
ABSTRACTS

THURSDAY, 20. SEPTEMBER 2018

Welcome and introduction to 'Pregnancy, birth, early infancy and childhood: life's greatest transitions in the past'

Katharina Rebay-Salisbury and Doris Pany-Kucera, with Marlon Bas, Michaela Fritzl, Roderick B. Salisbury, Michaela Spannagl-Steiner and Lukas Waltenberger (Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna)

The 11th Annual International Conference Society for the Study of Childhood in the Past in Vienna brings together scholars across multiple disciplines, in particular archaeology, physical and cultural anthropology. The conference theme 'Pregnancy, birth, early infancy and childhood' provides diachronical and cross-cultural insights on life's greatest transitions in the past.

The themed session emerges from the ERC project 'The value of mothers to society: responses to motherhood and child rearing practices in prehistoric Europe' hosted by the Institute of Oriental and European Archaeology of the Austrian Academy of Sciences and is jointly organised with the Department of Anthropology of the Natural History Museum.

This contribution presents its research framework and the links to the conference theme.

Re-evaluating the personhood of Gravettian infants

April Nowell (University of Victoria, Canada)

In 2005, Paleolithic archaeologist, João Zilhão, wrote an influential paper questioning the personhood of infants during the Gravettian. Zilhão observed that Neandertal fetuses and infants represented approximately thirty percent of individuals purposely buried during the Middle Paleolithic (ca. 250,000-40,000 BP), arguing that this percentage represented roughly what archaeologists would expect to see if interred populations reflected pre-industrial infant mortality rates. By contrast, he noted that modern human fetuses and infants accounted for only nine percent of Gravettian (i.e., Upper Paleolithic, ca. 30,000-22,000 BP) burials, prompting him to argue that they were "discriminated" against by members of Gravettian society who did not consider infants as people until approximately the age of four. This paper challenges this characterization of Gravettian society by drawing on newly discovered as well as existing but reinterpreted burial data, and by contextualizing infant burials within the larger context of Gravettian burial practices. It concludes that at certain times and certain places, some Gravettian peoples buried their infants and when they did, it was with great care and likely with great emotion at their passing.

Weaponry and Children: Technological and Social Trajectories

John Whittaker and Kathryn Kamp (Grinnell College, USA)

In many societies hunting, warfare, and the weaponry associated with them are symbolically or practically important in the transition from childhood to adulthood. Ethnography, archaeological evidence, and experimentation with early technologies all help to illuminate the way changes in projectile technologies may have affected the roles of children. As projectile technologies have changed from thrown stones to thrusting and throwing spears, to slings and light spears thrown with a spearthrower, to bows and arrows, to firearms, the need for body strength and size has diminished as the distance between the target and the warrior or hunter has decreased. This broad pattern affects the potential for children to participate in weapon-based activities. While in general, the trend has been for projectile technologies to become easier to operate, which would make them more accessible to children, social circumstances vary and the technologies have also become more specialized and diverse, creating contextual complexity. We focus here specifically on the example of the world-wide shift from light spears thrown with a mechanical aid (atlatl or spearthrower) to bow and arrow technology.

Childhood in a Shellmound: Weaning Strategies, Parental Investment and Population Growth

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What childhood was like in Brazilian shellmounds has not been studied yet. Here we assess weaning patterns and subadult diets of the shellmound Jabuticabeira II (1214–830calBC to 118–413calAD) using stable isotopes to test 1) if there is evidence of dietary sex differences and sex-biased parental investment and 2) if the weaning strategies were compatible with scenarios of high population density (inferred from settlement patterns). Combining bone cross-sectional and tooth serial-sectioning approaches to simulate a longitudinal study using distinct analytical methods we analyzed stable isotopes of 106 samples from 60 subadult and adult individuals. Our results show that although exclusive breastfeeding length is variable, supplementary diet was introduced around 6 months, whereas complete weaning was achieved at circa 2.3 years of age. We observed little variability in weaning and post-weaning diets. Although there are sex-biased dietary peculiarities in adults, we could not find clear cut sex-biased differences in parental investment. Because a weaning completion age of 2.3 years can be associated with slow to moderate growth, our reconstruction of weaning patterns and subadult diets of this shellmound group only partially supports a scenario compatible with high population growth.

Intergenerational relations in the past: cross-generational practices in domestic economic production at Monte Alban, Oaxaca, Mexico

Soraya Alencar (Mexico University)

Intergenerational relations is a concept widely used in Gerontology since 1970 to understand elderly experiences with other age groups, for example, the multigenerational households in contemporary ageing societies. This concept is relevant to consider how age-linked generational categories share the same domestic unity in Ancient Mesoamerica, more specifically Monte Alban (500 BC-AD 1250), which was the center of a state-level society in the Oaxaca Valley, Mexico, during at least AD 200-850. This site is interesting to explore the intergenerational engagement in the productive sphere of a complex society, when the assumption is traditionally to ignore the agency of children and elders. Pottery making is the material evidence of a large-scale production and reflects a part-time craft specialization of the domestic unity at this site. In addition, the residential area is a place for both the living and the death; therefore, the mortuary rite is one of the practices of its members to ensure the continuity of the house over time. In this sense, the objective of this paper is to highlight the cross-generational relations in the domestic pottery production at Monte Alban through the analysis of the funerary practices of different age categories (children, adults and elders).

How and when life is considered to begin in past societies. Investigation of children burial remains of Durankulak necropolis, North-East Bulgaria

Ekaterina Stamboliyska (New Bulgarian University)

Abstract: Discussed in the context of the social and economic development, the current research affects the importance of children as an essential part of Balkans Chalcolithic communities' structure. The research focusses on personal status and identity during the V mil. BC, paying attention to the impact factors exerting influence over human's character formation, behavior and social interactions. The research aims to get a better comprehension of the role of the individual within the Chalcolithic society, following a human's development since the individual's birth through the subsequent stages of biological and social growth. Among the main questions the research is willing to find an answer for, one concerns the conversion of children into full right members of the Chalcolithic community, with their own statuses and identities. With regard to the mentioned above, an important point to be discussed is the one affecting the mechanism of obtaining and transmitting status during the Chalcolithic period, addressing as well the question of social heredity and the way status was displayed through the material culture. Further to the mentioned, an important question to discuss concerns the presence of metal items in children's graves and the connection of the gold and copper artifacts to personal status and identity.

The research involves investigation of gold and copper artifacts distribution deriving from funeral context, where an abundance of metal objects is observed in some of the Chalcolithic necropoleis on the territory of Bulgaria, such as Varna (Ivanov 1978), Devnia (Todorova 1971), Goliymo Dechevo (Todorova et al. 1975), Vinitsa (Raduncheva

at al.1976) and Targovishte (Angelova 1986). Special attention is stressed to the grave good assemblages of the necropolis of Durankulak, where metal artifacts were both presented in adults as well as in children's graves. The necropolis has been chosen as a starting point of the research because of the complete data information it reveals. Discovered in 1979, it contains 1204 graves (Todorova 2002), dating back to the Neolithic and Chalcolithic period. The necropolis is considered as one of the largest Prehistoric ones on Balkan peninsula. Situated in the North-East part of Bulgaria, in the coastal area of Black sea, it has been studied throughout the period of 1979-1991. There have been both recorded graves of the Early as well as of the late stages of the Chalcolithic period. In terms of 14C data as well as in the context of Bulgarian lands chronology, the research broadly covers the period of 4900- 4200 BC. The research involves analysis of the existing data, as well as further investigation of children's burial remains. Attention is stressed to the anthropological data as well as to the number and type of grave goods assemblages. The collected information is precisely analyzed in the context of the Chalcolithic burial practices as well as through the prism of the increasing metal objects deposition, observed during the late stages of the Chalcolithic period.

The importance of the research consists in the multilayer information it reveals concerning the social scale organization of Balkan Chalcolithic communities, pointing out the essential role of the individual as an active element of the structure of society, contributing for its character and further development.

Own abilities and inherited rank – status and prestige of children in the 3rd millennium BC

Daniela Kern (Vienna)

Only in rare instances can objects that may be interpreted as toys in the widest sense be identified among the Corded Ware and Bell Beaker graves of children. Every once in a while, however, burials of children are discovered that are richly equipped or include tools and weapons. Since some of these are very young individuals, it is often denied that the enclosed objects were actually used by these children. Rather, they are interpreted as indicative of inherited status. This paper will examine the reasoning of this interpretative approach.

Children in the territory of western Hungary during the Early and Middle Bronze Age. The recognition of developmental stages in the past

Eszter Melis, Tamás Hajdu, Kitti Köhler & Viktória Kiss (Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Budapest)

Social and physical bodies under study are in a constant state of change, and – although sharing many stages of biological development – how such changes are characterized is likely to vary culturally. In our presentation we would like to focus on the transition from infancy to childhood on the one hand, and the development to adulthood on the other hand, in the period of Hungarian Early and Middle Bronze Age (2200 – 1500 BC). In addition, we attempt to discuss if the age of getting noticed and independent, the so-called 'middle childhood' can be distinguished in Bronze Age societies.

The Early and Middle Bronze Age in western Hungary represents a border and contact zone among societies with different burial traditions: biritual sites of Kisapostag group, inhumation graves of Únětice related groups (Gáta-Wieselburg), cemeteries of cremated burials of Encrusted Pottery and Nagyrév/Vatya culture. Among this diversity of burial rites and variable grave inventories we could compare the representation of young age based on over 500 deceased west from the north-south flow of the Danube. The change of attitude to the body and to the person of different ages will be analysed on the basis of choosing burial form, vessel types and attires. The appearance of gender related costume could shed light on sexual maturation. However, the fragmented status of anthropological material shows us just case studies of detecting subadults' trauma and diseases, the large published Early Bronze Age cemeteries from neighbouring countries (Austria, Slovakia) offer an available reference material on this topic.

Variability of Children's Burial Rite of the Únětice Culture in Bohemia, Moravia and Slovakia

Klaudia Daňová, Katarína Hladíková, Lucie Véllová, Michal Ernée, Peter Limburský and Petra Stránska (*University of Bratislava*)

Our research project focuses on children and their status in the society of the Únětice culture, which have been a marginalised topic despite rather intensive research of the culture. The paper compares the formal and spatial qualities of the children's burial rite in the area of the Únětice culture in Bohemia, Moravia and Slovakia. Over 750 children remains from different contexts were analysed. Similarities, as well as differences in the handling of their

remains were observed (among children, between adults and children). A common feature in the whole studied area of the Únětice culture was a significant deficit of the youngest children - newborns and infants under 1 year of age. They are scarce in the context of settlement areas (e.g. burials in pithoi). The children's burial rite shows considerable variability (e.g. cremation/inhumation; dimensions and types of grave pits and their arrangement, dimensions and types of settlement features, their spatial distribution in graves, or in settlement features, and in specific types of areas). The analysis also focuses on the correlation between various types of grave goods with age categories and sex, which showed some regional specifics.

FRIDAY, 21. SEPTEMBER 2018

Bodies, infancies and agency in Bronze Age Iberia

Margarita Sánchez Romero (Universidad de Granada)

In this paper I intend to approach the agency of children in the societies of the past. To do this, I will present my consideration of the concept of the body as a central element in the reflection on human groups. I will use an anthropological approach in order to understand different perspectives on the body: as a phenomenally experienced individual body-self, as a social body, a natural symbol for thinking about relationships among nature, society, and culture, and as a body politic, an artifact of social and political (following Scheper-Hugues & Lock, 1987). And, finally, I will contrast it with the material culture of the funerary record from argaric societies (c. 2200-1550 cal BC) of the southeast of the Iberian Peninsula.

Childhood in Late Bronze and Early Iron Age in southern Carpathian Basin

Daria Ložnjak Dizdar & Petra Rajić Šikanjić (Zagreb)

Anthropological analysis of cemeteries from the Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age in the southern Carpathian Basin (Poljana Križevačka, Slatina, Belišće, Batina, Sotin, Dolina) revealed a large number of child burials. In our study, the term "child" is used for individuals younger than 20 years. Their biological age, estimated by standard anthropological methods, differs from their social age. The chosen cemeteries, dated from the 14th to the 7th century BC, are analysed in order to gain more information on burial practice. We shall analyse all the available evidence of burial practice such as body treatment, selection of the urn and grave goods, and body ornaments. One of the important questions is the change of identity from child to adult, and the way in which that transition was marked. Based on the available data, almost all children from the Late Bronze Age, were buried in their own graves as equal members of the community. Some of the child graves dated from the 14th to the 12th century, were exceptionally rich in grave goods which may indicate their life stage. In the 11th century, urns were chosen according to their size and shape, while in the 9th century some communities used organic recipients as a bone dispenser. From the 11th century, we can also find evidence of funeral feasts.

Mycenaean childhood – Linear B script versus archaeological artefacts

Beata Kaczmarek (Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznan)

The presented paper will focus on opportunities which give us interdisciplinary research on linguistic, archaeological and anthropological data in the case of childhood study in Mycenaean society. The definition of childhood in cultural meaning is unstable – it depends on society which constructs norms and social structure. In the case of archaeology we have two icons of a child – one is coming from anthropology – these are children remains which we are finding inside graves. They can testify to the stage of development of the skeletal system. The second picture of the child we build on the base of archaeological objects accompanying the child inside the grave – or from clay tablets with Linear B script.

Preliminary studies of inscriptions have shown that children were working next to adults inside the Mycenaean palace, but not only under their supervision. On the base of food rations from Linear B script and human nutritional needs, were proposed stages of childhood in Mycenaean society: ko-wa / ko-wo me-u-jo as a child until 8 years old, ko-wa / ko-wo me-zo between 9 and 11 year, ko-wo VIR (symbol of a man) as a boy between 12 and 17 years old (Hiller 1989).

What about cultural gender? Is it possible to distinguish the stages of childhood and status of the child based on objects, inscriptions and human remains from the Mycenaean times?

Dumu.gaba, šiḫru e Guruš/sal.Tur.tur, Recognition of Developmental Stages in Ancient Mesopotamia

Nadia Pezulla (University of Rome 1 “La Sapienza”)

My speech will focus on the analysis of the stages of childhood in Mesopotamia in the second and first millennium BC. I will begin with a brief overview of what is known about the very early stages of life, conception and pregnancy, the main risks of childbirth and the early neonatal care. I will present some theories about infant mortality rates and possible causes, based on a sample analysis of some sites (Nippur, Kish and Khafajeh from the Neo-Babylonian period). The main part of the speech defines the phases of childhood starting from the study of the iconography of “non-adults”, on reliefs and figurines, and some texts concerning food rations for child-workers, coming from the main sites of the southern area. I will suggest two hypotheses on the rituals of passage from one phase to another on the basis of literary evidence within ritual texts, concerning the humanization of the child and his legitimation in society and the passage to adulthood. For the studies presented, I have used the most modern theories of the anthropology of infancy, the ancient texts about rituals and medical themes (mostly from Mesopotamia sites, in some cases also from Syria), and the reliefs from the Assyrian Period from Nineveh.

Child personhood in late prehistoric Italy. Implications from bioarchaeology, archaeoethanatology and archaeological theory

Elisa Perego (Vienna & London), **Rafael Scopacasa** (UFMG & Exeter) & **Veronica Tamorri** (London)

The issues of how and when life is supposed to begin are key topics in personhood research and childhood archaeology. Current juridical and anthropological works identify ‘persons’ as those individuals granted complete or partial membership in society. In any communities, dynamics of power and social control determine the socially accepted ways of being meaningfully human; therefore, personhood is not a status granted to all human beings irrespective of their social standing. Personhood can be granted to various degrees and augmented or retrieved throughout an individual’s life. Forms of attenuated personhood recur in case of disability, senility, and other conditions of social marginality potentially including infancy.

Research on personhood provides a powerful framework for investigating dynamics of social inclusion and marginalisation in more flexible ways, moving beyond standard discussions on the status of children in the past. By focusing on funerary evidence from late prehistoric Italy, we examine social attitudes towards children and childhood while exploring possible connections between foetal/child personhood and broader dynamics such as the rise of social stratification in the study area. We also address challenges posed by the evidence and highlight the role of methodological tools such as bioarchaeology and archaeoethanatology in providing insights into child personhood in the deep past. Ultimately, this discussion contributes to the on-going personhood debate by exploring how notions of personhood are socially constructed, culturally variable and in flux.

Recognition of children and age ranges in the necropolis of Spina

Anna Serra (University of Bologna)

The Etruscan city of Spina (VI – III B.C.), near the Po Delta, represents an exceptional site for the study of the funerary rituality. The northern necropolis, Valle Trebba, consists in more than a thousand unpublished burials, of which one hundred pertain to children. The contribution will insist on the possibility to identify children burials among adult burials, in a necropolis in which there is no physical or geographical distinction between age ranges. In this context, the distinction is based on funerary rituality, in particular through reserved treatments for children. Nowadays, the nearly completed study of the necropolis permits to fully investigate these aspects. In particular, the analysis of the funerary grave goods and of the rituality allows identifying age ranges through the presence of markers of childhood transitions and rites of passage (e.g. toys or bullae). Moreover, the presence of object clearly pertaining the adulthood (e.g. toiletries or weapons) in some infant burial may be related with the future projection of the deceased and its role in the society. Therefore, the systematic study of this context may enlighten the presence also in the Etruscan world of developmental stages conveyed in the funerary rituality through the selection of grave goods.

Bioarchaeology of children in North Aegean Greek colonies

Christina Papageorgopoulou and Tasos Zisis (Democritus University of Thrace, Greece)

Greek colonisation (8th-5th c. BC) brought significant changes to the Mediterranean and Black Sea. In certain occasions, the first generations of settlers experienced environmental and nutritional stress at their new homes. Here, we test the hypothesis that young children, a vulnerable population group, were highly affected by the colonisation process in the North Aegean. Specifically, we assess child mortality and nutrition through the conjunction of burial data, macroscopic skeletal evidence and stable isotopic signatures of carbon, nitrogen and sulphur.

In this work in progress, we focus on Acanthus and Abdera, two well-documented colonies on the Thracian coast. Both sites evolved into international hubs and prosperous cities, counting numerous skeletons. This fact makes them a unique ground for palaeodemographic and biological adaptation studies. In the archaic necropolis of Abdera (7th c. BC), high fertility levels were accompanied by high levels of child mortality. This is supported both by the increased number of child graves (Skarlatidou, 2010) and by the anthropological evidence (Agelarakis, 2010). We contribute to the research field by conducting stable isotopic analyses at the archaic necropolis of Abdera and by bringing forward original macroscopic and isotopic results from a population sample of Acanthus, dated in the initial stages of colonisation.

Greek children and their wheel carts on classical Greek vases

Hanna Ammar (University of Fribourg)

The subject is part of my doctoral thesis on 'Childhood at play' in the classical Greek world under the direction of Prof. Véronique Dasen at the University of Fribourg, as part of the ERC project 'Locus Ludi. The cultural fabric of play and games in classical antiquity'.

The presentation will be based on my catalogue of depictions of children at play in Classical Greek art, in particular on a type of miniature wine jug called chous (plural choes), as well as on other types of vessels with similar depictions of children. On these objects, produced in Athens in the second half of the fifth and fourth centuries BC, many scenes show children – boys and girls – of various ages – from the crawling toddler to the teenager – who engage in playful activities, alone or in small groups. Many of these children manipulate a small cart with wheels, often a simple wooden stick used as a handle connected to a disc as wheel. More complex carts are also present, some being miniature chariots driven by small animals (dogs, goats, etc.).

The function of this toy, its fabrication and context of use, is debated by many modern authors. For Lesley Beaumont (Childhood in Ancient Athens: Iconography and Social History, 2012), the wheeled stick is to associate with the ritual context of these scenes, and marks the participation of the child to his/her first religious festival, probably the Anthesteria. In other words, this particular toy would be used by the vase painters to distinguish the children who have already celebrated this transition from early childhood to the next stage of life from those who have not.

Starting from this theory, other questions will be asked: how can the wheel be related to a religious event? Were they offered on this occasion? Can it be considered as a gender marker, reserved to little boys as on the funerary stelae of the same period, where no girls are depicted with such toy (as opposed to vases where girls use them)? Is it an age class identifier, used to evoke the learning of walking by the little ones? The comparison of iconographic, textual and archaeological sources will throw another light on the nature and function of this object.

Teeny – Tiny Little Coffins: From the Embrace of Mother to the Embrace of Hades in Greek Ancient Society

Alexandra Syrogianni (University of Athens)

The lecture, will focus on the cultural parameters of the Greek ancient society which brought a great deal of impact on infant morbidity and mortality. The chronic starvation of women (ascribed to the philosophical and social beliefs) was the main factor for fatal complications during pregnancy and birth when at the same time the selective exposure of the female infants seemed to be a quite common practice. In addition, the ignorance about the infantile physiology as well as the inappropriate ways of taking care of the babies, inevitably led to extremely high rates as far as the infant mortality is concerned. It is really

a happy coincidence that in nowadays, research with the help of advanced methods (by studying the little skeletal remnants -whenever found), sheds light on phenomena such as the premature weaning of the female infants or uncovers childhood diseases (e.g. megaloblastic anaemia, celiac disease) which were a great burden for antiquity's infants.

A Woman's World: Exploring obstetric dilemmas among urban Romano-British females

Candace McGovern (University of Reading)

Evolutionary morphological changes required to accommodate bipedal movement and a larger brain size, alongside various pathologies, make humans prone to an obstructed labour. This occurs when the fetus is unable to navigate through the pelvis during a vaginal delivery and can result in death for both the mother and neonate. Within archaeological populations the high frequency of reproductive age females is often attributed to childbirth related complications; however, this has been difficult to establish as full-term neonates are rarely found within the pelvic cavity. Therefore, to ascertain the likelihood of a contracted pelvis the transverse and cognate measurements at the pelvic inlet, mid-plane and outlet, alongside pathological and morphological data, was collected from 402 Romano-British females between 13 and 45 years at death. The metric data was compared with both modern and pre-caesarean section medical policies to determine when a successful vaginal birth would be 'high risk'. Within the sample, 24 individuals were considered to have at least one contracted measurement based on pre-caesarean section measurements while 88 were considered contracted based on modern medical policies. Overall, this can provide a better understanding of the birthing process among archaeological populations alongside childbirth hazards.

At "The Land of Three Lakes": A bioarchaeological perspective on non-adult mortality and health patterns from Roman Aventicum, Switzerland (1st-3rd c. AD)

Chryssi Bourbou (University of Fribourg, Hellenic Ministry of Culture) and **Véronique Dasen** (University of Fribourg)

Research on Roman childhood has been primarily based on the extensive investigation of documentary evidence and archaeological material, while relatively few non-adult skeletal assemblages have been analyzed. The current study aims to contribute to our understanding of Roman childhood in Switzerland by presenting the detailed analysis of 93 non-adult individuals from four cemeteries ("En Chaplix", "Les Tourbières" "Sur Fourches" and "À la Montagne") at Aventicum/Avenches, the civitas capital of the territory of the Helvetii during the Roman period (1st-3rd c. AD). It is argued that the observed perinatal mortality and disease patterns are possibly affected by environmental constraints (high risk of infectious diseases such as malaria, and periods of resources scarcity), as well as cultural practices (feeding strategies). Viewed under a bioarchaeological perspective the obtained data offers new insights on maternal and infant stress experience and adding considerably to the discussion on living conditions in the urban centers at the periphery of the Roman Empire.

Beloved successors, young fiancées? Children graves of the 6th-8th century cemeteries of Kölked (South-West Hungary)

Zsófia Rác & Tamás Szeniczey (Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest)

In this paper, we would like to present the results of a project that aims to examine child burials of the Avar period Carpathian Basin both from an archaeological and from an anthropological point of view. In this presentation, we are dealing primarily with the cemeteries of Kölked from South-West Hungary. These two well-preserved sites of ca. 690 and 660 richly furnished graves, respectively, serve as good starting points to our examinations. Considering the archaeological finds, the Kölked cemeteries (object types, attire, and elements of the burial rituals) show strong influences of both Germanic and Late Antique territories. Furthermore, the anthropological analyses of the skeletal remains also indicate heterogeneity of the population. Assessing health status of children was done by employing indicators as cribra orbitalia, porotic hyperostosis, periostitis, endocranial lesions and enamel hypoplasia. On the cemeteries of Kölked, the examination of childhood mortality and health status was carried out in the light of

archaeological context: including population patterns, regional differences within the Avar Khaganate, funerary rituals and grave-goods influenced by age, social- and health status. Our main issues are: Are there differences and if so, of what kind, in the burial rituals of children and adults? Are there any correlations regarding age groups and burial rituals? Do grave goods attributed to adult graves appear in children graves too (for example weapons in small children's graves)? Are there any other special grave goods in children graves? Is there a correlation between anthropologically traceable diseases and funerary practices? What could be the reason of richly furnished child/young girl's graves, which are characteristic especially in the age group of 8-14 years?

Troubled Times: an investigation of Medieval hospitals in England as places of refuge for pregnant women and children

Esme Hookway (Staffordshire University)

During the Medieval period (AD.1050-1600) pregnancy and childbirth were dangerous events. Mothers faced the risks of malnutrition during pregnancy and infection during birth. Unmarried pregnant women were particularly vulnerable, as it was not uncommon for them to be socially stigmatised and become destitute. Following successful births, babies would need to be fed, sheltered, and cared for. Poor married women may not have had the means to provide sustenance which could result in child abandonment. Medieval hospitals in England were the only public source of potential refuge for pregnant women and abandoned or orphaned children. Some hospitals refused entry to pregnant women because of the costs involved, however at other hospitals, patrons founded wards specifically for the care of pregnant women and children. Care may have continued until the child was seven years of age, dramatically improving their prospects in life. This presentation aims to highlight the role of hospitals during the medieval period as places of public charity. Archaeological and historical evidence will be used to investigate the lives and deaths of mothers and children aided by hospitals. It is hoped that this study will demonstrate the significance of hospitals as social institutions for the poor during the medieval period.

Change in time and space: Remembering newborns and infants in Post-Medieval Finland

Sanna Lipkin, Saara Tuovinen & Erika Ruhl (University of Oulu, Finland)

There exist both chronological and regional differences in how newborns and infants in 15th to 19th century Finland (circa 150 individuals) were prepared for death. Customs of burying newborns and infants vary across time and space some were buried in the family owned chamber tombs, some individually in the coffins, some in the same coffin with another individual (mostly adults) either in the crook of the arm or possibly hidden on or near the feet. Our assumption is that high infant mortality affected on how families dealt with the dead, but we also argue that religious (Catholic, Lutheran, Orthodox, Folk religion) and cultural conceptions regarding death are visible in burial practices across Finland. Our material is varied, and includes individuals buried both in church yards and below church floors, allowing us to see consistencies across and variation between social ranks. Many of the individuals buried inside the churches have mummified, and the associated coffins and clothes are excellently preserved. These mummified individuals allow us to consider gender, something that is not usually possible when studying archaeological infant human remains. We aim to synthesize different views related to dead newborns and infants and their status across communities and through time.

SATURDAY, 22. SEPTEMBER 2018

Benjamin Keach: The Recognition of Developmental Stages in the Religious and Cultural Instruction of Children in the Early Modern World

Matthew Stanton (Queens University Belfast)

Benjamin Keach (1640-1704) was a dissenting minister and an instructor of children for over forty years. He first wrote a children's primer in the 1660s entitled *Instructions for Children; The Child and Youth's Delight* (n.d.). This work exemplified the development of the ABC genre. Like many books of basic religious instruction for children, Keach incorporated general instruction in the areas of basic arithmetic, time telling, currency converting, punctuation, a brief dictionary, and even how to draw up a receipt or bond.

Epistemologically significant to his primer, Keach used different methods to convey similar information based on specific age groups. In his *Instructions for Children* for example, Keach provided three age-graded catechisms presented as dialogues between a father and his 3-year-old, his 10-year-old, and his more 'mature' son. This recognition of the development stages in children was typical of Keach's writing. Through an analysis of a reprint of this primer (ed. New York, 1695), this paper will argue that whilst this work exemplified the development of the ABC genre, it was Keach's methodology in the recognition of the developmental stages of children which furthered the religious and cultural instruction of children in the 17th century.

We don't need no education: the value of education in 19th century Stoke-on-Trent, UK

Kirsty Squires (Staffordshire University)

In the mid-17th century A.D., the pottery industry in Stoke-on-Trent (UK) became more commercialized and started to grow exponentially as ceramics were increasingly seen as luxury goods. Akin to many industrial centres in 19th century Britain, children played an important role in the workforce and started employment from an early age. By 1861, 19% of Potteries workers were under 15 years old. Consequently, few children attended full time education. In 1841, the Child Employment Commissioner noted that 75% of the population in Stoke-on-Trent could not read or write. This paper aims to shed new light on the value and extent of education available to children in 19th century Stoke-on-Trent. Census data, testimonies, and written reports will be used to identify any demographic and geographical trends within Stoke-on-Trent as a means of understanding who was attending full- and part-time schooling. The attitudes of both children and adults towards education will also be explored alongside the presence of any links between the pottery industry and educational establishments in this area. It is hoped that this research will paint a clearer picture of the educational system within Stoke-on-Trent and the value it held to children during this period.

How to Die "A Good Death": Teaching Young Children about Mortality in 19th Century America

Jane Eva Baxter (DePaul University, Chicago)

Infant and child mortality is at an all-time low, but just 150 years ago an infant had a 1 in 4 chance of dying in the first year of life in the United States with older children having slightly better odds of survival. Many historians have questioned parental emotional investment in historic periods characterized by high mortality, but few scholars have considered how children themselves understood mortality and the possibility of their own untimely death. This paper looks at a variety of sources: contemporary ethnography of terminally ill children, parenting literature from the 19th century, children's books that told stories of fictional children who had died, "a good death," studies of death in children's doll play, art and imagery of children in experiencing death through memento mori photography and visits to cemeteries, and archaeological findings of children's recreation in cemetery spaces. These sources are brought together to explore how children were socialized around death by the adults around them, and suggests how children may have understood death and dying in fundamentally different ways than children in the modern world.

Pets, prisoners, and property: Enslaved childhood in slaveholding households

R. J. Knight (University of Sheffield)

White women of the slaveholding class in the American south were recipients of enslaved children as gifts, 'caregivers' to orphaned children, and selected and procured children for household servitude. These children, 'raised' in the 'Big House', had a wide variety of experiences: in adulthood, describing their infancy and adolescence as 'pets', 'prisoners', and 'property'. Yet, others recalled affectionate relationships with their enslavers, who could take the form of mother-figures and playmates.

In this paper, I examine the nature and significance of enslaved children's lives in slaveholding households, which have been often overlooked in studies of enslaved childhood and of the slaveholding household. I explore the roles of white women in particular in the socialization or assimilation of enslaved children, and the forms of emotional and physical violence they directed towards children. Their relationships with enslaved children illuminate the diversity of mechanisms of control slaveholders' utilized, and thus the importance of child-centered analyses of slaveholder-slave relationships. Equally, whether formerly enslaved men and women remembered

their household childhoods affectionately, or chronicled the abuse that they and others suffered, their testimony provides unique insights into children's identity formation and their construction of family and community. I end by offering some reflections on writing the history of enslaved children, women, and slavery itself.

To Let Live or Let Die: Poorhouse Responses to the Socially Transformative Powers of Children

Jennifer L. Muller (Ithaca College, New York)

In 2012, the skeletal remains of 376 individuals were disinterred from the Erie County Poorhouse cemetery, Buffalo, New York. Fifty-eight of these were infants, with the majority aged as perinatal. This paper explores the social meaning of these infants in relation to the transformative ideologies associated with 19th century New York State's early social welfare system. Contextualization of the remains is accomplished through the integration of skeletal, archival, and archaeological analysis, including mortuary treatments. A bioarchaeology of personhood framework is employed as it permits the inclusion of individuals from conception to post-death commemoration and memorialization. The socialization of personhood is discussed in association with the simultaneous and conflicting operationalization of biopolitics and necropolitics. New York State governance and philanthropic "child-savers" viewed children as potential saviors of or dangers to the nation-state. This was dependent on perceived mental and/or physical health status. Analysis reveals that infants in the poorhouse cemetery are likely to include those who succumbed to birthing complications, malnutrition, infectious diseases, and other complications associated with being small-for-gestational-age. However, some of these infants are likely to represent those left to die due to their perceived "defects."

Bringing Up Baby (Under the Colonial Gaze): Children and Childrearing through Colonial Photographs of Traditional Babywearing in the Cordillera, Northern Philippines

Paula Luz M. Pamintuan-Riva (University of the Philippines, Baguio)

Babywearing, or the practice of keeping children close through the use of slings or other baby carriers, has existed for centuries, yet it is still often regarded as something "new" and "trendy" in today's parenting world. This article explores the representation of children, childhood and childrearing in traditional Cordillera societies in Northern Philippines through photographs and written accounts by Western scholars, researchers and administrators from the 1900s onwards. Through a post-colonial reading of these texts, this article aims to present how babywearing becomes a physical and visual manifestation not only of childrearing values in traditional Cordillera society but also the value ascribed to children. The article discusses how these notions then fared under the colonial gaze. In the end, the paper comes to a recognition of the practice's (and therefore, the people's) persistence and resilience in the face of colonial cultural domination, and sees in babywearing a form of subtle, perhaps even subconscious, form of subaltern resistance.

POSTERS

A. Poster: Extracting obstetric histories from pelvic features

Doris Pany-Kucera, Ute Michaela Spannagl-Steiner & Katharina Rebay-Salisbury (Vienna)

In the context of the project 'The value of mothers to society' (ERC-St. 676828), we are investigating motherhood in prehistory (Late Neolithic to Late Iron Age, c. 3000–15 BC) through a combined archaeological and anthropological approach. To shed light on prehistoric women's obstetric histories, we assess physical alterations at pelvic bones. In addition, male skeletons are analysed for comparison.

In this study, we focus on seven selected structural alterations at pelvic bones. The systematic assessment includes 1. the preauricular sulcus, 2. exostoses at the facies auricularis of the iliac bone and 3. at the sacrum, including an auriculate extension at the latter, 4. the extended pubic tubercle at the pubic bone, 5. pitting at the dorsal pubic surface, 6. lesions and exostoses at the ventral pubic surface and 7. the margo auricularis groove at the sacrum. These alterations may be associated with the prolonged stress during pregnancy and/or the spontaneous strain of childbirth. Different expressions of the features are systematically recorded, and any pathologies possibly influencing the features are noted.

Based on 250 adult male and female individuals from several Bronze Age sites in Austria, it became evident that the combination of all features only occurred in females. However, due to the partially fragmentary state of preservation of the pelvic bones, in many cases not all features were present for evaluation. Therefore, we attempt to create a formula to standardise the variables and weigh the features in order to assign each individual a 'parity value' that can subsequently be compared with the archaeological record.

B. Poster: Sexual dimorphism of the human sacrum revisited

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The human pelvis shows marked sexual dimorphism owing to its central role during birth. The female sacrum is described as broader, shorter, and straighter than that of males, with a relatively smaller more dorsally positioned superior articular surface, resulting in a wider pelvic inlet better suited for birth. Sexual classification accuracy based on a traditional assessment of the sacrum is population dependent, ranging between 60% and 90%. We explored sacrum morphology with geometric morphometrics based on a dense 3D-configuration of landmarks and semilandmarks and compared this with qualitative features and indices. Our worldwide sample included 80 individuals of known sex from Central Europe, South-East Asia, South America and Africa, including small-bodied populations.

Surprisingly, none of our analyses detected a clear sexual dimorphism. Classification accuracies ranged between 60% and 70%. The geometric morphometric analysis showed no sexual dimorphism in sacral curvature, height-to-width proportions and relative alae width. The best discriminant characteristic was the coronal curvature of the upper sacrum. Although the sacrum is part of the birth canal, sexual dimorphism on a worldwide perspective seems to be lower than previously thought. Sacrum shape, therefore, might be under lower selective pressure than pelvis shape, perhaps due to sacro-iliac joint mobility during birth.

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C. Poster: Coffin birth or post-mortem foetal extrusion: an on-going archaeological debate

Veronica Tamorri (London) & Elisa Perego (Vienna & London)

Coffin birth, or post-mortem foetal extrusion, is the expulsion of a nonviable foetus of a deceased pregnant woman, due to the increasing pressure of intra-abdominal gases during decomposition. This phenomenon is rarely identified both archaeologically and forensically; thus research on the topic is comparatively limited. In view of this, the aim of this presentation is twofold. First, by presenting potential cases of post-mortem foetal extrusion from different pre/protohistoric contexts and reconstructing the spatial relation between woman and foetus in the pit, this presentation will add to the few general interpretative guidelines built to date based on the occasional ascertained finds of coffin birth. We suggest that the use of analytical tools such as archeoanthatology, burial taphonomy and bioarchaeology can shed further light on whether the foetus was expelled during its mother's decomposition process or if the foetus/perinatal was purposely interred with its mother. Second, we discuss the cultural/ritual reasons why a woman and a foetus/perinatal may be intentionally interred together or separate. This will allow to foster discussion on foetal personhood and the status of women who died during pregnancy/childbirth vs. those who died after becoming mothers in the deep past.

D. Poster: Perinatal Pathology: Considering the implications and limitations for the identification and interpretation of pathological lesions

Claire Hodson (Durham University)

Investigation into intrauterine health has vastly increased in recent decades, yet still little research exists regarding the identification and interpretation of pathological lesions in fetal, perinatal and infant remains. This paper presents analysis from 423 fetal, perinatal and infant individuals, exploring the ability to both identify and interpret pathological lesions. Currently, major challenges in the identification of pathological changes limit bioarchaeological interpretations of early life health and stress. Addressing the continuing debate surrounding

differentiation between normal and pathological new bone formation, this study extensively details location, type and severity of pathological changes by gestational age. New bone formation was most commonly identified and is often suggestive of systemic, infectious and/or metabolic disturbances. Changes to the frontal bone and tibia were the most prevalent, though lamellar and woven bone respectively were found to be the most common type of NBF identified within these elements. Pathological changes were identified both pre- and postnatally, indicative of pervasive poor maternal health and a detrimental intra- and extrauterine environment. This study provides a systematic way of recording pathological lesions in non-adults, generating an important narrative regarding the nexus between mother and child, and the impact and experience of health stress in the past.

E. Poster: A burial of a pregnant woman from the Early Middle Ages in Lower Austria

Pamela Klena-Pail (Vienna, St. Pölten), **Doris Schamall & Christian Reiter** (Vienna)

Pregnancy and death in childbirth are widely discussed as the main reasons for high mortality rates in females for all past populations. Nevertheless, only a few burials of pregnant women from archaeological sites in Europe and Austria have been described so far.

Recently, an excavation has been carried out at the cemetery of Oberhausen, Lower Austria, dating to the Early Middle Ages. Out of hitherto 71 unearthened individuals, one burial revealed the skeletal remains of a young adult woman and her unborn child. Nearly all of the female's bones as well as several of the fetal remnants were present, all in a very good preservation status.

The female was lying in supine, west-east orientated position. Her fetus' occiput was located in the right iliac fossa; however, one petrous bone was found underneath the right maternal humerus and several other fetal bones were found outside the original contour of the mother's abdomen. According to the measurements of the long bones, the child was a full-term perinate of 36–40 weeks gestational age.

Some of the elements of the adult's thorax and pelvic area were disturbed, too. Additionally, stress markers and pathological conditions were examined corresponding to established standards.

F. Poster: Planning Ahead – artificial cranial deformation: an exceptional form of child care

Karin Wiltschke-Schrotta & Doris Pany-Kucera (Natural History Museum, Vienna)

The treatment and care of children is intense, and with an intention for future visible artificial cranial deformation even more so.

In Austria, around 30 findings of skeletons with intentionally deformed skulls have been published. Besides a proper anthropological presentation, thoughts about the treatment and care of the children are important. Artificially deformed skulls were probably a sign of beauty, fashion, and potentially of status during the 5th century AD. This type of body deformation may have been introduced to Central Europe by the Huns or Goths invading from the East.

In this paper, the archaeological finds from Schwarzenbach (Lower Austria) and Leobendorf are presented. Both children died during childhood and show distinct traces of artificial cranial deformation. In the two presented cases, the technique of skull deformation with a circular bandage was applied. The child had to be treated with tough wraps beginning from birth, which means an extra intensive care for the mother, nurse or another guardian. The child from Schwarzenbach further shows various pathological alterations distinguishable as multiple periosteal reactions on the long bones. These systemic signs of sickness may indicate that this infant had been sick for some time before it died. The cause of death is not distinguishable, but was definitely not because of the deformed head.

G. Poster: Isotopes and early reproductive life: a pilot study using modern Sudanese teeth

Corinne Feuillatre, Julia Beaumont, Henry Jackson (University of Bradford), **Fadil Elamin** (University of Khartoum)

Reproduction patterns inform demographic, health, cultural and nutritional studies. Unfortunately there are currently no satisfactory indicators to detect puberty or parity in skeletal remains.

Nitrogen and carbon isotope ratios in human tissues are routinely used to inform on the diet and environment of individuals. Isotope ratios are also affected by metabolically unbalanced states engendered by rapid growth, gestation, disease or nutritional stress.

This study aims to assess the potential of incremental dentine collagen isotope ratio analysis for the reconstruction of reproductive life during adolescence and early adulthood.

Incremental dentine nitrogen and carbon isotope ratios from the wisdom teeth of 10 individuals, with lifestyles analogous to past populations and known gestations during wisdom teeth development, are analysed.

The results suggest a possible puberty isotopic signal, with the potential to define the start of fecundity – usually associated with the transition to adulthood-, differentiate sexes and study growth and development. Isotopic signatures characteristic of gestation are also observed highlighting age-at-first gestation and inter-birth interval. Post-partum isotope signals informing on infant feeding practices and maternal nutritional status are also seen.

Thus, this study demonstrates the potential of incremental dentine isotope analysis for the reconstruction of early adulthood reproductive history in skeletal remains.

H. Poster: Weaning Age at 10th and 11th Century Graveyard of Oberleiserberg, Austria

Nina Brundke (University of Vienna)

The burial ground of Oberleiserberg is situated in Lower Austria. 79 well preserved burials were unearthed and dated by the grave goods to the late 10th and 11th century. The interdisciplinary analysis of the graveyard is part of the FWF funded project „Frontier, Contact Zone or No Man’s Land“ (I 1911 G21) led S. Eichert and J. Macháček. The burial ground of Oberleiserberg is the first Arpadian age necropolis (except for the solitary grave of Gnadendorf) to be analyzed archaeologically as well as anthropologically. In addition Carbon and Nitrogen isotopic analyzes were carried out for every individual buried in the graveyard. 69% of the buried individuals are children, almost half of them died under the age of 2 years. Isotopic data made it possible to estimate a weaning age for the population, corresponding with the high infant death. Weaning started around the first birthday and was completed at the age of app. 2 years. This time of life is dangerous for children in pre-industrialized societies – the passive immunization by breast milk stops and the child is introduced to new pathogens. Compared to other populations weaning at Oberleiserberg started early as a result of unknown cultural factors.

I. Poster: Breastfeeding and weaning in 16th–19th century Finland

Tiina Väre & Sanna Lipkin (University of Oulu, Finland)

Both historical sources and human remains are examined to trace breastfeeding and weaning patterns within a wide geographical area in Finland. During the 18th century, it was understood that high infant mortality was related to breastfeeding, and it was tried, mostly in vain, to educate women on the importance of breastfeeding. Weaning young infants had become popular, especially in towns and in North Ostrobothnia. Mothers in the countryside breastfed their children, but during harvest time they were obliged to leave their babies alone at home with a cow’s horn filled with animal milk. This unhygienic custom leads to the death of many infants. Our project studies breastfeeding and weaning patterns throughout the 16th to 19th centuries among three geographically varied populations: Oulu (late 17th– mid 18th century) and Ii (16th–early 18th century) in North Ostrobothnia, and Rauma (late 18th–early 19th century) in South-West Finland. We hypothesize that in North Ostrobothnia (Oulu, Ii) breastfeeding was not as prevalent during the 18th century as it was during the preceding period, and breastfeeding was more prevalent in South-West Finland (Rauma). The typical isotopic signals of $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ and $\delta^{15}\text{N}$ indicating breastfeeding and subsequent weaning processes are detectable in the longitudinal analyses of dentin.

J. Poster: The children from Valdavara Cave: Diet and culture through dental microwear pattern

Raquel Hernando, Marina Lozano, Susana Alonso & Manuel Vaquero (Tarragona, Spain)

Recently, research on deciduous teeth has become a trending topic, providing information about cultural and biological practices concerning this poor known collective of past populations. The study of children’s diet has mainly focused on isotope studies (Henderson et al., 2014; Pearson et al., 2010; Ventresca Miller et al., 2016), while dental microwear analysis has the potential to provide us not only dietary information, but also cultural issues related to weaning and feeding practices (Scott & Halcrow, 2017). This approach led us to study the pattern of dental microwear of the two children from the Middle Bronze Age secondary burial of Cova de Valdavara (Lugo, NW Iberia), (Vaquero et al., 2009). We analyzed the buccal and occlusal molar surfaces through ESEM. The most remarkable feature is the high number of striations, which is related to the abrasiveness of food. Compared with

other children populations, these 3-4-year-old children were in the life period of weaning and introduction of harder foods, sometimes in the way of complementary foods, such as porridges or semi-liquid food. We propose the abrasiveness of their diet as a result of food preparation techniques.

K. Poster: A preliminary analysis of the paleopathology and dental microwear in deceased children from an Early Bronze Age community in Lower Austria

Marlon Bas (Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna)

Over a period of 300 years, an Early Bronze Age community settled in the Danube valley, referred to today as Franzhausen I, buried around 120 individuals between 1 and 12 years of age. To gather information about living conditions during childhood in this community we combined a variety of bioarcheological methods. Standard paleopathological methodologies were employed to detect trauma and diseases linked to infection, stress and nutrition. Occlusal dental microwear texture analysis (DMTA), demonstrated to be a useful dietary proxy for registering inter-individual differences in the average physical properties of foods consumed over the last days or weeks, was carried out on 10 individuals. Microwear comparisons were made between individuals with their associated paleopathological markers and gender. The group's microwear data was further compared with 8 children from Jau-Dignac et Loirac, an Early Medieval community from southwest France. These preliminary results suggest certain commonly detectable pathologies were uncommon in Franzhausen I children, and diet later in childhood (8 to 10 yrs old) may vary between genders. Average microwear is not very different between Franzhausen I and Jau-Dignac, suggesting a physically similar general dietary composition, however Jau-Dignac individuals show less variability, this could be explained by their isolation in a marshland and their social structure as they belonged to a "familia" and most likely ate all together. In light of these results, sample sizes will be increased and additional samples will be studied with improved methodologies.

L. Poster: A possible rare disorder case from Etruscan child tooth

Janani Sulakkana Gunasekara (University of Ferrara, Italy)

The Etruscan civilization was wealthy and spread over the central part of the Italy, centering on Tuscany, Western Umbria and Northern Lazio from 800 until 260 BC. Spina was a flourishing port city during the Etruscan period which is located on the Adriatic Sea of the ancient mouth of the river Po. The study focuses on the dental evidence which was found at the Spina site called 'valle trebbia'. The individual has been identified as a child of 7 +/- 2 years old and the sex has not been determined. Two teeth and the mandible have been preserved. Here, we mainly focus on the I2 from the left maxilla which reveals unusual characteristics. The unusual characteristics consist of perfect circles which lead to different kinds of possible assumptions including the results of a cultural practice, a postmortem modification, a result of dietary behavior due to acid - etching causing the dental tubules to enlarge, some pathological characteristic or probably bubbles due to a mistake during the preparation of the tooth cast. Texture and feature analysis mainly lead to the pathological perspective which can suggest a condition called 'Amelogenesis imperfecta'. Amelogenesis imperfecta (AI) refers to a group of rare, inherited disorders characterized by abnormal enamel formation. This rare case reveals child health in past societies which provides some insight into childhood.

Keywords: Etruscan, dental texture and feature analysis, pathology, Amelogenesis imperfecta

M. Poster: Graves within a circular ditch: a grave architecture predominantly used for child burials in Inzersdorf ob der Traisen?

Michaela Fritzl (Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna)

Graves within circular, oval or rectangular ditches can be observed throughout Urnfield Culture cemeteries all over Europe. These structures vary in their particular specifics and show regional differences. Generally, such ditches are interpreted as last remains of burial mounds, enclosures for representative graves and structures used before, during or after burial rites, regarding their respective details.

A cluster of such structures was identified in the north west of the Urnfield Culture cemetery of Inzersdorf ob der Traisen in Lower Austria, which was excavated in the 1980s and comprised of 273 graves. Eleven circular,

one rectangular (situated farther south than the rest) and one partially preserved (located farther to the east) ditch were documented. These ditches measure five to thirteen meters in diameter, are rather shallow and narrow and enclose zero, one or two graves, which are not particularly outstanding regarding architecture and grave goods. The anthropological assessment on the other hand showed that seven out of ten encircled graves contained juvenile individuals. On a larger scale, it can be observed that the whole area is mostly comprised of child burials (approximately 87% excluding graves with no determinable human remains).

I dedicate my poster to questions on which purpose these particular structures served, how the enclosed and nearby burials could be interpreted and what they might imply about children within the Urnfield Culture burial community of Inzersdorf ob der Traisen.

N. Poster: The child I was: archaeological evidence for the life courses of Romano-British infants and children in urban cemeteries AD 1-400

Summer Courts (formerly St. Peter's College, University of Oxford)

Infant funerary rites in Roman Britain have been studied intensively in recent years. Yet where studies concerned with infant life-course and socio-cultural experience are made, they are frequently limited to single site analysis. This paper redresses the balance by examining the evidence for individuals from birth until six years of age in Southern Britain between AD 1-400. Focussing on selected extramural cemeteries at London, Dorchester and Gloucester, it argues that the funerary evidence from these sites reveals a series of distinct life stages. Whilst perinates are often excluded from the main urban cemeteries and buried elsewhere, infants become progressively better represented with increasing age. Moreover, grave goods indicate a distinct, and apparently universal, life-stage occurring between the first and second year of life. This particular life-stage was probably determined by developmental events such as increased mobility and language use. It is also possible to outline microregional trends, which appear to have been dependent on local pre-Roman practices specific to individual sites.

By expanding our knowledge of Romano-British infant life-course this study provides much-needed nuance to our narratives of the transitions between different stages of childhood for those living in Britain in the first half of the first millennium AD.

MOODBOARDS

Moodboards: Children's Clothing in Iron Age and Roman Austria

Karina Grömer (Natural History Museum, Vienna)

Moodboards are a type of a visual language, consisting of a collage of images, text (integrated keywords and phrases), and samples of objects that inspire a design. That design communicates corporate identity and can take the form of a clothing collection, interior finishing, a website and product packaging. Primarily used in advertising, branding and fashion concepts, moodboards intend to give an impression of the atmosphere, tonality and aesthetics of the concept.

Moodboards may be physical or digital, and can be effective presentation tools. They are used by creative artists such as fashion, graphics and interior designers and by people working in advertising, marketing and web design, for example, to visualize concepts for imagery in brochures, concepts for corporate design or fashion trends.

As moodboards serve to set the visual framework for a specific topic and invite an open dialogue, they are also useful to disseminate scientific research. They are tools to get people involved, to affect their feelings and to focus their interest on a specific scientific topic. Moodboards can be used as a presentation medium, transforming key facts into pictures that can be understood on an emotional level. For this reason, moodboards are particularly useful for presentations to the wider public, during events such as the Long Museums Night and Researchers Night, or as posters, folders and teasers on homepages or blogs.