



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

9:00–10:00: **Registration** (Central Building of BAS)

10:00–10:30 **Opening Ceremony** (Prof. Marin Drinov Hall at the Central Building of BAS)

10:30–12:00 **First Keynote Lecture**

Lorenzo Publici

Experiencing Alterity: Italian Merchants and Local Population in 14th Century Venetian Azov Sea. Changes and Continuity

12:00–14:00 **Lunch**

14:00–15:30 **Panel 1**

Hall A, Rectorate Building of Sofia University

Chair: Tsvetelin Stepanov

Hao Chen

Some Considerations on the Türk Khaganate's Ruling Family

Szabolcs Felföldi

The Capitals of the Nomads Near Rivers

Richárd Szántó

The Carpathian Basin in the Cosmography of Anonymus of Ravenna

Tsvetelin Stepanov

“From ‘Steppe Empires’ / ‘Super-complex Chiefdoms’ to ‘Early States’: The Case of Danube Bulgaria and Khazaria (Religious Aspects)”

15:30–17:30 **Coffee Break and Free Time**

17:30–19:00 **Second Keynote Lecture**

Hall A, Rectorate Building of Sofia University

István Zimonyi

The Role of Volga Bulgaria in the History of Eastern Europe

19:30 **Dinner**



NOVEMBER 21

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-Qipchaqs 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 Baljuna 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

Jinxu 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 (‘urbān) 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 Ōtāmiš Ḥājjī and ‘Abdu’l-Ġaffār. 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 Gharā’ib al-funūn wa-mulāḥ al-‘uyūn” (XI cent.) about Middle Asia

19:30 Official Closing of the Conference and Dinner

NOVEMBER 23

Excursion to the Rila Monastery