

Osor v fokusu znanosti: Osor onkraj mita

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Dvostranski raziskovalni projekt Osor onkraj mita, ki ga financirata Javna agencija za znanstvenoraziskovalno in inovacijsko dejavnost Republike Slovenije (ARIS) ter Avstrijski znanstveni sklad (FWF) v okviru programa Weave, je uspel združiti številne raziskovalce različnih disciplin pri preučevanju Osorja. Gre za mesto, ki leži na stičišču otokov Cresa in Lošinja v Kvarnerskem zalivu na Hrvaškem. V času mlajše prazgodovine in rimskega obdobja je veljalo za eno najpomembnejših regionalnih središč. Projekt tako subtilno prepleta mitološko ozadje s sodobnimi znanstvenimi spoznanji, pri čemer Osor obravnava kot enoten kopenski in morski organizem – prostor, kjer se stikata mit in resničnost, narava in kultura. Z multidisciplinarnim pristopom – od geologije in arheologije, prek zgodovine in epigrafike do antropologije, biologije in kemije – je omogočeno poglobljeno razumevanje kompleksnosti življenja v preteklosti na tem izjemnem prostoru. Posebna pozornost je namenjena krajinskemu kontekstu, obrobni rabi zemljišč ter dinamiki in strateški vlogi mesta znotraj severnojadranskega prostora in kulturnih mrež tistega časa.

V zadnjih dveh desetletjih so raziskave pokazale precejšnje število novih arheoloških najdb, večjo kulturno variabilnost in intenzivnejše kulturne stike. Zato je bil cilj projekta med drugim na novo ovrednotiti kulturno zgodovino Osorja v kontekstu otočnosti ter regionalnih in nadregionalnih povezav na inovativen način. K razvoju projekta so pomembno prispevala najnovejša zaščitna arheološka izkopavanja (2018–2025), ki so bistveno dopolnila zbrane podatke in odprla številne nove raziskovalne izzive.

Namen konference Osor v fokusu znanosti je zbrati najnovejše raziskave in različne pristope ter njihove rezultate združiti v celovito znanstveno sintezo, ki bo omogočala poglobljeno razumevanje mesta in njegovega razvoja v širšem kulturnem in časovnem okviru – torej onkraj mitov. Dejstvo, da se je na konferenci zbralo impresivno število udeležencev iz šestih držav, potrjuje uspešnost in aktualnost tega pristopa. V več kot 150-letni zgodovini raziskav so se prvič zbrali strokovnjaki z različnih področij ter svoj znanstveni fokus usmerili izključno na Osor – v malo večno mesto, ki s svojim obstojem že več kot 3000 let povezuje in navdihuje.

Osor in the Scientific Spotlight: Osor Beyond the Myth

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The bilateral research project *Osor Beyond the Myth*, funded by the Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency (ARIS) and the Austrian Science Fund (FWF) within the Weave programme, has successfully brought together researchers from various disciplines to study Osor. The town, situated at the junction of the islands of Cres and Lošinj in Kvarner Bay, Croatia, was one of the most important regional centres during the Late Prehistoric and Roman periods. The project subtly weaves together the mythological background with contemporary scientific insights, viewing Osor as a unified terrestrial and maritime organism – a place where myth and reality, nature and culture, converge. Through a multidisciplinary approach – including geology, archaeology, history, epigraphy, anthropology, biology and chemistry – the project enables a deeper understanding of the complexity of past life in this exceptional area. Special attention is given to the landscape context, peripheral land use, and the dynamics and strategic role of the town within the northern Adriatic region and its cultural networks of the time.

In the past two decades, research has revealed many new archaeological finds, greater cultural variability, and more intensive cultural interactions. Consequently, one of the main aims of the project has been to re-evaluate the cultural history of Osor in the context of insularity, as well as its regional and interregional connections in an innovative manner. The project has also greatly benefited from recent rescue excavations (2018–2025), which have significantly enriched the available data and introduced numerous new research challenges.

The aim of the conference *Osor in the Scientific Spotlight* is to bring together the latest research and a range of methodological approaches, integrating their results into a comprehensive scientific synthesis to provide a deeper understanding of the town and its development within a broader cultural and temporal framework – beyond the myth. The impressive number of participants from six countries attests to the success and relevance of this approach. For the first time in over 150 years of research, experts from diverse disciplines have gathered and focused their scholarly attention exclusively on Osor – the small eternal town, whose existence has connected and inspired for more than three millennia.