the deadline for submitting papers and posters, applications for participation and for exhibitors are still accepted. Additional information is available on the continuously updated [EAA 2020 Budapest homepage](#).

We would be delighted to have as many participants as possible at the conference – to familiarise ourselves with the newest advances in our special field of research, to meet and socialise with each other, and to strengthen our existing networks and forge new links. In other words: *Networking!*

REFERENCES

- Borhy, L. (2016). EAA 27th Annual Meeting, Budapest, Hungary, 26–30 August 2020. *The European Archaeologist* 50, 16–18.
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