



Österreichisches
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CiA
2026

Histotaphonomy – Problems and Perspectives

A Workshop in the Framework of „CiA 2026“

Tuesday, 20 October 2026

Austrian Academy of Sciences
Georg-Coch-Platz 2, 1010 Vienna

co-organized by the Cluster „Body and Death“
of the German Archaeological Institute and the
Bioarchaeology Lab of the Austrian Archaeological
Institute

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www.dainst.org/forschung/projekte/cluster-3-koerper-und-tod/5731





Histotaphonomy – Problems and Perspectives

In recent years, histotaphonomy has become a popular archaeological method for studying the microstructural changes to bone that occur after death. Various analytical techniques are employed, including transmitted light microscopy, BSE-SEM, and micro-CT. By examining differences in the microbial, chemical, and physical degradation of bone (diagenesis), archaeologists are able to draw conclusions about ancient post-mortem body treatments and burial environments. However, the interpretations are not without their challenges.

The upcoming 2026 'Cremations in Archaeology' conference in Vienna provides the perfect backdrop for this one-day event, which aims to bring together researchers interested in the histotaphonomic analysis of human and animal bones. We invite pitch presentations of no more than 10 minutes, designed

to stimulate lively discussion and active exchange. The focus is less on presenting final research results and more on highlighting the problems and questions that have arisen during the research process, as well as on the possibilities for research into body-related practices. Topics may range from sample preparation and analytical methods to issues of interpretation.

This free in-person event is co-organised by the Research Cluster 'Body and Death' of the German Archaeological Institute and by the Austrian Archaeological Institute's Bioarchaeology Lab. If you would like to give a presentation or simply attend, please send an email to Alexander.Grams@dainst.de by **August 1, 2026** at the latest. Students are most welcome.

Date: Tuesday October 20, 2026, 10 am–6 pm

Venue:

Austrian Archaeological Institute (OeAI)
Austrian Academy of Sciences
Dominikanerbastei 16
1010 Vienna, Austria
4th floor, conference rooms 5–7