

## **Archaeological re-reading of justice in medieval and modern Europe**

### **International and interdisciplinary symposium**

**February 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>, 2017, Bordeaux (France), Archéopôle**

Can archaeological sciences study medieval and modern justice? The proliferation of discoveries or rediscoveries of execution sites, of executioner tools or infamous burials, and recent studies on stigmatized bodies and architecture of the places of justice and imprisonment bring new sources of discussion. In a reflection linking perception of space, meaning and social representation of the remains, these factors lead to rethink and re-evaluate judicial practice through archaeology. This new rereading however cannot be only confined to side approach of the history of justice by the texts; it wishes to highlight the material of the right to punish by surpassing the traditional textual or iconographic approaches. As such, does the archaeologist address this issue in the same way that a historian specialized in law, legal anthropology, history of judicial institutions, etc.?

Three leads of investigation were identified and determined by the various material manifestations of justice. Justice places in space and appears in the architecture, both within wood and stone (axis 1). The bone remains lead to place the body of the condemned at the heart of our reflection; reflection related to current issues of criminal death and criminal uses of the body (axis 2). Finally, attention will be given to objects related to the execution of judgments and sentences (axis 3).

#### **Axis 1: Archaeology, justice, space and architecture**

It will highlight the different areas and archaeological sites of medieval and modern justice, such as the scene of judgment (courts, etc.), imprisonment (prisons) and execution (gallows, etc.), by focusing on their architecture, their function and symbolism. Burial and exhibition spaces dedicated to individuals deemed by the secular criminal justice and / or ecclesiastical may also be communication proposals.

#### **Axis 2: Archaeology, justice and body**

Discussions will focus on the archaeological discoveries of criminal bodies from the criminal justice system. The physical stigmata can be studied in connection with the actions carried out by officers of the enforcement of sentences. Whether overviews or specific examples, the

contributions will highlight the intersection of archaeological and archaeo-anthropological data, and / or demonstrate the importance of forensic sciences.

### **Axis 3: Archaeology, justice and objects**

We will discuss the instruments and accessories related to executions and the tools facilitating confinement and bodily stress (axes, swords, chains, vines, etc.). Contributions may present regional or chronological syntheses, but also propose "biographies of objects" in embellishing their discourse on the material culture of justice of anthropological and sociological reflection.

**Organization:** Mathieu Vivas (LaScArBx - *Ausonius*)

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### **Proposal of communication**

Communication proposals must be sent before September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016, fixed deadline, at the following email address: [mathieu.vivas@yahoo.fr](mailto:mathieu.vivas@yahoo.fr). They can be in French or English. They must be accompanied by a one page summary and five keywords. Each contribution will be announced at the end of September.

