

DOCTORAL SUBJECT SUB-UNIT

Subject name	Field of study (branch) code	Faculty	Department
Method and Theory in Archaeology	History and Archaeology H 005	Faculty of History Lithuanian Institute of History	Department of Archaeology

Mode of study	Number of credits ECTS	Mode of study	Number of credits ECTS
lectures		consultations	2
individual	3	seminars	2,5

Total 7,5

Subject annotation
The term "theory" often intimidates both new and continuing archaeology students. However, theory can be a fascinating tool for investigating and answering questions about the past, whether those posed by other scholars or by ourselves. In modern archaeology, theoretical skills are highly valued, and the ability to apply theory effectively and skillfully in research is crucial. This goes beyond memorizing the history of theoretical approaches—it requires selecting and using theories as an integral part of your PhD work, directly linking them to your research questions, methodologies, and data interpretations. This module will explore key theoretical issues relevant to Anglo-Saxon archaeology through individual meetings and tutorials. We will examine archaeology as a discipline, discuss how practitioners have understood their roles over time, and trace the historical development of archaeological theory, emphasizing major shifts in research during the 20th century. We will also explore traditional theoretical frameworks for explaining cultural change, such as neo-evolutionary, functionalist, and ecological approaches, along with neo-Marxist/materialist perspectives and multidimensional process theories. Following this, we will delve into contemporary theories from various disciplines that address not only cultural change but also cultural reproduction and transformation. These include neo-idealist, interpretive, and neo-historical (contextual) approaches, cognitive theories, and post-structuralist concepts like praxis, agency, and phenomenology, as well as post-colonial identity theories. The module will also examine the connections between archaeology and anthropology, as well as their relationship with the broader social sciences and humanities. The goal is to understand how these diverse perspectives can be combined to address the complex challenges of interpreting human history. While we will acknowledge the conflicts within the discipline, the focus will be on finding areas of convergence between traditional and contemporary theories rather than drawing rigid distinctions. Assessment for the module will be based on an independent research essay.
Key literature
Johnson, M. 2010. <i>Archaeological Theory: An Introduction</i> (2nd Ed) Blackwell. Harris, O. & Cipolla, C. 2017. <i>Archaeological Theory in the New Millennium: Introducing Current Perspectives</i>. Routledge. Hodder, I. <i>Archjaeological theory today</i> (2nd Ed) Blackwell. 2012. Shanks, M. Social theory in Archaeology. In: <i>Encyclopedia of Archaeology</i> (2nd Ed), 2024, 84-93.

The Oxford Handbook of Archaeological Theory. Oxford handbooks online. 2012.

Thomas, J. (ed.) Interpretive Archaeology. 2001.

Crabtree, P. Bogucki, P. (eds.). European Archaeology as Anthropology. 2017.

Trigger, A. History of Archaeological Thought. 2006.

Supervising lecturers' names and surnames	Academic degree	Major works in the field (branch) published in the recent 5 years
Agnė Čivilytė	Dr.	Čivilytė A. Wahl der Waffen. Studien zur Deutung der bronzezeitlichen Waffendeponierung im nördlichen Mitteleuropa/Selection of Weapons. Interpretative study on the deposition of weapons in Northern Central Europe. Universitätsforschungen zur prähistorischen Archäologie 167, 2 parts, 622 pgs. Verlag Dr. Rudolf Habelt, Bonn 2009. ISBN 3-7749-3619-6. Čivilytė A. Žmogus ir metalas priešistorėje: Žvigančios bronzos trauka. Diemedis, Vilnius 2014. ISBN 978-9986-23-188-2 Čivilytė, A. Peripheral or non-peripheral? The “world view” of the Bronze Age people in the eastern Baltic. In: D. Hofmann, F. Nikulka and R. Schumann (eds) 2022. The Baltic in the Bronze Age. Regional patterns, interactions and boundaries, Leiden: Sidestone Press, pp. 309-324. Podėnas, V., Minkevičius, K., Micelicaitė, V., Čivilytė, A. Fortify to develop contacts? Review of Late Bronze Age defensive systems in the eastern Baltic and new data from Mineikiškės fortified settlement. In: V. Vaitkevičius, A. Bliujienė (sud.) 2022. Atrasti praeitį, išsaugoti ateitį. Straipsniai, skirti Gintauto Zabelos 60-mečiui. Klaipėda 2022, pp. 218-239. Jaeger M., Kulcsár G., Melis E., Strózyk M., Piszora P., Csányi M., Csuvár-Andrási R., P. Fischl K., Guba S., Pap E., Pásztor E., Patay R., Szathmári I., Szilas G., Čivilytė A., Kiss V. Baltic amber in Hungarian Bronze Age. <i>Sprawozdania archeologiczne</i> 75 (2), 2023, 137-186. doi: 10.23858/Sa75.2023.2.3500 Luik, H., Piličiauskienė G., Micelicaitė V., Minkevičius K., Podėnas V., Čivilytė A. Animal Bones, Bone Artefacts and Bone Working at Late Bronze Age Fortified Settlements in North-Eastern Lithuania: Sokiškiai, Mineikiškės and Garniai I. <i>Archaeologia Lituana</i> 23, 2022, 237-268. https://doi.org/10.15388/ArchLit.2022.23.14 Podėnas, V., Garbaras, A., Micelicaitė, V., Minkevičius, K., Šapolaitė, J., Ežerinskis, Ž., Čivilytė, A. Diet of the fortified settlement communities in Lithuania from 1000 cal. BC to 200 cal. AD. <i>Journal of Archaeological science. Reports</i> 51 (44) :104184. DOI:10.1016/j.jasrep.2023.104184

Čivilytė, A., Podėnas, V., Minkevičius K., Luik, H. New Insights on the Bronze Age Metallurgy in the Eastern Baltic Region: Archaeometallurgical Investigations Based on EDXRF and Pb-Isotope. *Archaeological and Anthropological Science Open Access*, 4 (4) 2023, 627-638.

<https://doi.org/10.31031/AAOA.2023.04.000608>

Čivilytė A., Duberow W., Pernicka E., Skvortzov K., The new Late Bronze Age hoard find from Kobbeltbude (former Eastern Prussia, district Fischhausen) and the first results of its archaeometallurgical investigations. *Journal of Archaeological and Anthropological Science* 2015, published online 16.11.2015.

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s12520-015-0297-5>

Approved by the Doctoral Committee of History and Archaeology
24 October 2024, No15600-KT-510.

Chair of the Doctoral Committee Prof. habil. dr. Tamara Bairašauskaitė