This workshop aims at providing intensive training in applied field geophysical methods in an extraordinary environment in Southern Transylvania. Geophysical methods are an extremely versatile set of techniques used extensively in both research and practical applications from archaeology, to urbanism, forensics, geology, engineering. Field experience with these techniques is an exceptionally useful and lucrative skill to acquire, but training in these methods is limited to expensive manufacturer professional development and/or academic courses. Our workshop offers a full set of technical, theoretical, and practical skills for Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) surveying. It provides thorough training for field work, processing, and interpretation of intensively modified human landscapes, in an accessible and professional way. Hands-on experience is an essential complement to previous or planned geophysics training for work in earth sciences, geology, geography, urban planning, architecture, surveying, civil engineering, environmental engineering, environmental studies, landscaping, forensics, anthropology, archaeology, cultural resource management (CRM), Classics, and/or history. Working in teams of two or three, participants will maximize both quantity and quality of acquired field and analytical geophysical exploration skills.

**DURATION:** 6-day sessions

**WORKSHOP PROGRAM FEE:** US$985 per session

**IT INCLUDES:** lectures and labs; survey gear; site clearance; full room and board; local transportation to survey locations

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**
www.archaeotek-archaeology.org

**OR CONTACT US:**
archaeology@archaeotek.org
APPLIED FIELD GEOPHYSICS RESEARCH WORKSHOP
- GROUND PENETRATING RADAR APPLICATIONS -

Summer 2018
Southern Transylvania, Hunedoara County, Romania

ArchaeoTek Canada

Project Director: Isabel Morris imorris@princeton.edu
Scientific Director: Andre Goncia archaeology@archaeotek.org

Workshop Dates:

- Session 1: June 3 – June 9
- Session 2: June 10 – June 16
- Session 3: June 24 – June 30
- Session 4: July 1 – July 7
- Session 5: July 15 – July 21
- Session 6: July 22 – July 28
- Session 7: August 5 – August 11
- Session 8: August 12 – August 18

Web Site:

https://www.archaeotek-archaeology.org/applied-field-geophysics-gpr

Application Form:

https://www.archaeotek-archaeology.org/application-geophysics

I. Introduction:

This workshop aims at providing intensive training in applied field geophysical methods in an extraordinary environment in Southern Transylvania. Geophysical methods are an extremely versatile set of techniques used extensively in both research and practical applications from archaeology, to urbanism, forensics, geology, and engineering. Field experience with these techniques is an exceptionally useful and lucrative skill to acquire, but training in these methods is limited to expensive manufacturer professional development and/or academic courses. These educational opportunities tend to sacrifice either the theoretical and technical foundations, or the practical use and interpretation of the methods. In contrast, this workshop provides a full set of technical, theoretical, and practical skills for Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) surveying. As such, it offers thorough training for field work, processing, and interpretation of intensively modified human landscapes in an accessible and professional way. Hands-on experience is an essential complement to previous or planned geophysics

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training for work in earth sciences, geology, geography, urban planning, architecture, surveying, civil engineering, environmental engineering, environmental studies, landscaping, forensics, anthropology, archaeology, cultural resource management (CRM), Classics, and/or history.

This workshop will address the basic principles of electromagnetic wave propagation and electromagnetic properties as they apply to GPR and geophysical exploration. We will focus on the practical applications of GPR in a variety of disciplines in order to achieve the most useful results for a specific environment with distinct stratigraphic and geological properties. The workshop will be progressively staged so that participants gain experience and skills required to formulate appropriate research questions and carry out real life data collection and analysis to answer those questions. During the first three days, participants will receive several lectures on GPR theory and method, learn to properly collect data and use the field equipment and analytical software. The last three days will be devoted exclusively to data collection and analysis, designed to acquire the maximum applied field geophysical experience. The culmination of the workshop will be a presentation of the results to develop participant’s skills to communicate geophysical results. Working in teams of two or three, participants will maximize both quantity and quality of acquired field and analytical geophysical exploration skills.

II. Course Aims and Outcomes:

Aims

Upon completion of this workshop, participants will have the skill set and knowledge required to plan, conduct, analyze, and interpret successful GPR surveys in any terrestrial setting. This process will present a variety of anthropogenic and natural challenges, from working in diverse field conditions, to dealing with sites containing a combination of known and unknown modern and historical features. The whole experience is intended to be intensive and collaborative, with a focus on experiential learning and application of processing, collection, and interpretation methods to real sites under real life research conditions. Participants will work in small groups of 2-3 directly with our instructors to gain fluency and proficiency with the equipment, software, and logistics of a GPR project. At the end of each session, the data will be presented as a full professional report, both in writing and as an oral podium presentation.

Applications and Case Studies

The workshop is conducted in the heart of Transylvania, in the Mureş river valley (Hunedoara County, Romania). This region combines intensive historical human habitation and landscape transformation with relatively static modern occupation, offering complex but highly accessible study sites. This offers a unique setting in which common environmental challenges to a GPR survey, such as interference from cell phone towers, communication and power lines, road traffic, and modern
constructions occur at recognizable and manageable levels. As a result, this location is ideal for both GPR exploration and intensive skill acquisition.

Our target case study sites, Rapolt and Micia, show distinct urban elements (without the extraneous clutter of modern urban environments) of various size, shape, orientation, depth and composition, ideal for GPR training at both formative and advanced levels.

Our first target site, Rapolt, presents an intensive Roman habitation of 200-300 years, without later occupation. As a result, the modifications of the site are exclusively the result of agricultural work with minor looting. The intensity of the habitation, combined with its very well defined temporal limits and limited later human alterations, has created a site ideal for learning the fundamentals of GPR, basic survey implementation, optimized use of field equipment, and post-processing analytical methods.

Our second case study will be conducted at Micia. It is one of the largest and most intricate archaeological urban sites in Transylvania, featuring three centuries of Roman occupation. Beginning as complex fortified military camps, it later expanded into a large village and then a full city, complete with amphitheater, baths, temples, manufacturing, shops, plazas, large and small habitation structures, and two cemeteries with funerary monuments. The Roman site was then taken over by migratory people with variable architectural skill who modified the site according to their needs and perception for over four centuries. It was then forgotten for close to a millennium and a half until, during communist times, a thermal power plant and a couple of roads were built on the site, destroying about 20% of it, and introducing a modern twist to our GPR research area in the form of unmapped buried utilities and buried support/temporary structures.

Together, these sites provide unparalleled access to a diverse set of features and conditions. We address urban and proto-urban settlement construction, complex anthropogenic stratigraphic relationships, variation in soil structure and conditions, a wide range of materials and their use/reuse, unmapped ancient and modern utilities, potential graves, modern and ancient civil works projects (including the remains of roads, aqueducts, and wells), changes in hydrogeological environment caused by modern human intervention (construction and operation of thermal power plant), and any additional undiscovered features.

**Specific Learning Outcomes**

At both sites, we aim to provide contextualized information about the technical and practical aspects of GPR surveying, fully applicable to GPR work in all disciplines. After a comprehensive introduction to the equipment and survey procedures in Rapolt, we will conduct intensive surveys to map both the modern and historical features at Micia using GPR. The results of this survey will be formally presented in a professional, conference-like setting at the end of each session. In addition to providing hands-on experience and associated skills required by employers (field assessment, technical and geophysical surveying, oral and written presentation of the data, etc.), we will have supplemental discussions and readings on more advanced GPR topics and specific applications (for example, qualitative and quantitative identification of subsurface features). At its core, the workshop is designed...
to provide an engaging environment for the acquisition of the fully transferrable skills and knowledge at the core of all GPR applications and projects.

This course will equip participants with the skills and experience needed to:

**Conduct successful GPR projects from conceptualization through completion**
- Select the appropriate geophysical method for particular objectives and conditions
- Define and prioritize feasible data collection objectives according to urgency, required results, data quality and quantity, and accessibility
- Identify survey costs (data storage and processing, collection time, labor, seasonal factors, and equipment) related to specific goals and objectives
- Execute efficient and successful field surveys
- Meaningfully process and interpret data for particular project objectives
- Create clear visuals that convey results
- Communicate results clearly and completely to technical and non-technical audiences

**Properly understand and identify constraints of GPR surveys in actual environments**
- Identify the conditions under which a GPR approach is applicable
- Use technical foundations of the GPR method to understand the different kinds of information that can be gained from GPR survey and how this information might change with field conditions
- Recognize how external constraints such as weather impact the feasibility of particular objectives and/or implementation of specific geophysical methods

**Proficiency operating GPR field equipment**
- Identify and understand nature and use of field equipment required for conducting surveys
- Properly assemble and disassemble the equipment
- Full training and troubleshooting with Noggin 500 (Sensors and Software) GPR Unit in Smart Tow/Rough Terrain Configuration

**Understand and execute useful GPR surveys in the field**
- Optimize field coverage, grid location, and collection type according to survey goals
- Understand data quality and quantity in relation to data collection method, equipment settings, calibrated parameters, and field contexts
- Identify optimal data collection method for each context
- Evaluate locations and sites to address specific research questions
- Properly locate and prepare different types of survey sites (grid, line survey, GPS, etc.)
- Identify and collect external auxiliary non-GPR data essential for post processing and interpretation of GPR data
Perform meaningful GPR post-processing and interpretations

- Process data into scans (radargrams) and slices using the EKKO Project suite and Sliceview (Sensors and Software), transferrable to most GPR processing software suites
- Interpret a wide range of anthropogenic and natural features in GPR data, including walls, floors, roads, destruction levels, funerary features, utilities, and geological changes
- Distinguish between meaningful reflections, spurious signals, and artifacts of the data
- Apply depth slicing, velocity analysis, grid stitching, and GPS positioning data to create interpretive maps of subsurface features from multiple grids
- 3D visualization of research context and results

III. Format and Procedures:

This workshop is structured as an intensive six-day GPR training course conducted in an archaeological/historical environment with well-defined modern interferences and activity. For processing data and compiling results, it is helpful for participants to bring a Windows laptop if possible. The software can only be installed on this operating system (Windows 7 or newer, or a Windows emulator like Bootcamp for MacOS) and can only be used in the lab according to software licensing. Even if you do not have Windows, a laptop will likely be necessary to complete and review readings and work on the final presentation. Please contact one of the directors if you have computing concerns.

Groups of 2-3 participants will be guests of Romanian families in Rapolt for the duration of the workshop. Full room and board will be provided for each workshop session. Meals will consist of traditional Romanian cuisine and can be prepared to accommodate vegetarian diets. The small size of these groups is designed to provide extensive personalized instruction and the ability to tailor the workshop to the interests of participants. Local transportation to both field sites will be provided as needed.

The workshop is meant to be an intensive program, maximizing the integration of theory, method and experiential knowledge/skill. As such, each day will contain 7-9h of workshop related activities. The tentative daily schedule – for more details, see Course Schedule below – is as follows (subject to change):

- 6:30AM: Breakfast
- 7-7:30AM: Beginning of morning lectures, laboratory work and/or field surveying
- 12:30PM: Lunch
- 1:30PM: Beginning of afternoon lectures, laboratory work and/or field surveying
- 4:30PM (or later, as needed): End on work day
- 7PM: Dinner
Note that the equivalent training program offered by Sensors and Software (SenSoft), one of the leading North American companies in GPR manufacturing and research, respectively the 3 Day GPR Short Course, costs US$1295. The GSSI equivalent, a 2 Day Short Course, costs US$800. Their classes usually run with 6-12 participants (or more), room and board not included.

IV. Participation Assumptions

This workshop focuses on extensive skill acquisition rather than academic progression. However, in registering for the course, it is assumed that participants will be engaged, interested, and active in the workshop. All workshop activities are mandatory. A substantial degree of personal responsibility and initiative is expected and required from all participants to complete readings, prepare for discussions, and acquire the skills offered in the workshop. All acquired skills and enjoyment of this workshop are directly proportional to the effort and attention participants invest. It is assumed that participants will fully engage in all aspects of the workshop.

Once accepted to the program, a set of articles and a list of introductory videos will be provided to participants. It is absolutely essential that participants are fully versed in this prerequisite information prior to their arrival to the workshop.

GPR surveying is physical labor. You must be able to repeatedly carry 30lbs a distance of 50m (160ft), on uneven ground, for about 1.5-2.5h per day. Field work will range from 1-2h (first day) to 4-5h daily (following 5 days). Please contact the directors with any concerns.

Participants are encouraged to share their particular interests with the instructors, who will do their best to personalize the workshop and maximize the acquisition of relevant knowledge and skills.

All participants are expected to behave respectfully at all times towards the staff, other participants and local people. All participants are required to abide by the rules and regulations of the workshop as well as Romanian laws. Disrespectful and/or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated.

V. Course Schedule (Subject to change)

Readings will be provided to participants before their arrival in Romania. Readings should be completed as prerequisites and reviewed before the day they are listed. Several videos on data processing using the EKKO software suite will be provided for participants to view as prerequisites to the program. Additional reference materials containing specific technical details will also be provided for the interested participant and future reference. Each workshop session will conclude with a presentation and report of the session’s findings in a professional conference-like environment.

The program includes, for each session, a minimum of:
- 12h lectures and seminars
- 6h laboratory instruction
- 20-25h field surveying
- 10-15h data processing and analysis

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TOPICS (AM)</th>
<th>TOPICS (PM)</th>
<th>READINGS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>DAY 1</strong></td>
<td><strong>DAY 1</strong></td>
<td>[prereq] SenSoft webinars on EKKO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lecture: The Short Intro to GPR (1h)</td>
<td>Lecture: EM wave propagation and GPR Principles (1.5h)</td>
<td>[1] Annan 2001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field: Equipment assemble/disassembly (1h)</td>
<td>Lecture: GPR Surveying Basics, history, and reports (1.5h)</td>
<td>[2] Conyers 2016a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field: Locate and Mark (2h)</td>
<td>Lab: Interpretations for locate and mark and sample scenarios (1.5h)</td>
<td>[3] Conyers 2016b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>DAY 2</strong></td>
<td><strong>DAY 2</strong></td>
<td>[5] Verdonck et al. 2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field: Rapolt Gridded Survey I (3-4h)</td>
<td>Lecture: GPR Principles: Thinking like a wave (1h)</td>
<td>[6] Damiata et al. 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lecture: Another look at GPR Interpretation (1h)</td>
<td>Lab: Processing GPR data for interpretation: using EKKO software (2h)</td>
<td>[7] Pincus et al. 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lecture: More advanced GPR Principles: Gain, attenuation, and more (1h)</td>
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<td>[8] Zhao et al 2013</td>
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<td>[9] SenSoft concrete</td>
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<td>[10] dos Santos 2014</td>
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<td><strong>DAY 3</strong></td>
<td><strong>DAY 3</strong></td>
<td>SenSoft webinar: Qualitative to Quantitative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field: Rapolt Gridded Survey II (3-4h)</td>
<td>Lab: Processing with maps, slices, and surfaces (2h)</td>
<td>[4] Takahashi 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lecture and discussion: Comparing remote sensing approaches (1h)</td>
<td>Lecture: Review of acquired methods and techniques (1h)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>DAY 4</strong></td>
<td><strong>DAY 4</strong></td>
<td>[8] Zhao et al 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field: Micia Survey I (4-5h)</td>
<td>Lab: Micia Processing I (as needed)</td>
<td>[9] SenSoft concrete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion: Attribute Analysis, Velocity, and Gain (1h)</td>
<td>Discussion: Attribute Analysis, Velocity, and Gain (1h)</td>
<td>[10] dos Santos 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion: Attribute Analysis, Velocity, and Gain (1h)</td>
<td>Discussion: Modeling and Inversion, Quantitative Analyses (1h)</td>
<td>[11] Olhoeft 2000</td>
</tr>
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<td><strong>DAY 5</strong></td>
<td><strong>DAY 5</strong></td>
<td>SenSoft webinar: Qualitative to Quantitative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field: Micia Survey II (4-5h)</td>
<td>Lab: Micia Processing II (as needed)</td>
<td>[4] Takahashi 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion: Attribute Analysis, Velocity, and Gain (1h)</td>
<td>Discussion: Modeling and Inversion, Quantitative Analyses (1h)</td>
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<td><strong>DAY 6</strong></td>
<td><strong>DAY 6</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Field: Micia Survey III (4-5h)</td>
<td>Lab: Micia Processing III Final (as needed)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summary and Discussion (1h)</td>
<td>Presentation of Results (1h)</td>
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</table>
VI. Prerequisite SenSoft Webinars - Proceed in the order below, after reading [1] and [2], and using glossary from [2] for reference (see Required Readings for [1] and [2])

Getting the most from your GPR Utility Data: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mae_uFvOTFo
EKKO Project Utilities: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Znxslp5tpqY
GPR Software: EKKO_Project v5: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UXc-47f2GyA
SliceView GPR: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sV3sQHp6NeQ
Qualitative to Quantitative Analysis: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5IPpKEK4R8

VII. Required Readings (Provided)

VIII. Optional Readings and Helpful References

General References


Forensic Applications

Geological and Environmental Applications


Archaeological Applications

Engineering Applications

A. Benedetto and L. Pajewski, Civil Engineering Applications of Ground Penetrating Radar. 2015.

GPR challenges and techniques


Software manuals, guides, and references

C. Xenophontos, “A Beginner’s Guide to MATLAB.”