

# Using historic places in modern pagan context



practical rituals at historic and prehistoric places

# WARNING

**Risks and side effects:**  
Talking with pagans  
may kill your scientific reputation!



The friendly pagan from your neighbourhood

# Terms

- Pagan
  - Mostly nature religious
  - Spirits in every plants, animals, nature phaenomena
  - Mostly polytheistic
  - Celtic reconstructionism, Hellenismos, Religio romana, Asatrú & Wanatrú, Schamanism (am. indian, siberian, core schamanism)
- Heathen
  - Eclectic religion
  - Gerald Gardener, Iolo Moranwag, Aleister Crowley
  - Prominent: Wicca
  - Also OTO, OBOD, Rosicrucian orders
  - Often mono- or duo-theistic

# Personal background

- Ulrike J. Schepp – the techie
  - University of applied sciences Giessen
  - Software engineer  
at a big German transportation company
  - Archaeological as a helper at  
Dünsberg excavation near Giessen/Germany
  - Founding member of the excavation support club  
“Archaeologie im Gleiberger Land“

# Personal background

- Ulrike J. Schepp – the private practitioner
  - Drifting eastward through the big world religions: Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Zen Buddhism
  - Switch back to Celtic Reconstructionism (CR) 7 years ago
  - Organising feasts
- **I'm not infectious!**

# Celtic Reconstructionism

- Depending on scientific facts
  - Archaeological
  - Historical
  - Written evidence (old historians)
  - Roman psyops to filter out
- Modern extensions
  - What we have: a dash of salt on a baking tray
  - What we need: supplement to create practicable ceremonies and rituals  
e.g. a white bull for sacrifice from a confectioner

# Practicing

- Feasts
  - Wheel of the year
  - Wakes on midsummer and midwinter
  - Ceremonies (handfasting, burial, sacrifices etc)
- Ecumenic
  - CR, Wicca, Asatrúar, european and american-indian schamanism, „free flying” witches etc
- Places
  - Everywhere (like on a parking area, meadow etc)
  - Respect for the place (except for some honks...)
  - Ancestors historic places

# Ritual

- „Standard“ Ritual
  - Taking the place „out“ of the trivial world
  - Inviting gods, spirits and ancestors
  - Thanking for all things since last ritual
  - Special doings  
like consecrating amulets, special sacrifices
  - Wishes till the next feast
  - Thanking gods, spirits and ancestors for their presence
  - Giving the place back to the trivial world



# Places

- Ancestors chose the places by intention
- Good panorama
- Mysterious surroundings  
(canyons, cliffs, boulders, trees, )
- Connected to natural spirits  
(water, earth, fire, air)
- Special meanings  
(crossroads)

# Examples

- Intro
  - People are doing real worshipping – no play
  - No mockup
  - No photos during ceremonies
  - Personal anonymity

# Examples



Stone near my home village  
(probably former marker stone)

# Examples



Stone illuminated

# Examples



Participants

# Examples



Altar at Pesch

# Examples



Frög

# Examples



Asparn



# References

- No archaeological references by intention!
- Celtic Reconstructionism  
engl.:  
<http://www.paganachd.com>  
protecting Tara  
<http://www.paganachd.com/tara/index.html>  
germ.  
<http://forum.celticcafe.de>  
<http://wiki.celtoi.org/Hauptseite>
- Different religions  
germ. Media information centre  
<http://www.remid.de>

-

Thank you for your attention