

Programme

Monday, 29th October

12:00 – 14:00 Registration of the contributors and guests, welcome coffee

14:00 - Opening by Peter C. Ramsel (Head of Project) and Matej Ruttkay (Director of the Institute)

First session (Chair: Zuzana Zetochová)

14:15 – Keynote: The SASPRO Project – Male Identities (Peter C. Ramsel)

14:45 – An Englishman in ČSSR (John Collis)

15:15 – Social marginality in late prehistoric Europe: new perspectives in funerary archaeology (Elisa Perego & Veronica Tamarri)

15:45-16:30 - Coffee break

Second session (Chair: John Collis)

16:30 – Costume and Identity in Early Bronze Age Nitra Culture (Zuzana Zetochová)

17:00 – Construction of Archaeological Identity in the Iron Age (Hrvoje Potrebica)

17:30 – Multiple Identities in La Tène Period cemeteries (Peter C. Ramsel)

18:00 – Results of "diet" isotopes of C and N measured on humans and animals from selected graves in Dubník (J. Bujna, S. Kaupová & M. Hajnalová)

19:30 – Collectively dinner

Tuesday, 30th October

Third session (Chair: Barbara Tessmann)

9:30 – From the Danube to the Aegean - Paradigm shifts in Iron Age/ Classical and Hellenistic archaeological studies in Bulgaria (Julij Stoyanov)

10:00 – Local identity of La Tène period settlements of the Záhorie region (Radoslav Čambal)

10:30 – The archaeological gender- and the anthropological sex determination. When they do not meet together (Renáta Přichystalová & Kateřina Boberová)

11:00 – 11:45 coffee break

Fourth session (Chair: Hrvoje Potrebica)

11:45 – Burial grounds from southern Slovakia and northern Hungary (Branislav Kovár)

12:15 – Überlegungen zur Beigabenausstattung von Männergräbern der älteren Eisenzeit im Gräberfeld von Jezerine (Barbara Teßmann)

12:45 – Reflective identities: images of prehistoric motherhood in 19th and early 20th century art (Katharina Rebay-Salisbury)

Final discussion

Completion and goodbyes

Lunch

Possibility for an excursion to the Hrad in Nitra

POSTER: The Gender archaeology in the light of selected features of Neolithic burials
(Peter Mandák & Michaela Niklová)

John Collis (Sheffield)

An Englishman in ČSSR

I first visited the then Czechoslovakia in 1967 on a student exchange organised by the British Council; I had just that year graduated from Cambridge with a BA in Archaeology and Anthropology though I had been digging for many years and was already directing a large-scale excavation. It was a period of major change in Britain with the breakdown of some of the class distinctions, which allowed people such as myself from the 'lower' classes to stay at school until we were 18 and then to go on to university with student grants. This was also reflected in the way excavations were organised with the possibility of working one's way up from unpaid volunteer to paid director. It led to new excavation methods (e.g. 'open area'). The traditional 'Culture History' paradigm was also giving way to the 'New Archaeology', pioneered at Cambridge, with more geographical, economic, social and environmental approaches. Working on the continent was very different, not only in the methodology and in the structure of excavation teams but also in the state-sponsored research excavations, something that did not exist in Britain. As a student it was good to experience such different systems whose legacies still affect us today.

Radoslav Čambal (SNM-Archeologické múzeum Bratislava)

Local identity of La Tène period settlements of the Záhorie region (settlements, finds, chronology).

Záhorie forms a geographic area that is bordered by the River Morava in the west, northeast is lined by Myjavská pahorkatina upland and east is lined by Little Carpathians mountains. Its substantial part is formed by Záhorská nížina lowland, the subsoil of which consists of sand or sandy soils. In the past, only a few archaeological excavations took place here, focused on La Tène period. Celtic settlement is known primarily due to surface collections. The first archaeological excavation was the burial place in Stupava, which is dated to the early La Tène period (LTA). From the early LaTène period, only two settlement units are known, and only 3 objects were examined in there. These sites are in Senica and area near Devínske jazero, dated back to the beginning of the early La Tène period. Celtic settlement of Záhorie is documented primarily in the middle and at the beginning of the late La Tène period in LTC1-LTD1. Parts of lowland settlements in Studienka, Šaštín-Stráže, Kúty and Zohor were examined. It was managed to document dwelling buildings, dwelling (inhabitation) partly built in the ground with overground wheeled construction. The dominant and the center of the area is fort, on the hillfort Pohanská in Plavecké Podhradie, which is important not only due to fortifications but also due to a strong concentration of hoards of iron finding and as a center of craft production. The area, in the middle La Tène period, is closely linked with settlement in the area of Lower Austria and Moravia. An interesting fact is the absence of Celtic inhumation and cremation graves and cemeteries. Within the settlement structure, the density of which is sparse, it is impossible to reconstruct the villages or urban design. But this depends on the state of excavation mainly. The analysis of settlement findings in Studienka, Šaštín-Stráže, Kúty and Zohor, particularly clasps and ceramics and brooches, enabled dating of Záhorie settlement in the middle and late LaTène period at the end of LTC1, especially in LTC2. La Tène settlement in this area ends in older phase of the late La Tène period, in LTD1a (roughly around the year 100 B. C). Younger settlement of Záhorie, dated to the late LaTène period LTD2 (1. century B.C.) has not been clearly documented yet. Very rarely, and only in the southernmost part of Záhorie, occasionally findings can appear that have a time connection with Bratislava oppidum, dated to the 1st century B.C (LTD2).

Branislav Kovár (Arch. ústav Nitra, SAV)

La Tène period burial grounds from southern Slovakia and northern Hungary

In this presentation, we look at the issue of the La Tène period in southern Slovakia and the area of the neighbouring northern Hungary. This area is one of the less archaeologically probed regions. Burial grounds are one of the most important archaeological finds from this region. Compared to settlements, they are better explored and published. The period of the La Tène LTB1 and LTC1 stages, roughly the years 380 – 180 B.C., is in central Europe traditionally designated as a horizon of flat Celtic burial grounds. In contrast to the Early La Tène LTA stage, in which there are still burial mounds used, beginning with the LTB1 stage, we witness in central Europe a proliferation of burials on flat burial grounds. In the area of south Slovakia, northern Hungary and north-western Romania, these flat burial grounds are attributed to the Celts. Beside them, we see the continuation of the older cultures. Within the surveyed territory, these elements could be, for the most part, those of the Vekerzug culture. In this work, we also addressed the question of social stratigraphy on the example of three largest burial sites of the study area – Malé Kosihy, Muhi and Vác.

Peter Mandák, Michaela Niklová (Katedra Arch. UKF Nitra/Krajský pamiatkový úrad v Nitre)

The Gender archaeology in the light of selected features of Neolithic burials

The Neolithic period is one of the most important milestones in human history. The fundamental change in the way of life is a significant conversion in understanding of the world - a neolithic man had already been able to imagine the life-cycle of plants, animals and himself as well. Death have had a logical place since then, since it ended one life cycle and was a prerequisite for a new life. This change of cogitation has probably helped to spread the phenomenon of putting the dead into the earth subjected to a certain funeral custom and increased attention to the treatment of the dead body. At the same time, the transition from the hunter-gatherer way of life to settled agriculture has shifted man and woman into a different social position. Men and women performed different types of activities typical for each of both of sexes, from which run off the different way of their burial as well as the different inventory. The aim of the submitted contribution is to compare and evaluate the selected features of Neolithic burials (LnK) from Middle Danube region according to the principles of gender archeology. The intention is to reveal how material culture, on the basis of various factors, helps to determine the role of men and women and to clarify the mutual interaction of both sexes in the society of the early Stone Age.

Elisa Perego (OREA, Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften & Institute of Archaeology, University College London) & Veronica Tamarri (London, UK)

Social marginality in late prehistoric Europe: new perspectives in funerary archaeology

In this talk, we will address the issues of social marginality in later prehistory by discussing a range of theoretical and methodological approaches to the investigation of past funerary data. Within this framework, we will present the preliminary results of the MSCA-funded CoPOWER Project, which adopts state-of-the-art archaeological and bioarchaeological approaches to investigate the transition to urban society and the rise of increasingly sophisticated social control mechanisms in Europe, c. 2000-500 BC.

Many projects have investigated social complexity and urbanization in later prehistory by focusing on the elite groups that, supposedly, were the driving forces of these processes. By contrast, CoPOWER and collaborative research explore the life-histories of the marginal individuals that are often the forgotten protagonists of human history. Such people may include those who were socially excluded for their low status, gender, disease or disability; children dying of starvation; people subject to forced labour and undernourishment; women and infants that did not survive pregnancy and childbirth with malnutrition and poor living conditions as precipitating causative factors, and the victims of extreme violence and abuse.

In order to develop more nuanced understandings of major socio-cultural transformations in history, one of the greatest challenges is to identify such individuals in the archaeological record of any given society. In this regard, the research we present here primarily focuses on funerary data, as the latter provides exceptional first-hand relevant information not easily recognizable from other archaeological sources.

CoPOWER complements traditional archaeological methods such as human osteology with the results of cutting-edge medical research on trauma, nutrition and gene-environment interactions. These methodologies are integrated within the framework of a “biocultural” approach that considers the role of both social and biological processes in determining the development of the human body.

Overall, CoPOWER takes late prehistoric Europe c. 2000-500 BC as a case study to reflect on the socio-political and environmental conditions that favour the spread of social control and

inequality in any human society. It also aims to promote a more nuanced understanding of social exclusion by considering it as the product of complex and interrelated socio-political, environmental and biological factors.

Acknowledgements

CoPOWER (Principal Investigator: Dr Elisa Perego) has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No 750596.

Hrvoje Potrebica (University of Zagreb, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Department of Archaeology)

Construction of Archaeological Identity in the Iron Age

This paper will deal with problems that we encounter when trying to define identity of individuals, groups, communities or cultures in time-frame of the Iron Age. The traditional source of information related to identity is burial ritual. Therefore, we started with analysis of the link between the burial ritual and the definition of identity of cultural groups in the Early Iron Age in the south Carpathian Basin trying to establish if such an approach is justifiable and universally applicable. Our results suggest that the burial ritual and material culture in relation to the issue of identity should primarily be analysed at the level of individual communities. The Iron Age communities expressed their identity through the burial ritual in several ways. A co-relation of data concerning the material culture (grave goods of all types), spatial organization (the position of necropolises in the landscape, their interrelation and relation between them and the associated settlements, their internal structure with graves and possible other cult elements) and ritual context (treatment of the body, structure and organization of space within a grave, reconstruction of the ritual) identify elements which determine the deceased's identity at the basic level (sex, age, status, time of burial) and at the level of the community (status and role). Comparison of data on different communities identify groups of elements that define specific communities within a cultural group, but also points to links between communities which define the identity of certain cultural groups and set them apart from other groups. In the end we will discuss subjectivity of very concept of identity and in what measure our own identity is reflected in construction of the Iron Age communities we attempt to define.

Renáta Přichystalová – Kateřina Boberová (Department of archaeology and museology FA, Masaryk University, Brno)

The archaeological gender- and the anthropological sex determination. When they do not meet together.

The determination of the gender in the archaeological skeleton finds, which in our case are related to the graves from Pohansko, is a breeding ground for the discussion from the very beginning of the collaboration of archaeologists with anthropologists. In both disciplines it depends on several aspects: what scientific opinion do experts hold, what the theoretical and practical erudition they have got and what methods they do use for the analysis of the graves or skeletons. In the early medieval stronghold Břeclav - Pohansko (CZ), specifically in its southern suburb, there were 4 graves (out of 205), in which were recorded the discrepancies in the definition of so-called archaeological and anthropological sex / gender. There are two children graves equipped with the earrings (graves No. 100, 155) and one adult individual with the earrings in functional position (grave No. 160) - all these skeletons were determined as the male individuals on the base of DNA analysis. On the other hand, according to DNA analysis one adult skeleton furnished with an ax was determined as a female individual (No. grave 103). In the paper we will discuss the quality of used evidences and the cogency and logical reasoning of both approaches - archaeological and anthropological. It can be said that the compromise achievement in the case of a contradiction between the anthropological and archaeological sex determination of a particular individual depends on several key points: on the state of the archaeological finding situation, on the quality of its documentation, on the condition of the skeletal material, on the used anthropological (archaeological) methods, on the archeologist's (anthropologist's) erudition. If the power of the anthropologist's argument is not sufficient, the archaeologist will adapt the final interpretation to his own conviction.

Peter C. Ramsel (Arch. ústav Nitra, SAV)

The SASPRO-Project – Male Identities

It starts with the suggestion of the possibility of a SASPRO scholarship at the 2015 CZ-SK Iron Age conference in Zvíkov in Bohemia. At this place and in the following few month, the idea about “male identities” in the La Tène cemeteries was developed in many discussions and literature view. In November 2015, during a short break of excavations in former county Tyrol and Vorarlberg, I had the interview at the SASPRO commission in Bratislava. Afterward, after the support of two kind referees, the project was accepted for funding and organized in a fast way to start in January 2016.

Next to research work in depots and archives, sampling datas for the final analyse, the organisation of workshops (Klement 2016 and Nitra 2018) and trips to several conferences to spread the results of this project, also study trips to Universities and Museums in Austria, Moravia and Slovakia had been included. Finally, the final workshop here in Nitra was organized to continue the discussion of Klement-Oberleis 2016.

Peter C. Ramsel (Arch. ústav Nitra, SAV)

Multiple Identities of La Tène Period cemeteries

Discourse on male identities in the Iron Age has been dominated by thoughts about warrior identity. Only a fraction of male bodies, however, are staged as warriors in graves. This project will explore alternative male identities. Which roles play men without weapons in this “Warrior societies”? Is there the same or a different status of disarmed men with finger rings made of precious metal? First of all, different life-stage identities shall be analysed like “Boy Identity”, “Adult Identity” and “Old man Identity” and as a very special – but very fascinating case “Poor man identity”. “Special identities” with unclear affiliation (male with “female” ring costumes, female with weapons etc.) which came along the last years, also give us the idea of multiple male identities. A special case are “Druid identities”, where remains of special medical-surgical instruments can be observed. We can also mention “Craftsmen identities”, where special tools may let us identify professions resp. reflections of it. The main objectives of this project is to analyse these cases against the background of common models with the methods of ranking and in the field of gender analysis. A big advance is the enormous corpus of La Tène period graves resp. cemeteries in the working area of Slovakia, east Austria and Moravia. Here the method of gender archaeology is to mention, which has become of very important impact to scientific research.

Katharina Rebay-Salisbury (OREA, Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften)

Reflective identities: images of prehistoric motherhood in 19th and early 20th century art

Women's roles and possibilities have probably never changed as rapidly as during the late 19th and early 20th century. This contribution will present images of prehistoric mothers as imagined by various European artists, whose work was used to illustrate popular literature, school books and exhibitions. More than about prehistory, these images tell us about how women's lives were imagined during the time the art work emerged. The majority of images depict traditional motifs such as breastfeeding mothers, mothers carrying babies in a sling and mothers and small children crafting together. There are, however, also a small number of surprising and creative motifs, which will be presented in context.

Julij Stoyanov (Sofia University)

From the Danube to the Aegean - Paradigm shifts in Iron Age/ Classical and Hellenistic archaeological studies in Bulgaria (1876 to present)

Focus of the presentation is on changes in perception of the Pre-Roman Iron Age communities in the East Balkans regions. Three short case studies on “Thracians”, “Hellenes” and “Celts” examine how the paradigm shifts in archaeological studies in Bulgaria, during the last 140 years, leave their imprint on construction of group identities – both ancient and modern.

The title: From the Danube to the Aegean reflects a transition from LT to Classical/Hellenistic chronological framework, employed in the research as well as a metaphor of historical connections to Continental (Danubian) or Aegean archaeological networks.

Barbara Teßmann (Freie Universität Berlin, Institut für Prähistorische Archäologie)

Überlegungen zur Beigabenausstattung von Männergräbern der älteren Eisenzeit im Gräberfeld von Jezerine

In der älteren Eisenzeit sind Männergräber nicht nur im Friedhof von Jezerine sehr schwer zu fassen. Viele Männer aus diesem Zeitabschnitt wurden im gesamten japodischen Raum offenbar beigabenlos beerdigt, wie einige anthropologisch untersuchte Gräber aus Kompolje belegen. Typisch männliche Beigaben, wie beispielsweise Nadeln, treten hingegen auch oft in Frauengräbern auf. Obwohl historische Quellen berichten, dass die Japoden sehr kriegerisch gewesen sind, finden sich in den Gräbern nur ganz vereinzelt auch Waffen. Erschwerend kommt hinzu, dass Jezerine ein birituelles Gräberfeld ist. Neben Skelettbestattungen kommen auch ganz unterschiedliche Brandgräber (Urnengräber, Brandschüttungsgräber) vor, die ebenfalls oftmals beigabenlos waren und nicht anthropologisch untersucht wurden.

Aus dem späten 19. und dem Beginn des 20. Jahrhunderts gibt es jedoch anthropologische Untersuchungen zu einigen Skeletten und Schädeln aus dem Gräberfeld von Jezerine (Virchow 1895; Weisbach/Glück 1901). Mithilfe dieser anthropologischen Untersuchungsergebnisse wird versucht, Männerbestattungen im Gräberfeld von Jezerine nachzuweisen und die Beigabenausstattungen auf andere Gräber zu übertragen.

A. Weisbach und L. Glück, *Crania bosniaca*. Glasnik Zemaljaski Muz. Bosna i Hercegovina XIII, 1901, 351-398.

R. Virchow, Bericht über die Conferenz in Sarajevo. Verhand. Berliner Ges. Anthr. In: Zeitschr. Ethn. 27, 1895, 38-59.

Zuzana Zetochová (Katedra Arch., UKF Nitra)

Costume and Identity in Early Bronze Age Nitra Culture

Physical appearance is a powerful mediation of identities. Costume of the individual was influenced by many factors. The most important influence came from the social background. Affiliation to a certain community or social group (clan, family, profession, etc.) was visible in the outcome of the costume. It consisted not only from the textile (organic part), but also from jewellery, clothing fittings and hairstyle. Jewellery and clothing fittings are not only a feast for an eye, but played the main role in construction of gender, religious, social and cultural identity. Quality and quantity of jewellery and clothing fittings, together with other grave inventory, speaks for the social status of buried individuals.

Nitra culture is located within relatively clear boundaries in Slovakia and Moravia. The greatest concentration of cemeteries was identified in Nitra Basin – Branč, Jelšovce, Výčapy- Opatovce, Ludanice- Mýtna Nová Ves. Costume of Nitra culture people was very rich and variable, especially in women graves. Apart from necklaces of antler/bone beads combined with other materials (shells, copper beads, tubes and spirals), most jewellery and clothing fittings were made of copper (ear-rings, arm-rings, pins, etc.).

The detail study of costume raises many questions: Is the costume found in graves designed for living or dead? Which objects are clearly connected to the status of buried individuals? Can we identify any social group connected by a certain type of jewellery? Is the variability in personal ornaments speaking for the affiliation of buried individual to various social groups?

Paper will be focused on the variability of women costume in Nitra culture from the territory of south-western Slovakia and Moravia. One of the main goals will be also an identification of jewellery and clothing fittings types belonging to a special social group.