

Abstract and comment on the habilitation thesis

The research, presented in the monograph, explores the overall organisation and use of space inside the large fortified Late Iron Age sites with a specific forms of urbanism in the 2nd–1st c. BC – *oppida*. These sites express a specific form of urbanism, but they differ greatly in terms of size, topography and functions. The largest of them, with presumably a significant amount of their intramural surface area devoid of construction, are examples of low-density urbanism. The dichotomy between rural and urban elements of the oppida has also been questioned and there has been a call for an appreciation of ‘empty spaces’ within oppida, while research to date has focused on their architecture and built-up areas.

The focus of the monograph is on a role of seemingly unbuilt areas (and how these changed over time), using oppidum Bibracte (France) – most comprehensively excavated oppidum in Europe – as a case study. In order to set the scene, the monograph provides an invaluable summary of the exploration of the site from the 19th century to the present day. The work combined various approaches, the first being geophysical survey, carried out between 2011 and 2021. The second strand was the use of test-pits to provide soil samples for multi-disciplinary analyses (geoarchaeology, study of macro-botanical remains, pollen, phytoliths, diatoms, parasites etc.) to see what light this could throw on activity in open areas. The research has identified a range of possible functions, including agricultural, for them. Thanks to the use of scientific dating, the research also cast significant new light on the use of the hilltop in the centuries and millennia before the oppidum, as well as its afterlife in late Antiquity and the Middle Ages. This combined study offers a comprehensively renewed vision of the spatial organisation of the oppidum of Bibracte, based both on a detailed history of the long-term research carried out on the site and on the new analyses. The volume offers an original new approach to protohistoric urbanism.

The monograph is an output of the GAČR project (rated as excellent), of which the applicant was the principal investigator in 2019-2022, and the result of a long-term collaboration of applicant (and her colleagues) with Centre archéologique européen (Glux-en-Glenne, France).

The 464-page volume, published in France in the ‘Collection Bibracte’ series, contains 410 pages of text and illustrations and 40 pages of bibliography. Petra Golářová is the editor and author of the concept of the book, the only author of 148 pages, including introductory chapters, state of arts, evaluation of field activities, and theoretical, synthetic and final chapters (Chapters 1-4, 7-8, 21 and 22). She contributed with more than 60% authorship in another 135 pages (Chapter 5), in which, in addition to her contribution to the interpretation of the results of the geophysical survey, she set results of geophysics in the context of existing knowledge of the site. In the synthetic Chapter 20 (9 pages), the applicant's share of authorship, consisting in the evaluation of the data and placing it in an archaeological context, is 40%. In Chapter 10 (6 pages), 100% of the analytical text was written by the applicant, based on the background data of the co-author of the chapter. In Chapter 9 (10 pages) she authored 30% of the content (evaluation of non-ceramic finds). Due to the multidisciplinary approach of the studied issues, the 94 pages of the monograph include studies by specialists from a number of other disciplines (radiocarbon dating, OSL, geochemistry, geology and micromorphology, archaeobotany of macroremains, palynology, phytoliths, diatoms and palaeoparasites), without the authorial contribution of the applicant.