



Book of abstracts

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**XXX-1. Interdisciplinary Methods
of Research for Bronze and Iron
Ages Funerary Monuments (3rd-1
Millennia BC).**

Israeli Monumental Dolmen – Rock art of an enigmatic culture

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Excavation of the Shamir Dolmen Field (comprising over 400 dolmens), on the northern Israeli basaltic terrains, was carried out following the discovery of enigmatic rock art engravings on the ceiling of one of the largest dolmens ever recorded in the Levant. Excavation of this dolmen, covered by a basalt capstone weighing some 50 tons, revealed a secondary multi-burial (of both adults and children) rarely described in a dolmen context in Israel. Engraved into the rock ceiling above the multi-burial is a panel of 14 forms composed of a vertical line and downturned arc motif. Building of the Shamir dolmens required a tremendous amount of labour, architectural mastery, and complex socio-economic organization well beyond the capacity of small, rural nomadic groups of the era. The monumental megalithic burial of the Shamir dolmens indicates a hierarchical, complex, non-urban governmental system. The newly discovered rock art and the burial uncovered beneath it, reveals new insights in to the dolmen culture research in Israel and the Levant. The dolmens of Shamir, increase our understanding of one of the most mysterious and underestimated cultures of the biblical landscapes.

Keywords: Dolmen, Levant, Israel, Rock art, megalithic

*Speaker

Time and space : comment traiter simultanément des structures chronologiques et spatiales. Applications à la croissance des nécropoles et des cités urbaines

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Dans les cités urbaines et dans les nécropoles, le temps et l'espace sont corrélés : le développement dans le temps s'effectue dans les espaces laissés libres au sol, et en conséquence le plus souvent (mais pas seulement) dans les périphéries. Retour sur un algorithme conçu à la fin des années 1970, et qui n'a rencontré aucun succès d'application en archéologie. Difficultés d'application ou rareté des données ?

Keywords: seriation, nécropole, espace et temps

*Speaker

Death and burial in the Swat Valley (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province, Pakistan): Reconstructing mortuary practices and treatment of dead from ephemeral evidence

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The protohistory of the Swat Valley and surrounding areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province of Pakistan was recognized as an important theme of the archaeological research in Indo-Pakistani Subcontinent since the early 1960s. Through comparisons with other protohistoric complexes of Central Asia and Iran, the graves were attributed to the late Bronze Age and the end of the Iron Age. They were assigned to a three phase sequence dated, between the late 2nd and the 1st millennium BC. Single, double and collective graves were identified with primary and secondary interments, and the co-occurrence of cremation and inhumation rituals. Bodies were placed flexed on one side and were often accompanied by disarticulated skeletal remains grouped in one or more clusters of bones in the same grave. In these graveyards there was a general shift in time in mortuary practices accompanied by changes in grave goods, while continuity is confirmed by the uninterrupted use of the same places. Although many data are available about death and burial, several questions are still debated, along with a proper chronology and its relationship to broader regional issues of ethnic and cultural changes occurred in the northwestern margins of the South Asia. Two protohistoric graveyards were recently excavated in the middle Swat Valley. The archaeological evidence collected at Gogdara IV and Udegram confirm some old practices, but reveal, alongside undisturbed primary interments, the existence of exhumation and manipulation, disarticulation and spatial arrangement of selected body parts in graves that hints at new, complicated sets of symbolic actions, possibly mirroring important changes in identities and social functions giving a multifaceted picture of protohistoric mortuary practices. These findings made it possible in fact to recognise multiple episode of graves closure and re-opening with the removal and/or addition of body parts and pottery vessels, as stages in a longer funerary cycle, and have provided a much better understanding of grave structure and treatment of the dead. Beside, they unveil the use of perishable items as grave-goods and containers for disarticulated skeletal remains. Lastly, a detailed series of AMS radiocarbon dates was obtained allowing for the first time to date accurately the graves to two main phases between 1400 and 800 cal BC. The paper presents a fresh insight into the complexity of the Swat Valley mortuary practices disclosing the prolonged interaction between the living and the dead during the protohistory.

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Keywords: graves, mortuary practices, Bronze Age, Iron Age, northern Pakistan

The possibilities of proteomics in archaeology: A case study from ancient Mongolia

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Developments in proteomic analyses of dental calculus and bone collagen (ZooMS) have created new ways to explore prehistoric economies and dietary intake. These methods are especially useful in regions with a paucity of material culture and sparse zooarchaeological evidence, adding lines of direct and indirect evidence of subsistence strategies. From dental calculus, extracted peptides are sent through a tandem mass spectrometer (MS/MS) and can tell us what types of plant and animal tissues were consumed, as well as the species of each. Bone collagen is also species specific, and with ZooMS, we can determine the species of small, non-diagnostic bone fragments. This paper will detail the possibilities of proteomic methods in archaeology, as well outline a recent example from Bronze Age Mongolia. In our case study, we present how proteomic analyses have revealed the introduction of dairying into a region that suffers from a dearth of occupation sites and non-ritually associated faunal remains. Until now, pastoral economies were assumed across the early Eurasian steppe, however, unequivocal evidence the antiquity of this lifeway in Mongolia was lacking. The ephemerality of domestic mobile pastoralist sites, combined with severe wind deflation across the steppe, has left little household material culture behind. However, many ritual burials sites have been easily located and thoroughly excavated, and under these monumental stone structures human skeletal remains were preserved. Within the dental calculus of these individuals we discovered numerous peptides from dietary proteins derived from a range of species, demonstrating a strong reliance on dairy in Bronze Age Mongolian pastoral economies. Importantly, our results were combined with established archaeological evidence in order to properly contextualize the data and make inferences about human behavior in the ancient northern steppe.

Keywords: Mongolia, Proteomics, Dairy, Central Asia, Steppe, Bronze Age

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Funerary goods assemblage in the late Prehistoric - Protohistoric state formative society. Case study of the grave contents of the Predynastic and Early Dynastic Egyptian funerary goods and its mortuary ideological interpretation.

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Ancient Egyptian Predynastic and Early Periods are archaeologically corresponding to chalcolithic to bronze age. This time period is characterised as the state formative period towards the Early State. In this process, mortuary activity took great part of the social stratification. Although the complexation of social structure has been traced by various previous researches by applying the quantitative analytical method to the artefacts excavated between late 19th and beginning of 20th centuries, ideological and religious interpretation of goods are still inadequate. Moreover, fragmental description of excavation reports in this early years make difficult understand the original excavation context. Interpretation of the nature of assemblage (e.g. primary offering or secondary offering) has also been prevented. This paper aims to qualitatively consider the mortuary ideological meaning of goods in the late Predynastic Egyptian funerary context through the combination of archival and material studies. The site to be discussed is the cemeteries at Naqada in Upper Egypt excavated by W.M. Flinders Petrie in 1894-5. The advantage of these cemeteries for the analysis is adequate amount of unpublished archival documents in addition to the excavation report. Focus of discussion is the ideological development and transformation of goods assemblage in burial. Therefore, first step of analysis is to evaluate and understand the goods in original context. For this step, archival field records will be examined. In next step, ideological aspects of artefacts will be examined through the evaluated original context. In this step, placement of goods in burial and its correlation with individual goods type will be observed. As a result, the difference of ritualistic purpose par goods type bears will be expected. The results will diachronically be ordered for outlining the development and transformation of mortuary ideology in late Prehistoric and Protohistoric Egypt.

Keywords: Late Prehistoric, Protohistoric Egypt, Funerary goods, Archival documents, Qualitative analysis

*Speaker

At the crossroad of cultures - an early Hellenistic chamber tomb with paintings on the Western Black Sea

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One of the most spectacular monumental funerary assemblages currently under research on the northern peripheries of the Macedonian Kingdoms is *Documaci* Mound. Built around the end of the 4th c. BC on the outskirts of Kallatis (a Greek city established on the Western Black Sea), the monument consists of a 50 m diameter tumulus, surrounded by a stone retaining wall, rising to 8 m in height, which was topped by a statue visible against the horizon of the Greek city at the edges of the antique cemetery. An 8 m long *dromos* was leading to a chamber tomb bearing still the traces of the oldest surviving polychrome wall painting in modern Romania. A complex and unusual array of constructions identified in the embankment suggests the implementation of a coordinated construction program structured around the monumental statue – resembling the contemporaneous architectural and political strategies of early Hellenistic royals known from Amphipolis, Chaeronea and Belevi. The monument represents an occasion to discuss the various cultural influences coming from the Thracian, Scythian, Greek and Macedonian environment at a time of increased elite expressivity. The complexity of the structure called for an equally multifaceted interdisciplinary investigation combining excavation with architectural studies, IR imagery, pigments and plaster analyses, 3D scanning, photogrammetry and geophysics, the results of which will be presented here.

Keywords: black sea, funerary monument

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Geophysical and remote sensing prospection of monumental funerary mounds – a methodological challenge

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One of the most numerous archaeological monuments to be found in the Balkan Peninsula, as well as on the northern and western Black Sea shores, is the tumulus. Built in different sizes and techniques, beginning with the early Bronze Age until early Medieval Period, the funerary mounds are often complex structures used along many generations – sometimes not even related in time or space. Despite their abundance and significance, the level of their investigation remains uneven, mainly because, in general, tumuli research represents an expensive and complex archaeological endeavor. The present study will focus on approaching with geophysical methods the largest of the mounds, with diameters of 50 m or more and heights exceeding 5 m, often concealing underground built structures like chamber tombs – a characteristic funerary structure of the Hellenistic period in the post-Alexander the Great kingdoms, including in the Greek colonies established on the West Pontic coast, in Northern Thrace. Due to the monuments large sizes, the applied investigation methods have to penetrate at considerable depths with enough resolution, while still being able to identify the targets amidst complicated constructed embankments. Amongst others, there will be shown results of 3D electrical resistivity tomography and low altitude IR imagery.

Keywords: funerary archaeology, prospection, remote sensing

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Geophysical exploration and landscape studies of the Bronze Age burial mounds on the salt routes in Southeastern Transylvania

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Transylvania is one of the richest in salt European zones and the latest archaeological and ethnographical researches, undertaken especially in its eastern regions, have proved that its saline resources were exploited in dedicated sites even during the Bronze Age. Because the sources of rock salt and brine accessible for a non-industrial type of exploitation are found only in certain spots, not in wide areas, the salt was obviously trafficked between the neighboring regions which were in a mineralogical contrasting relation. Our study will look into the symbolic fingerprint of such a transportation network by analyzing the funerary reflection of these salt routes crossing the Carpathian Mountains. Among the used methods we name landscape archaeology, remote sensing and geophysical prospection.

Keywords: funerary archaeology, prospection, landscape, salt road

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Health, power and welfare from the perspective of Early Bronze Age cemeteries in SW Slovakia

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This paper will deal with two well excavated cemeteries located in SW Slovakia – Branč and Jelšovec. Hundreds of uncovered graves which are dated in terms of relative chronology to BA1 and BA2/3 according to Reinecke’s chronological system (roughly 2200BC-1500BC in terms of absolute chronology) provides good data for analysis of Early Bronze Age population. Findings from both cemeteries were already published and evaluated from the point of social stratification. We can safely assume, that in both cemeteries there is evidence that wealth was distributed unevenly. However not much was written about how much this social inequality corresponds with the health of the buried population. The aim of this paper is therefore to focus on this topic from a larger perspective of two consequent archaeological cultures – Nitra and Únětice. The quick analysis of available bioarchaeological data (diet, paleopathology) already suggests significant differences in the health of the buried population. These differences are observable on two levels. Firstly there are differences between the buried population on the level of a single generation, suggesting access to better food resources for some privileged individuals. Secondly there are differences on the level of multiple, consequent generations. For example the Nitra culture population had much better access to wider range of food resources than subsequent Únětice population, which (for example) suffered from quite significant deficit of Vitamin C leading to scurvy which was evident mostly among the children (almost double presence of scurvy among children of Únětice culture than Nitra culture). This is even more striking if we realize that Únětice population had much better access to more valuable” artefacts (mostly metal ones) than previous Nitra population. We are asking the question, why was malnutrition so spread among the Únětice population, when the artefact assemblages suggests better access to long-distance networks and higher level of social organization and welfare in general (as is also suggested by the research of fortified settlements from this period)?

Keywords: Early Bronze Age, Slovakia, Únětice culture, Bioarchaeology, Social inequality, Malnutrition, Health

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Burial Mounds of the Golden Valley: Crossroads of the Iron Age

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Continental Croatia in the Early Iron Age was located on crossroads of three major cultural areas: Central European Hallstatt cultural complex, the Iron Age cultures of Balkans and the Mediterranean influences, and the Eastern complex across the Danube. As a consequence of its transitional position, Northern Croatia is the ultimate point of distribution for many specific types of weapons, pottery, and other objects, but it was probably even more important as a place of cultural transfer between major cultural zones in Early Iron Age Europe. Cultural groups of the Northern Croatia operated as active agents in modifying and filtering the conceptual content of cultural transfer, and had direct influence on the cultural dynamics of the whole Eastern Hallstatt area, and perhaps even beyond. If this is the case, cultural innovation would start at what was perceived as "periphery". However, if we move away from the old idea of cultural complexes as compact cultural bodies with a distinctive structural core and periphery, we could offer a model of a dynamic communication network in which each connection between individual centres is to some extent interactive. A closer examination reveals that this general network is superimposed over a patchwork of regional networks creating a multi-dimensional synaptic structure in which every knot is part of the dynamic whole. Every change in each part of such a network would soon affect the whole network, but in different ways. This means that there is no periphery in the conceptual, but only in the spatial sense.

Keywords: iron age/cultural transfer/Hallstatt/tumuli

*Speaker

**XXX-2. The funerary world since
XVII to IX centuries BC in Western
Atlantique Europe.**

Funerary practices at the northern fringe of the Atlantic area

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The western part of Belgium, northern France and southeastern England are belonging to the so-called Channel-North Sea cultural area, which integrates into the larger Atlantic cultural complex as defined by different researchers. During the Middle Bronze Age, a characteristic funerary landscape developed which funerary monuments, which are clearly visible in the landscape. These barrows structures the landscape and are grouped together in small clusters or in extended in lines along the horizon. This tradition starts already in the final Neolithic period as ascertained by finds of beaker burials in the Kent region and radiocarbon dates in Flanders. Between 1700 - 1500/1400 BC a peak in the construction of this specific funerary monument is clearly visible in the archaeological record. After this period, there are less indications of the construction of barrows but they are still used secondary burial places.

From 1500 BC, the first so-called flat graves are appearing in the Channel-North Sea region as has been proved by radiocarbon dates on cremated bones. They appear as isolated graves or in small groups in existing cemeteries. This ascertainment contradicts former hypotheses, which associated the appearance of flat graves with the spread of the so-called Urnfield culture.

In the older barrows of the final Neolithic and Early Bronze Age, inhumation was still present, but cremation is much earlier introduced than expected as a new funerary ritual. Around 1500 BC. Cremation is the dominant way to dispose the dead in the Channel-North Sea Area. Within this ritual, we can ascertain different practices within the same cemetery in the way the cremated bones are collected and deposited in their final burial place. Typical for the Atlantic region is the deposition of a small symbolic package of cremated bones in the burial pit. In contrast with the urnfield cemeteries the bones are deposited in an organic container or mixed up with the pyre remains.

Keywords: Funerary practices, the northern fringe of the Atlantic area

*Speaker

Les inhumations du Bronze ancien de Luxé en Charente (France).

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Dans le cadre des opérations archéologiques préalables à la construction de la Ligne ferroviaire à Grande Vitesse Sud Europe Atlantique, un ensemble funéraire daté de la seconde moitié du Bronze ancien a été découvert sur la commune de Luxé en Charente, au lieu-dit Le Mas de Champ-Redon. Cet ensemble se compose de trois tombes relatives à un jeune adulte et deux enfants âgés d'environ 4 ans et 7-8 ans. La diagnose sexuelle de l'adulte n'a pu être établie en raison du mauvais état de conservation des ossements.

Les tombes du sujet le plus jeune et de l'adulte sont juxtaposées et elles ont la même orientation. Celle du plus âgé des enfants leur est perpendiculaire et distante d'environ 30cm. Peu d'éléments permettent de discuter de leur simultanéité. Il est tentant de voir dans ce petit ensemble sépulcral un caractère familial. Toutefois, la position non conventionnelle de l'adulte et dans une moindre mesure l'organisation des tombes entre elles soulèvent un certain nombre d'interrogations. L'étude ADN qui doit être faite pourra éventuellement apporter des informations complémentaires.

Ces tombes sont en partie installées dans le comblement supérieur d'une fosse. D'un point de vue architectural, elles présentent des points communs avec les sépultures de plein air du Bronze ancien du Centre ouest de la France lesquelles sont habituellement associées à un enclos circulaire fossoyé. Elles s'en distinguent par leur agencement et le mobilier funéraire qu'elles ont livrées à savoir, des perles discoïdes en test coquillier jusqu'à présent retrouvées uniquement dans des sépultures collectives en grotte. Quelles sont les affinités culturelles de cet ensemble funéraire ? Des études comparatives supplémentaires seront nécessaires pour tenter de répondre à cette question.

Keywords: Bronze ancien, Centre Ouest, France, ensemble funéraire, perles discoïdes

*Speaker

Les ossements existent en Bretagne : restes osseux humains en contexte détritique et une sépulture Bronze ancien d'un enfant très bien conservé sur l'île de Kemenez, mer d'Iroise.

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Les tempêtes de l'hiver 2014 ont mis au jour de nombreux sites sur les côtes atlantiques et particulièrement sur les îles de la mer d'Iroise. Si plusieurs de ces sites ont disparu corps et biens sans aucune intervention, d'autres ont fort heureusement pu être fouillés au moins partiellement. L'un de ceux-ci, situé sur l'estran sud de l'île de Kemenez (Le Conquet, Finistère), était constitué d'un amas coquillier renfermant des restes osseux humains en connexion partielle. L'intervention s'est attachée à documenter et prélever les restes visibles en coupe avant qu'un nouveau coup de mer ne les fasse définitivement disparaître. Deux individus adultes ont été identifiés dans l'amas coquillier, l'un d'eux n'étant représenté que par son atlas, le reste des ossements ayant été très probablement avalé par la mer. Le deuxième était lui en connexion partielle, son dépôt correspondant à une inhumation primaire. Lors de l'élargissement de la zone de fouille, une sépulture d'enfant a été mise au jour à l'ouest de l'amas. Le corps est en connexion et en excellent état de conservation, chose particulièrement rare pour la Bretagne où l'acidité des sols détruit rapidement les restes osseux. La proximité avec l'amas coquillier, dont le calcaire des coquilles contribue à remonter le pH du sol, explique la préservation des ossements. L'enfant était disposé en procubitus, la tête vers l'ouest et les membres supérieurs fléchis et ramenés vers l'épaule gauche. Le corps s'est décomposé dans un espace vide, un petit coffre en pierre lui-même placé dans une fosse ceinturée de trous de piquets avec des pierres de calage sur tout son pourtour. Le corps a pu être daté par le radiocarbone à la fin du Bronze ancien (1700/1610 Cal BC), la datation des deux autres individus placés dans l'amas coquillier ainsi que d'une graine dans ce dernier renvoient à la même période chronologique. Cet ensemble à la fois funéraire et détritique permet d'apporter des informations anthropologiques précieuses, car toujours très rares en Bretagne, et renseigne également sur des modes d'inhumation encore peu documentés.

*Speaker

Keywords: sépulture, restes osseux humains, Bronze ancien, Bretagne, amas coquillier, coffre funéraire, conservation

Les pratiques funéraires du Bronze moyen et début du Bronze final dans le bassin de l'Adour : synthèse et état de la question

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Dans le bassin de l'Adour, la documentation archéologique disponible sur l'âge du Bronze concerne essentiellement les contextes liés à la sphère du funéraire. Or, ils constituent un cadre privilégié pour tenter de percevoir les changements qui se sont opérés entre les différentes périodes de l'âge du Bronze. Mais jusqu'ici, ces dites périodes demeuraient difficiles à distinguer. Celles du Bronze ancien et moyen, en particulier, étaient souvent abordées de façon indifférenciée dans la bibliographie. Cependant, une révision des données sur cet espace (explorations anciennes, résultats de fouilles préventives mais aussi programmées) permet de distinguer des dynamiques propres à chacune d'elles et ce, aussi bien du point de vue des comportements liés à l'au-delà, que de la production céramique. Le groupe du Pont-Long manifeste, maintenant, à la période comprise entre le Bronze moyen et le début du Bronze final, une préférence pour certaines solutions funéraires, qui se révèlent en réalité peu nombreuses : les cavités dans les zones karstiques, et les monuments préexistants implantés à des altitudes variables sur le bassin de l'Adour. De ce point de vue, les pratiques funéraires semblent attester d'un changement important avec le Bronze ancien, où la diversité des solutions funéraires était de mise. Les céramiques, qui constituent toujours les seuls mobiliers des dépôts sépulcraux, affichent des caractéristiques morphologiques et décoratives spécifiques. A cette période du Bronze moyen et du début du Bronze final, les vases polypodes connaissent un succès certain, tout comme les décors à la cordelette. Ce type de décoration atteste, par ailleurs, d'affinités culturelles notables avec les régions avoisinantes, notamment avec le Pays Basque espagnol.

Keywords: pratiques funéraires, Bronze moyen, début du Bronze final, bassin de l'Adour

*Speaker

Que peut-on actuellement dire des pratiques funéraires du Centre-Ouest de la France au Bronze moyen ?

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Dans le Centre-Ouest de la France, les données sont peu nombreuses et parfois même indigentes en ce qui concerne le domaine funéraire, et ce, pour toutes les phases de l'âge du Bronze. L'état de l'information est de plus très variable selon les zones considérées et leur nature géologique. Nous proposons, malgré cet état de fait, de donner un aperçu de la documentation disponible pour l'âge du Bronze moyen dans cette région.

Une attention particulière sera portée au site des Ouches à Auzay (Vendée), un petit groupement d'une douzaine de sépultures ayant livré un nombre important de parures métalliques. Ce site des XVe-XIVe s. avant notre ère est encore unique dans la région, et offre de ce fait l'occasion de faire différentes observations sur les pratiques et les mobiliers funéraires de la fin du Bronze moyen. Fouillé dans les années 1990 lors de la construction de l'autoroute A83, ce site fait actuellement l'objet d'une synthèse documentaire en vue d'une publication monographique.

Un élargissement autour d'un certain nombre de crémations en urne isolées présumées contemporaines d'après les dates ¹⁴C et des données issues des grottes sépulcrales des zones karstiques permettra d'élaborer un début de synthèse. La question des influences culturelles, entre monde atlantique et monde continental, sera notamment abordée, en particulier à travers une typologie totalement renouvelée des parures métalliques du Bronze moyen.

La question de la finalité des enclos circulaires fossoyés, funéraires, cultuels, voire les deux, sera également abordée.

Keywords: pratiques funéraires, France, Centre Ouest, âge du Bronze moyen

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Ritual sites from the 2nd millennium BC in Galicia (NW Iberian Peninsula)

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In recent years, circular sites have been documented in Galicia that stand out in the landscape, and whose apparent formal characteristics have led to them being considered as small fortified settlements dating from the Iron Age. However, excavations carried out in two of these sites have revealed that they were not domestic in nature, and that they do not date from the Iron Age. The excavation of these sites has led to others being uncovered that may have the same features. The aim of this poster is to present the new findings, and their preliminary interpretation.

Keywords: Ritual sites, 2nd millennium BC, Middle Bronze Age, Galicia

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The burial site of Devesa do Rei (Vedra, A Coruña, NW Iberian Peninsula)

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We present the funerary tumulus dating from the 2nd millennium BC from the site of Devesa do Rei, focusing on a study of its ceramic materials. A formal and spatial study will be carried, together with an archaeometric analysis of the composition of the clays in a series of selected pieces, and in geological samples that are representative of the altered materials in the surrounding area. The study is completed with a calculation of the distances to areas that possibly supplied the clays, comparing the composition of the archaeological and geological samples, contrasting the geological map, and applying a geographic information system. Once the source areas of the raw materials have been identified, an estimation will be made of the effort involved in stockpiling these materials, by calculating the distances travelled and the travelling time, based on defining the likely supply routes from the site.

Keywords: Funerary tumulus, raw materials, routes, pottery, Galicia, 2nd millennium BC

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The cist of Praia da Rola (Mugueimes, Ourense, Iberian Peninsula)

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Cists are stone tombs that are traditionally considered as dating from the Late Bronze Age in Galicia and the NW Iberian Peninsula. However, recently obtained datings for some of them point towards a more extensive chronology. Here we present the results of a general study of the cremation cist of Praia da Rola, in the south of the province of Ourense, one of the few in this region that contains human bone remains. Its chronology indicates that this type of funerary practice continued for a longer period of time. We will also present a study of its architecture and grave goods, a complete beaker, and the cremated bone remains (minimum number of individuals, characterization of these individuals, considering their pathologies, sex, and age, and a reconstruction of the funerary ritual), used to produce the AMS dating. In addition, an X-Ray diffraction analysis was carried out of the mineralogy, and an X-Ray fluorescence analysis of the chemical composition, of a sample from the complete vessel that was found, and nine fragments of rock and sediment found in situ were characterized. The data obtained for this site, which will be included in a wider-ranging contextual study, reveal new aspects in the record for the region, making it necessary to reassess the typology of this type of tomb and its grave goods.

Keywords: Funerary cist, pottery, archaeometry, human bones, Galicia, late bronze age

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Tumuli, cists, pits, and caves in the NW Iberian Peninsula: old funerary formulas and new burial practices in the Bronze Age?

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In the Late Prehistory of Galicia, cist and pit tombs are normally considered as being funerary practices that appeared at a later stage, while the tumuli were built during the Neolithic period. However, a small number of new radiocarbon datings available for these sites suggest that the cist and pit tombs appeared at an early stage in the region, while the tumuli continued to be used for an extended period of time. Few details are available about cave burials in the region, due to their scarcity and a lack of any research tradition in this area. Today, more than 70 tombs of these types are known: 8 pits and 36 cists, 36 tumuli, and 3 caves with funerary remains. The tombs that have been excavated in the region have made it possible to characterize the different funerary practices, seeking a chronological organization between the architecture and the grave goods, defining if there are any new funerary models from the second millennium BC, or otherwise if the previously existing tradition continued. An interpretation will be carried out focusing on the north west Iberian Peninsula, in an attempt to understand the phenomenon in its regional context, and to identify its relationship with other parts of Atlantic Europe.

Keywords: Second milenium BC, tumulus, cist, pits, caves, Galicia

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