

## **Communicate the Past! Ways to present archaeology to the public**

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In this session the relationship between professional archaeology and the public is in focus. The session aims to explore and discuss how academic archaeology can be presented to non-archaeologists without the content being too simplified or depreciated.

The post-modern critique of archaeology as a reflection of one's own society has been a healthy self-criticism, but now we have to move on. The fact that archaeological knowledge is related to the trends in the current society, and thus changeable, is a known and accepted fact. It does however not mean that archaeologists do not produce important knowledge, or that archaeology does not give valuable insights to prehistoric societies. To our minds this post-modern insight can in fact be used in our favour. When a prehistoric material is mirrored against questions important to later societies, new perspectives are gained. The mirror can then be turned into multiple windows that offer new vantage points. The main issue of this session is to discuss the various ways in which the windows can be opened to the public. Our experience is that within the academic society there are lots of well-founded knowledge that not always reach the public - knowledge that in turn can be presented in multiple ways supplementing traditional forums.

In what ways can we as archaeologists meet the public? What knowledge do we want to present? How do we do to not oversimplify or depreciate the knowledge presented? This session is a forum to discuss these and other questions, regarding the relationship between professional archaeologists and the public.

Paper abstracts (200 words) are being received by the session organisers on [tove.stjarna@ark.su.se](mailto:tove.stjarna@ark.su.se)