

# Mediävistische Vorlesungen

in Zusammenarbeit mit den Henrik-Steffens-Vorlesungen

Einladung zum Gastvortrag

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### Oseberg, Gokstad and Borre. New Research on Classical Viking Age Sites in Vestfold, Norway

For the last seven years research has brought new knowledge about the famous sites of Oseberg, Gokstad and Borre in the county of Vestfold, Norway. The research is based on new technologies such as Lidar-scanning, forensic – and geophysical methods and archaeological excavation. The skeletons were revealed from the Gokstad and Oseberg mounds in 2007 and analyzed anew. The forensic possibilities of finding out more about these humans are brought a step forward and results will be dealt with in the paper. Our understanding of the classical sites, where ship graves from the Viking Age have been found, is also changed due to large scale geophysical prospection. So far there are some very promising results which leave us with a past material and political complexity. A rediscovered marked place at Gokstad and a harbour and at least two big hall buildings and additional farmhouses are found at Borre. In our eagerness to understand the craftsmanship and techniques of the past there has been built a copy of the Oseberg ship and a full scale hall building is raised at Borre as an argument in the ongoing discourse on Viking Age royal architecture. Seen from a scientific and political point of view, this increased complexity is just what the Viking Age research needs.



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