



AUSTRIAN
ACADEMY OF
SCIENCES

09–12 OCTOBER 2024

AUSTRIAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE

SEMINAR ROOM, THIRD FLOOR

OTTO WAGNER POSTSPARKASSE

GEORG-COCH-PLATZ 2, 1010 VIENNA

INTERNATIONAL HYBRID WORKSHOP

AND ONLINE VIA ZOOM



Detail of a burial excavation in the Roman catacomb of Sts Pierre-et-Marcellin in Rom (© D. Gliksman / Inrap)

HOW TO READ A GRAVE: FIFTY YEARS OF ARCHAEOTHANATOLOGY

THE EMERGENCE OF A DISCIPLINE, CONCEPTS AND APPLICATIONS, AND FUTURE PROSPECTS

A workshop within the framework of the Bioarchaeology Lab of the ÖAI coordinated by Andreas G. Heiss and Alfred Galik, organised by Caroline Partiot (ÖAI/ÖAW, Vienna) and Estella Weiss-Krejci (University of Heidelberg, ÖAI/ÖAW, Vienna).



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Since the second half of the 20th century, under the particular influence of Leroi-Gourhan's work, archaeology has undergone a major scientific transformation by prioritizing the analysis of human remains within their depositional context. This new approach serves as a nexus between fieldwork and laboratory analysis and has gradually led to profound conceptual and methodological reconsiderations of burials as an archaeological source. This has led to the emergence of a new discipline combining biological, social and cultural aspects of death, initiated in France between 1970 and 1980 by Henri Duday, initially known as "field anthropology" and now called "Archaeothanatology" or "The Archaeology of Death". This interdisciplinary field seeks to reconstruct the funerary customs carried out around the body of the deceased, as well as the organisation and arrangement of funerary spaces, in order to draw social conclusions and interpret mortuary behaviours. One of the fundamental procedures for understanding taphonomic processes (such as anomalies in the position of bones, constraints and displacements) is to observe the sequence of disarticulation of joints in the body. This workshop, in which Henri Duday will also participate as keynote speaker, aims to review the circumstances of the emergence and development of Archaeothanatology in recent decades in France and abroad. This event will examine the various methodological and conceptual aspects of Archaeothanatology, as well as the new perspectives opened up by the development of new methods such as 3D recording.

No registration fees, registration needed.

The workshop will be held in English, with the exception of the introduction and the public evening lecture by Henri Duday. The sections marked in red require additional registration (see the registration form).

[Registration for in-person attendance](#)

[Zoom registration - Wednesday, October 9](#)

[Zoom registration - Thursday, October 10](#)

[Zoom registration - Friday, October 11](#)

PROGRAM

This workshop is dedicated to the memory of Sabine Ladstätter.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9

17:00–18:00 Opening

Martin Steskal | Head Dpt. of Historical Archaeology

Presentation of the Austrian Archaeological Institute at the Austrian Academy of Sciences

Andreas G. Heiss | Group Leader – Coordination Bioarchaeology Lab

Presentation of the Bioarchaeology Lab & word in memory of Sabine Ladstätter

Caroline Partiot & Estella Weiss-Krejci | Austria; Germany

Introduction to the conference and presentation of the ARchaeoTHAnatology in Central Europe Working Group (ARTHA)

Philippe Sutter | Director, Institut Français, & **Nina Grisot** | Institut Français, coopération scientifique et universitaire

Presentation of the Institut Français and of the public evening lecture

18:00–18:30 Keynote Lecture

Henri Duday | France

Introduction à l'archéothanatologie – Introduction to Archaeothanatology

c. 18:30 Wine reception

20:00 Welcome reception

Griechenbeisl, Griechengasse 9 Fleischmarkt 11, 1010 Vienna

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10

8:45–9:15 COFFEE

(Chair: Andreas G. Heiss)

9:15–10:15 **Keynote Lecture**

Christopher C.J. Knüsel | France

Archaeothanatology, a work still in the process of becoming: dissemination and its obstacles

10:15–10:45 **Bruno Maureille** | France

Lost and found: archaeothanatology applied to the rediscovery of the primary Neanderthal burial site Le Moustier 2 (Le Moustier, Dordogne, France)

10:45–11:15 COFFEE BREAK

(Chair: Estella Weiss-Krejci)

11:15–11:45 **Sacha Kacki** | France, **Eline Schotsmans** | Australia, & **Sébastien Villotte** | France, Belgium

Archaeothanatology without excavation? Revealing complex mortuary practices at Cussac Cave (Mid-Upper Palaeolithic, France)

11:45–12:15 **Mark Guillon** | France

Archaeothanatology in preventive archaeology and field research archaeology: use, expected results and feedback

12:15–14:15 LUNCH BREAK

(Chair: Caroline Partiot)

14:15–14:45 **Isabelle Souquet** | France

Understanding the treatment of the dead from the archaeothanatological study of a mass grave from a Napoleonic battle

14:45–15:15 **Edeltraud Aspöck** | Austria, & **Astrid A. Notermann** | Sweden

The PresentDead project: archaeothanatology and the analysis of reopened inhumation graves

15:15–15:45 Estella Weiss-Krejci | Germany; Austria

Histotaphonomy and post-hoc archaeothanatology: case studies from Austrian prehistory

15:45–16:30 Visit of the Austrian Archaeological Institute

18:00 Public evening lecture (in French)

Henri Duday | France

Evolution des concepts, évolution des méthodes dans l'étude des sépultures collectives néolithiques : l'Aven de la Boucle à Corconne (Gard, France)

The lecture will take place at the Institut Français, Praterstraße 38 (1020).

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11

8:45–9:15 COFFEE

(Chair: Lukas Waltenberger)

9:15–9:45 Eline M.J. Schotsmans | Australia; France

From flesh to bone: conducting forensic experiments for a better understanding of archaeothanatology and mortuary sequences

9:45–10:15 Hayley L. Mickleburgh | Netherlands

'Realtime' archaeothanatology: integrating Virtual Archaeology and Forensic Taphonomy with Archaeothanatology

10:15–10:45 Géraldine Sachau-Carcel | France

The rise of the multidimensional dig: about the virtual taphonomy

10:45–11:15 COFFEE BREAK

(Chair: Christopher C.J. Knüsel)

11:15–11:45 Katharina Rebay-Salisbury | Austria, **Magdolna Vicze** | Hungary

An unusual burial at the Bronze Age tell settlement of Százhalombatta, Hungary

11:45–12:15 **Arwa Kharobi** | Czechia

Bronze Age Khabur through an archaeothanatological lens

12:15–14:15 LUNCH BREAK

(Chair: Katharina Rebay-Salisbury)

14:15–14:45 **Hemmamuthé Goudiaby** | France

Context matters: applying archaeothanatological approaches to Ancient Maya burials

14:45–15:15 **Emilie Portat** | France, **Imed Ben Jerbania** | Tunisia & **Henri Duday** | France

The « Salammô » tophet in Carthage (6th–2nd centuries BC): a new archaeothanatological reading

15:15–15:45 **Caroline Partiot, Elise Baudouin & Martin Steskal** | Austria

Pouring new wine into old bottles: an archaeothanatological approach to burial reuse practices in Byzantine Ephesos (Turkey)

15:45–16:00 *Conclusion of the workshop*

16:00–17:30 **Practical session (with advance registration)**

Henri Duday | France, & **Christopher C.J. Knüsel** | France

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12

Morning **Tour of the Natural History Museum exhibition halls**

meeting time to be determined