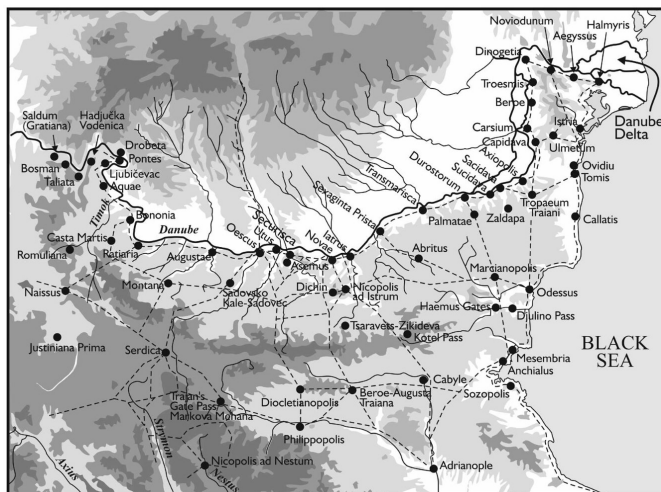


Avar-Slav Raiding Warfare and the Balkan 'Dark Age' (581-750): An Archaeological Survey

22nd March 2023
9:45–11.15

**FACULTY OF ARCHAEOLOGY
UNIVERSITY OF WARSAW**

**Krakowskie Przedmieście Str. 26/28
Main School Building (Szkoła Główna), room 2.06**



ORGANIZER •

**Department of Archaeology of Barbaricum
and the Roman Provinces
Faculty of Archaeology, University of Warsaw**

ALEXANDER SARANTIS



**Faculty of History
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Ph.D.**

This lecture will explore the material evidence for the impact of the Avar-Slav invasions and Avar-Byzantine warfare in the Balkans between 581 and 626, and of the departure of the imperial authorities from most of the Balkan provinces from the early seventh century. In particular, it will analyse the extent to which these and or other developments contributed to the economic collapse experienced by most Balkan regions during the seventh and early eight centuries. The nature of this recession will also be explored, with a focus on the evidence for settlement patterns and production and exchange in interior Balkan regions during this so-called 'Dark Age'. How far does this material confirm the hypothesis of some modern scholars that large areas were entirely depopulated? If there were surviving agrarian populations, how did they support themselves and what can we say about their socio-political organisation? Were their lives necessarily worse than during periods of centralised imperial control and a monetised economy? In which ways do signs of continuity foreshadow the nature of the political, demographic and economic recovery in the Peninsula from the late eighth to tenth centuries? .



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