



# ON THE MOVE -

## ARCHAEOLOGIES OF HUMAN MOBILITY AND MIGRATION

Workshop organized within the framework of the program

“LMU - UCB Research in the Humanities”

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### Abstracts

#### Theoretical introduction

*Benjamin Porter and Caroline von Nicolai - Introduction to the workshop*

*Ruth Tringham (UC Berkeley, Department of Anthropology):*

Walking to nowhere: European Neolithic migrations, mobility and movement

Some kind of “migration model” – whether colonization, demic diffusion or invasion – has played a significant role in the interpretation of Neolithic archaeology and the Neolithization process since very early on in its history. My contribution starts with an overview of the trajectory of the debates that have focused on the beginning of the Neolithic in Europe and its end. The debates had dwindled in the 1990s, but have recently returned in full force, thanks to stable isotope and DNA analysis. I find that I am not inspired by these debates, any more than Tim Sørensen is for the “mobility paradigm” that similarly dominates European Bronze Age archaeology. So I explore why this is, and take a rather different attitude to movement, mobility and even “migration” by changing the scale at which the archaeological data are interpreted. I take another look at my earlier research in Neolithic Europe through the lenses of sensoriality, feminist enquiry, and a microhistorical standpoint.

## **Isotope and aDNA analyses of skeletal remains as indicators of mobility**

*Philipp Stockhammer (LMU, Institute of Prehistoric Archaeology and Archaeology of the Roman Provinces)*

### Patterns of Mobility in Late Neolithic and Early Bronze Age Central Europe: a case study from the Lech valley south of Augsburg

The transition from the late Neolithic to the Early Bronze Age in Central Europe is a time period for which human mobility has been vividly debated in archaeological research. This presentation contributes to these considerations using an interdisciplinary approach that integrates ancient mitochondrial DNA analysis, the determination of stable isotope ratios of strontium and oxygen in tooth enamel, and archaeological analysis of radiocarbon dated skeletal remains. They represent 83 human individuals from 6 sites of the Bell Beaker Complex and the early Bronze Age in the Lech Valley in Southern Bavaria, Germany. Mitochondrial DNA analysis documented a diversification of haplogroups over time. Strontium and oxygen isotope ratios disclosed more than half of the females to be non-local, while there were only single occurrences among the male and subadult individuals. This striking pattern of patrilocality and female exogamy prevailed between about 2500 and 1700 BC. It was independent of individual sites and their archaeological assignments to the Bell Beaker Complex or the Early Bronze Age. While the males ensured settlement continuity in a spatially limited area, the results indicate that the females were driving forces for regional and supra-regional communication and exchange at the dawn of the European Metal Ages.

*Julia Budka (LMU, Institute of Egyptology)*

### Across ancient borders and cultures: Mobility of Egyptian officials in New Kingdom Nubia

Combining facts from settlement and funerary archaeology has much potential, not only for reconstructing daily life, health and diet, but especially for understanding the ancient population which is one of the main goals of the ERC AcrossBorders project for the New Kingdom town of Sai in northern Sudan (Nubia). In addition to the analysis of finds and architecture from the settlement, the mortuary evidence helps investigating the coexistence of Egyptians and Nubians on the island. The location of Sai in a territory of strategic value with changing boundaries and alternating ruling powers in the Second Millennium BC (Egypt and Nubia) allows the addressing of questions of ancient lives across borders and cultures.

The paper will present results of the AcrossBorders project based on the study of the material culture, here especially of ceramics including data from iNAA. Furthermore, preliminary data on our analysis of the systematic variation in the isotopic composition of strontium in the environment of Sai and its significance for exploring the origin of people and their migration along the Nile will be highlighted.

*Carola Metzner-Nebelsick, with contributions by Simone Reuß and Dominika Klaut (LMU, Institute of Prehistoric Archaeology and Archaeology of the Roman Provinces)*

Mobility and cultural exchange in the eastern Alps and adjacent areas during the Urnfield Period (13th-9th c. B.C.) - a transdisciplinary case study within the DFG-Research Group FOR 1670 'Transalpine Mobility and Cultural Transfer'

The talk will introduce a trans-disciplinary research project within the Research Unit "*Transalpine Mobility and Cultural Transfer*", financed by the German Research Foundation (DFG). The unit deals with the establishment of an isotopic fingerprint for bioarchaeological finds, especially cremations, and its application to archaeological and cultural-historical problems from the Late Bronze Age up to Roman Times.

This still innovative methodological approach offers the opportunity to detect patterns of mobility and migration of individuals even for a period like the Late Bronze Age (13th-9th c. BC) in which the ubiquitous burial rite of cremation so far excluded stable isotope analysis.

For the project focusing on the Late Bronze Age in the eastern alpine region the question of migration in contrast to various forms of mobility and the interaction of people by means of exchange of goods, expertise, gifts etc. is of vital importance. It has been long argued that Late Bronze Age cremation cemeteries in the Tyrolean Inn Valley were founded by north alpine migrants. New studies focusing on archaeometallurgy, mining activities and settlement structure even speak of colonization by new-comers. The reason for this occupation was seen in the intention to exploit the copper ore deposits of the Inn Valley and to control the trade of copper ores or ingots to the north. The talk will discuss this theory on the basis of the archaeological record and will secondly show how anthropological analysis of stable isotopes can offer further insights.

### **Changes in material culture as a proxy for mobility, cultural influence, and contacts**

*Simone Mühl (LMU, Institute of Near Eastern Archaeology)*

Pots and people? Tracing mobility in the western Zagros mountain environment in the 3rd and 2nd millennium BC

The presentation is aiming at the problem of regional artefact distributions and their significance to address social or economic diversity in Ancient Near Eastern mountain valley environments of the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> millennium B.C. The focus will be kept on models of refugee and migration movements which are traditionally explained through abrupt changes in cultural material (e.g. ceramics) in archaeological contexts. Explorations at the ancient settlement mound Gird-i Shamlu in the Shahrizor plain, which lies near the Iraqi-Iranian border in southern Kurdistan, shall serve as an example, which can shed light on a possible refugee movement, which took place in the region about 3,500 years ago.

Michael Roaf (LMU, Institute of Near Eastern Archaeology)

### The migration of the Persians into Fars

*“It is now generally accepted that, by at least the late second millennium, Iranian people had infiltrated this territory [i.e. Persis or Fars] and mingled with the local population, a process leading to the emergence, or better ‘ethnogenesis’, of the people we call Persians.”*

This statement by Amelie Kuhrt in her magisterial *The Persian Empire: A Corpus of Sources from the Achaemenid Period* (2007, p. 47) epitomizes the current view of most of the leading historians of the Achaemenid Empire. In my talk, I will re-examine this thesis, showing that there is no evidence that the Persians arrived in Fars before the second half of the 8th century BC and that the ‘ethnogenesis’ of the Persians is a modern, largely fictional construction. The textual and archaeological sources are consistent with the proposal that the Persians migrated into Fars from a region some 750 km to the north-west, when their original homeland, Parsua, was annexed by the Assyrians.

Salvatore Ortisi (LMU, Institute of Prehistoric Archaeology and Archaeology of the Roman Provinces)

### Mobility and migration in the frontier provinces of the Roman Empire. The case study of Raetia on the Upper Danube

Mobility and migration play a decisive role for the cultural identity of the Roman northwestern provinces.

Depending on their military and infrastructural importance various forms of internal migration are particularly effective in the frontier provinces. Besides the Roman army the internal migration between the provinces and migration beyond the Imperial frontiers may have been essential factors in the development of new and often independent regional and provincial identities. The inclusion of individuals and minor groups of people from the *Barbaricum* was certainly a common phenomenon on the borders of the Roman Empire.

In the province of Raetia, migration movements that are not passed on in ancient sources can be reconstructed with the help of regionally specific artefacts of material culture such as brooches or weapons.

The foothills of the Alps between the rivers Danube, Iller and Inn, which were sparsely populated at the time of the Roman occupation according to the archaeological finds, seem to have been a classic immigration area in the 1st century. Various groups from the neighboring provinces, the Alpine region and probably also from the *Barbaricum* populated this area. Up until the late 2nd century AD groups of immigrants and migration movements are consistently perceivable, even further away from the larger military garrisons and settlements. This process continued with the acquisition of desolate settlements by Germanic immigrants in the 4th century AD up until the Late Antiquity.

*Mélanie Flossmann-Schütze (LMU, Institute of Egyptology)*

Aspects of mobility in animal cults of Late period and Greco-roman Egypt: a case study on the religious association at Tuna el-Gebel, Middle Egypt

The animal cemetery for ibises and baboons at Tuna el-Gebel in Middle Egypt is one of the largest burial grounds for deified animals in Late Period and Greco-Roman Egypt (700 BC–400 AD). The material remains of the underground galleries, cult chapels, temples, administrative buildings as well as the settlement and human cemetery, where members of the religious associations responsible for the animal cult lived and were buried, are abundant. Methodological tools like the „chaîne opératoire“, being used for the step-by-step analysis of the production of artifacts, and the „taskscape“, i.e. the interlocking of social actions and tasks in their spatial dimension, will be the basis for a study of different aspects of human and animal mobility necessary to organize the ritual landscape at Tuna el-Gebel. The cult for a sacred ibis or baboon and the production of an animal mummy will serve as a case study.

### **Network approaches and GIS**

*Margaret W. Conkey (UC Berkeley, Department of Anthropology)*

On the Move, Making Tracks, but Marking and Making Place in Ice Age Europe

In this presentation, I will discuss four things in regard to the mobilities of our European Ice Age ancestors: 1) some thoughts on why being “on the move” has not been taken seriously or in a more positive vein, by archaeologists and others; 2) what some of the evidence is for both mobility and rootedness for Upper Paleolithic peoples, and how it is represented; 3) what are the impactful dimensions of having been mobile peoples, in terms of what social and cultural developments they fostered; and 4) how mobile peoples, however, may have conceptualized “place”, how they marked their landscapes, and “made places”. The paper will try to re-frame how we conceptualize and represent these hunter-gatherer peoples, and why this matters.

*Caroline von Nicolai (LMU, Institute of Prehistoric Archaeology and Archaeology of the Roman Provinces)*

Transalpine contacts during the Neolithic: an indicator for human mobility and migration?

Until the discovery of the 5300 years old Ice Man “Ötzi” in 1991 in the Ötztal Alps (South Tyrol, Italy) at an altitude of 3210 m above sea level, the Alps, especially the high-altitude areas, were often thought to be a hostile environment and therefore only sparsely frequented in the Neolithic Era (5500-2100 BC). However, a certain number of archaeological artifacts which have been found in Southern Germany, Austria and Switzerland, as well as in Northern Italy, seem to have a foreign provenience, originating from the respective other side of the Alps. Hence, they show that the Alps did *not* constitute an insurmountable barrier in the past but were more or less permeable even during the Neolithic. We must therefore assume that contacts existed between North and South in this era but is still largely unknown how these contacts were organized, and whether they implied not only the

movement of objects but also of human beings. The aim of this paper is therefore to study whether the archaeological record allows to prove human mobility and migratory movements across the Alps during this period.

*Benjamin Porter (Berkeley, Department of Near Eastern Studies)*

Assembling Jerusalem: Peoples, Things, and Culture in Motion

This paper is one component of a larger project that examines the cultural forces over the past 2,500 years that created Jerusalem, a city that looms large in ancient and modern imaginaries as a sacred and contested space. While scholars have long recognized the role that pilgrimage and migration has played in the city's dynamics, less acknowledged are the material effects of these cultural practices that ultimately contributed to Jerusalem's built spaces. Fruitful case-studies abound in which one can deploy lessons from mobility and material culture studies, as buildings such as the Dome of the Rock, the Holy Sepulcher, the Western Wall all possess iterative biographies crafted through the peoples and things that were drawn to them. This preliminary workshop paper will explore these examples in miniature for the sake of developing a more detailed discussion in coming publications.

*Jun Sunseri (UC Berkeley, Department of Anthropology):*

Tactical Homescapes in Historical Archaeology - An equine biomechanical perspective

Human-animal coupled movement has tied physiographic spaces into peopled places via radical interventions in trade, communications, warfare, and labor. Yet few archaeologists have explored the geospatial consequences for horse travel with the most common of our landscape archaeology toolkits, GIS. The uniformitarian biomechanics of equine bodies over different types of terrain must complicate our understandings of temporality and territoriality in the different needs and capabilities of these species to structure and reproduce relationships between people, places and landscapes. A GIS-aided investigation focuses on the kinds of travel dynamics experienced by equestrians moving through landscapes both constraining and created by their partnership. By more closely interrogating the data returned via an actualistic approach we hope to offer insights into the dynamic interplay of factors which might be considered in other archaeological analyses of landscapes where people made a living with their equine mounts.