



Understanding fertility during the Mesolithic-Neolithic in the Danube Gorges – Bioarchaeological approach Workshop, 10th to 12th December 2013, University of Belgrade, Faculty of Philosophy, amphitheater Dragoslav Srejski (room 101)



Announcement

We are pleased to announce the first workshop for Bioarchaeology of fertility organized by the PREFERT project – Prehistoric fertility: length of lactation during the Mesolithic and Neolithic of South-Eastern Europe (co funded by MSTD - CNRS) and the BEAN project – Bridging the European and Anatolian Neolithic (funded by Marie Curie Actions). The aim of the workshop is to present new approaches in the understanding of prehistoric fertility.

The Danube Gorges prehistoric population, which experienced a population growth during the transition to the Neolithic, provides a good opportunity to explore the scope of an interdisciplinary approach of fertility. A special attention will be paid to birthing process, nutrition and weaning, as well as cultural practices related to pregnant women and child care.

Questions include:

- Can birthing process, evidence of pregnancy and neonatal care be detected from archaeological record, and how?
- Can changes in weaning practices contribute to fertility increase?
- How did prehistoric behavioural characteristics (mobility, subsistence strategies) impact human fertility?
- Nutrition and fertility - which food is good for human fertility?

10th December: The Danube Gorges Mesolithic-Neolithic: Culture, Environment, Demography and Bioarchaeological research

10.00 Opening words (S. Stefanović)

10.30-13.30 Presentations and discussion

Bioarchaeology of fertility: an integrative approach in the understanding of birthing in prehistory; S. Stefanović

Context of the Mesolithic-Neolithic transition in the Danube Gorges; C. de Bechedelievre

Paleodemography of Mesolithic, Transitional and Neolithic populations in the Danube Gorges: a review of radiocarbon, skeletal and settlement evidence; M. Porčić, J. Jovanović, C. de Bechedelievre

Age at death assessment of children and the use of Paleodemography approach. Case study: French Middle Neolithic; M. Le Roy

13.30-15.00 – Lunch

15.00-18.00 Presentations and discussion

Mesolithic-Neolithic in the Danube Gorges: animals and people; V. Dimitrijević

Fish Consumption and Fertility: the evidence from Mesolithic-Neolithic Danube Gorges; I. Živaljević

Health status and nutritional stress in the Danube Gorges, direct information from skeletal markers; M. Radović, S. Stefanović

Mobility and subsistence strategies in the Danube Gorges: preliminary analyses and prospects of research; C. de Bechedelievre, M. Porčić, S. Stefanović

11th December:

Bioarchaeology of children: birthing, nutrition and cultural practices

10.00-13.00 Presentations and discussion

Using stable isotope analysis to track Prehistoric Human behaviors; G. Goude, E. Herrscher

An on-going study of weaning practices in the Danube Gorges: sampling strategy, methods and prospects; J. Jovanović, C. de Bechedelievre, G. Goude, E. Herrscher

Farming, fertility, and a gruelling paradigm: Can Neolithic population increase really be attributed to a change in infant feeding practices?; Rachel Howcroft

Indications for consumption of milk and dairy products during the Neolithic of the Central Balkans: archaeological, ethnological and ethnoarchaeological approach; A. Đuričić

13.00-16.00 Lunch

Presentation of the Vinča figurines curated at the Archaeological collection of the Department of Archaeology, University of Belgrade; M. Porčić, S. Stefanović

Presentations and discussion

Tooth cementum annulation as an identification aid of life-history parameters: Determination of possible pregnancies in females in the Danube Gorges; M. Radović

Newborns burials as a trace of prehistoric birth-evidences from Lepenski Vir; S. Stefanović

12th December

Project reports and prospects of research

9.00-12.00 Discussion "Report and prospects of research"

Project PREFERT (Program Convention of Exchanges 2013-2014, Bilateral Project funded by CNRS and MSDT): report for 2013; Scientific schedule for 2014.

Horizon 2020: Defining a long-term collaboration. Keywords: Human birth during prehistory; Bioarchaeology of children: demography, biology and culture

12.00-19.00 Lunch and Excursion to Vinča

Acknowledgments



Влада Републике Србије
Министарство просвете и науке

