

Beyond Genetics: Exploring Non-Biological Kinship in Prehistoric Times

Over the past decade, there has been a growing interest in understanding families and kinship structures of the groups that inhabited prehistoric Europe. This has led to a significant number of archaeogenetic publications that aim to reconstruct the genetic relatedness among individuals buried in the same grave, cemetery or site. Recurring patterns of extended genetically-related families haven't entrenched visions of a predominantly patrilineal and patrilocal past.

While the focus has been on the reconstruction of genealogies, the unrelated members of the community have been largely overlooked. The presence of children who are not genetically related to the adults with whom they share a grave, together with the evidence from isotopic analyses that there was great mobility of boys and girls during childhood, also points to a broader concept of family in which care for children is not a given at birth but is socially constructed. Concepts such as fostering, adoption and the integration of step-children are increasingly evident in later European prehistory and need to be considered and integrated into our reconstruction of past social structures.

Alternative forms of non-genetic or social kinship, apparent through individuals lacking genetic ties but occupying the same funerary spaces as the members of a specific family, are central to this workshop. It will provide an opportunity to discuss different methods of detecting non-biological relationships in the prehistoric archaeological record and how to interpret them within these fluid kinship systems. The exchange of different viewpoints between archaeologists, geneticists and socio-cultural anthropologists is essential in order to approach a phenomenon as complex and diverse as prehistoric kinship, while avoiding clichés and the imposition of modern, Western notions of kinship and family on prehistoric settings. The aim of this workshop is to bring together researchers from different disciplines to forge a new social archaeology of kinship, which is currently in its early stages of development.

This workshop is funded by the Fritz Thyssen Foundation and the European Commission under Marie Skłodowska-Curie Global and Postdoctoral Fellowships.

HOST:

Austrian Archaeological Institute of the
Austrian Academy of Sciences
Dominikanerbastei 16, 1010 Vienna, Austria

REGISTRATION:

For in-person participation, please contact:
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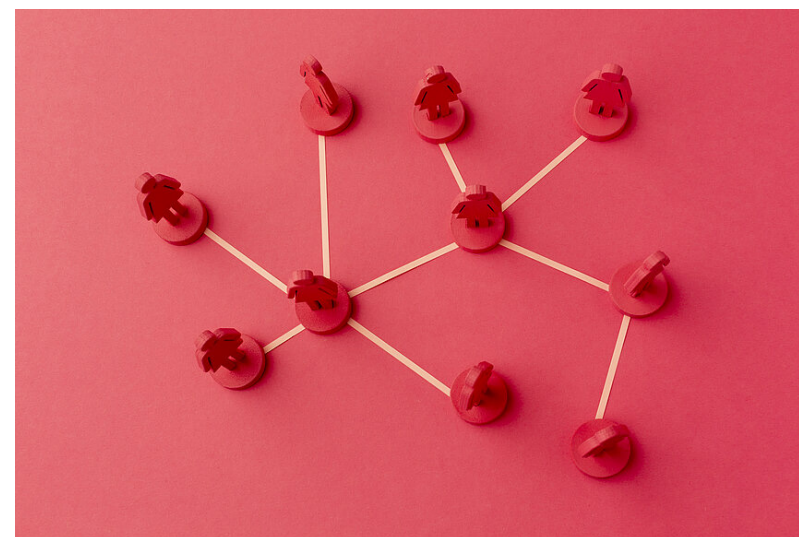
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4-5 OCTOBER 2024
AUSTRIAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE
OTTO WAGNER POSTSPARKASSE
SEMINAR ROOM 1, 3RD FLOOR
GEORG-COCH-PLATZ 2, VIENNA
AND ON ZOOM

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP VIENNA



BEYOND GENETICS EXPLORING NON-BIOLOGICAL KINSHIP IN PREHISTORIC TIMES



PROGRAM

FRIDAY, 4TH OCTOBER 2024

- 08.30 ARRIVAL & REGISTRATION (SEMINAR ROOM 1, 3RD FLOOR)
- WELCOME & OPENING BY CONFERENCE ORGANIZERS**
- 09.00–09.10 **Barbara Horejs**, Scientific Director, Austrian Archaeological Institute
- 09.10–09.15 **Mostafa Moonir**, Executive Director, Marie Curie Alumni Association
- 09.15–09.30 **Ana Herrero-Corral, Sabina Cveček, Katharina Rebay-Salisbury**,
Conference Organizers, Austrian Archaeological Institute, University of Vienna

Session 1: Kinship from Ethnographic and Cross-Cultural Approaches (Chair: Sabina Cveček)

- 09.30–10.00 **Peter Whiteley (New York, US)**
It Takes a Village: Matriliney and Matrilocality in the Construction of Hopi Social Space
- 10.00–10.30 **Václav Hrnčíř (Leipzig, DE)**
Insights from Comparative Ethnology: Potential and Limits
- 10.30 COFFEE BREAK
- 11.00–11.30 **Peter Schweitzer (Vienna, AT)**
Structure and Agency: Thoughts about Kinship in the Not-So-Distant Past
- 11.30–12.00 **Sabina Cveček (Chicago, US; Vienna, AT)**
The Visible, the Invisible, and the Fragmentary: Kin Ties Between the House, the Everyday, and the Burial
- 12.00–12.30 **Discussion Slot**
- 12.30 LUNCH BREAK

Session 2: Kin Making from an Evolutionary Perspective (Chair: Katharina Rebay-Salisbury)

- 14.00–14.30 **Rebeca Sear (London, UK)**
Beyond the Nuclear Family: An Anthropological Perspective on the 'Traditional' Family and its Implications for Wellbeing
- 14.30–15.00 **Kent Johnson (Cortland, US)**
Implementing a Biosocial Framework for Investigating Social Relatedness in Archaeological Contexts
- 15.00–15.30 COFFEE BREAK
- 15.30–16.00 **Ruth Mace (London, UK)**
Kinship systems and the origins of gender bias: a study of Tibetan groups
- 16.00–16.30 **David Lancy (Logan, US)**
The Placement of Children in History and Culture
- 16.30–17.00 **Discussion Slot**
- 17.00 WINE RECEPTION & CONFERENCE DINNER

SATURDAY, 5TH OCTOBER 2024

Session 3: Exploring Social Kinship Dynamics in European Prehistory (Chair: Ana Herrero-Corral)

- 09.30–10.00 **Mehmet Somel (Ankara, TR)**
Genetic Kinship Patterns in Neolithic Anatolia
- 10.00–10.30 **Stella Souvatzi (Thessaly, GRC)**
Social Kinship in Life and Death in Prehistory: Examples from the First Farming Communities in Greece and Turkey
- 10.30–11.00 COFFEE BREAK
- 11.00–11.30 **Mélie Le Roy (Poole, UK)**
Valuing Children in Life and Death in French Late Neolithic Societies
- 11.30–12.00 **Alissa Mittnik (Leipzig, DE)**
Interpreting 'unrelated' individuals at Early Bronze Age cemeteries of Southern Germany
- 12.00–12.30 **Maxime Brami (Mainz, DE) & David Shankland (London, UK)**
Substitutive Parents: A Case Study of a Bell Beaker Grave in Britain
- 12.30 LUNCH BREAK
- 14.00–14.30 **Aleksandra Žegarac (Novi Sad, RS)**
The Unexpected Indices of Social Kinship in Prehistoric SE Europe
- 14.30–15.00 **Andaine Seguin-Orlando (Toulouse, FR)**
anthropYXX, a molecular proxy for gender contrasts at the Neolithic to Bronze Age transition
- 15.00–15.30 COFFEE BREAK
- 15.30–16.00 **Katharina Rebay-Salisbury (Vienna, AT)**
Social and Biological Relationships in Bronze Age Central Europe
- 16.00–16.30 **Ana Herrero-Corral (Vienna, AT)**
SKIN: Social Kinship and Cooperative Care in Copper and Bronze Age Iberia
- 16.30–17.10 **Discussion Slot**
- 17.15–17.30 CONCLUDING REMARKS BY CONFERENCE ORGANIZERS
- AFTER 17.30** DEPARTURE