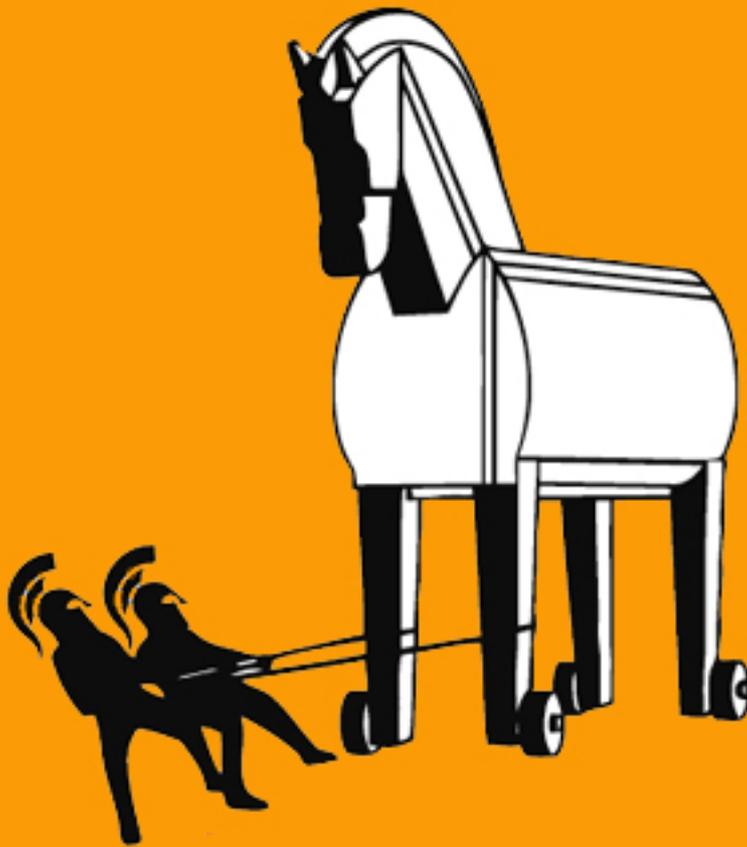


Archaeological Things



Theoretical **A**rchaeology **G**roup
TURKEY

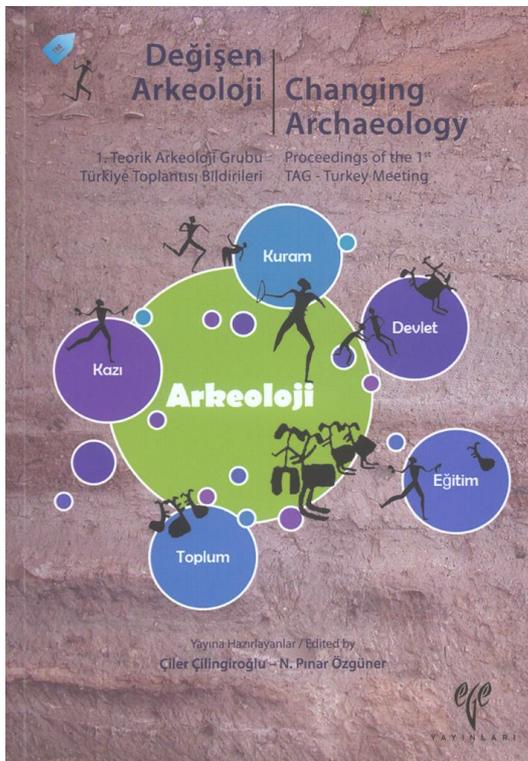
Newsletter

TAG TURKEY 2

Archaeological Things

5-6 February 2015

The first meeting of Theoretical Archaeology Group Turkey was held at Ege University, İzmir on 9-10 May 2013 with the participation of 69 attendants discussing issues of archaeological practice in Turkey. TAG Turkey achieved its goal in creating an intellectual ground for discussions focused on the perception of theoretical archaeology by Turkish archaeological sphere, and how attitudes might help resolve scientific, political and bureaucratic complications facing archaeologists. The proceedings of the first meeting have been published as the first volume of the expected TAG Turkey meetings series.



1.Changing Archaeology: Proceedings of the 1st TAG-Turkey Meeting Çilingiroğlu, Çiler – N. Pinar Özgüner (eds.) Ege Yayınları 2.The poster of TAG Turkey Meeting 2

The second meeting of TAG Turkey was held at Mimar Sinan University, İstanbul on 5-6 February 2015 with a new objective to catch up with the current debates of theoretical archaeology in the world. The theme of the second meeting was chosen as “archaeological things” to bring together scholars and students in discussing the multi-scaled interrelationships of people and things; the dependency of humans on things; the interaction of things with each other; habitats created by various combinations of things in different numbers or amounts; interrelation of individuals and societies with things; and the social structures and cultures shaped by these dynamics. The subject seems likely to be at the topmost agenda of archaeology for years to come and the second meeting of TAG Turkey achieved to create a lively forum for discussing human-thing relationships within a conceptual framework peculiar to archaeology.

Frankly, the theme “archaeological things” was a venturesome choice for the Turkish archaeological sphere due to the sceptical distance towards theoretical archaeology. Turkish archaeology has long preferred to identify itself as a part of the German *ecol * and misperceived theory as a distinctive field of study or as an optional approach in archaeological thinking. Theoretical archaeology was first embraced by prehistorians in Turkey and was justified by the lack of written evidence. TAG Turkey meetings aimed at disseminating theory for all study areas and contribute to its diffusion into broader archaeological practice in Turkey.

TAG Turkey meetings undertook a mission to integrate theory into Turkish archaeology and transform the scientific environment by attempting to catch up with the theoretical discussions in the world as was done at Cambridge and Oxford, UK 37 years ago as a reaction to hierarchical academy that kept itself isolated from theory.

The second meeting of TAG Turkey was organized by Kenan Eren, G neŐ Duru, Elif Koparal and attended by 38 contributors. The meeting was opened with the speech entitled “Entangled: An Archaeology of the Relationships between Humans and Things” by the keynote speaker Ian Hodder (Stanford University). In total, 32 presentations were held in 8 sessions and 2 days .



Ian Hodder opening the meeting with his presentation entitled "Entangled: An Archaeology of the Relationships between Humans and Things".

As one of the pioneers in the world for the “archaeological things” theme, Ian Hodder contributed to the nature of discussions in great means by his presentation . The other participants were from various countries and universities including Mimar Sinan University (İstanbul), İstanbul Universit, Ege University, Middle East Technical University (Ankara), Hitit Universit (Çorum), Koç University (İstanbul), Trakya University (Edirne), Mersin University, İzmir Institute of Technology, Muğla University, İstanbul Technical University, German Archaeology Institute in İstanbul, Akdeniz University (Antalya), Bilgi University (İstanbul), İzmir Economy University, İzmir Dokuz Eylül Üniversitesi, Uludağ University (Bursa), Bilkent University (Ankara), Hebrew University (Israel),

University College London (UK), Scuola Pisa (Italy), Ecole Pratiques Hautes Etudes (France), Texas Tech (USA), Technion- Israel Institute of Technology (Israel). The number of the audience reached up to 200 in two days.

The variety and the quality of presentations clearly showed that the TAG meetings in Turkey should be continued against all odds to close the distance with the current standards of theoretical archaeology in world. An election was organized as part of the second meeting to assign the hosting institute and organizing committee for the prospective third meeting of TAG Turkey. Organizing committee should be composed of minimum 3 and maximum 5 academics. However, due to the inadequate number of nominees, elections could not be executed according to rules. Therefore, here we call for nominations for the organizing committee of the third meeting of TAG Turkey. The committee should have at least 3 academicians from Turkey. Please do not hesitate to write us for nominating yourself for the third organizing committee of TAG Turkey (tagturkey2014@gmail.com). As we are still holding our position as the members of National Committee of TAG Turkey, we will be able to assign the members of the third Organizing Committee of TAG Turkey.



The number of participants for the second meeting of TAG Turkey showed us that sustaining the TAG Turkey meetings is vital for the development of archaeological practice in Turkey. The pace caught by the second TAG Turkey meeting should be preserved and accelerated in the future for enabling this interest to create a genuine scientific environment for theoretical archaeology in Turkey.

We would like to thank all the participants, supporters and sponsors (Mimar Sinan University, Electrolux, Research Center for Anatolian Civilizations). We look forward to the third meeting for discussing and giving way to new archaeologies in Turkey.

Kenan Eren-Güneş Duru-Elif Koparal