

Barbarians Prehistory

from the Mesolithic to the Iron Age

Hilary Term 2022, (mostly) every other Friday, 4–5pm

[Lectures will be given on Teams](#)

Week 1: 21 January. Prof Carola Metzner-Nebelsick, LMU Munich

[The Evidence of Early Mounted Nomads Between Asia and Central Europe in the Early First Millennium BCE](#)

Nomadism is often entangled with the emergence of a particular form of warfare and lifestyle of certain members of the prehistoric communities living in the Eurasian steppe belt: mounted warriors. The term ‘mounted nomads’ concentrates on only one segment of nomadic groups, which has, however, been widely used as an umbrella term in various historical settings, stressing the bellicose aspect of these steppe-bound groups associated with the historic Cimmerians and Scythians. We will introduce archaeological evidence of the first appearance of a nomadic lifestyle connected with the distinctive element of mounted warriors. In comparison to find-contexts in central Asia, we will discuss connectivity between ridden horses, warfare and mobile pastoralism, and its effects on neighbouring sedentary communities and their reaction towards this antagonistic lifestyle.



Week 3: 4 February. Dr Daniel Hlášek, Institute of Archaeology, CAS, Prague

[Hosty: The Nodal Point of the European Early Bronze Age Trade Network](#)

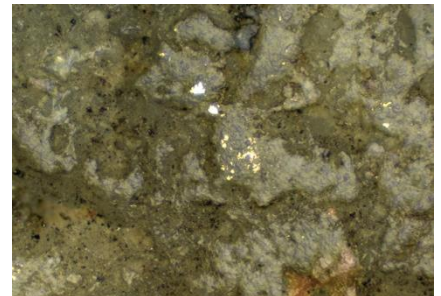


At the beginning of the second millennium BC, a new society established itself in Central Europe. Due to the dependence of the society on bronze (but also on other commodities), it created an unprecedented network of intensive trade which connected even some distant geographical areas. South Bohemia was one of those areas which were significantly affected by that process. Until then, south Bohemia had been rather a neglected region. However, at the beginning of the second millennium BC, there was a sudden expansion of settlements. One of the key sites which illustrate the process is the settlement Hosty which documents the essential activities defining the beginnings of the Bronze Age.

Week 6: 25 February. Dr Rachel Crellin & Dr Oliver Harris, University of Leicester

[A History of Stone and Metal at Upton Lovell G2a](#)

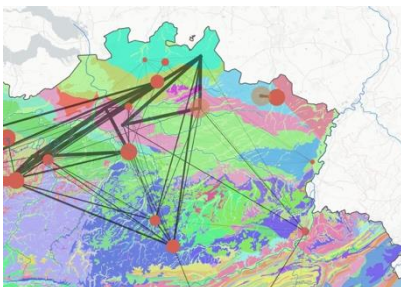
The Upton Lovell G2a burial is a famous ‘Wessex culture’ grave. Sometimes understood as the burial of a ‘shaman’, sometimes a metalworker, it has played a key role in our understanding of the Early Bronze Age in Britain. We focus not on the bodies buried in this grave but the gravegoods. Through this project we have carried out microwear analysis and scanning electron microscopy (completed by Christina Tsoraki, Chris Standish and Richard Pearce) on the stone and metal gravegoods. The results from these new analyses allow us to map a history of interactions between people and materials captured in the objects. These reveal interweaving connections between gold, stone and copper, allow us to create a chaîne opératoire for that our modern ways of gold working in the period, and suggest categorising materials may miss much of the complexity of how they worked in the past.



Week 8: 11 March. Dr Christophe Snoeck & Sarah Dalle, Vrije Universiteit, Ghent University

[Cremations, Strontium Isotopes and Spatial Analysis](#)

Online on Teams and in-person lecture given in the Institute Lecture Room



Cremation represents a major funerary ritual in past societies, especially in Europe during the Metal Ages and the Roman period. The high temperatures reached during the cremation process (up to 1000°C) destroy or alter a huge part of the biological information contained within the human remains. Fortunately, strontium isotope ratios ($^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$) and concentrations ($[\text{Sr}]$) remain unaltered during and after cremation, offering the possibility to investigate mobility, migration and landscape use of past populations that practiced cremation. This has been applied to a wide range of samples from across Europe and new challenges arise with the increasing number of data becoming available to consider mobility

on a larger spatial and temporal scale. As mobility is essentially a spatial act, it is approached from a spatial perspective. The combined use of $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$ and $[\text{Sr}]$ with spatial network analysis highlights some interesting trends in regards to the impact of rivers on human mobility, and potential problems with the interpretation of strontium isotope data related to an increase in marine salt use.