

## **The Annual Meeting and Workshop of the SGA and the AGHAS, November 2017**

On Saturday, November 25<sup>th</sup>, this year's annual meeting of the Swiss Society for Anthropology (SGA) took place at the Institute of Evolutionary Medicine at the University of Zurich. On Friday, November 24<sup>th</sup>, the SGA and the AGHAS (Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Historische Anthropologie der Schweiz) had organized a workshop about "teeth" at the same place. For this very interesting but sometimes unregarded topic they could win the keynote speakers Dr. Birgit Grosskopf from the University of Göttingen and Dr. Jocelyn Desideri as well as her Master student Audrey Bridy from the University of Geneva. After an introduction into the morphology of teeth and Tooth Cementum Annulation (TCA) the afternoon was reserved for non-metric traits and a practical training. Saturday thereafter was the perfect day for the annual meeting. The morning started with coffee and croissants and with the official business meeting of the society in which a lot of important items have been vividly discussed. Around that, the meeting went much longer as planned but ended up with interesting new inputs and plans for the future of the SGA and the AGHAS.

Related to the workshop about teeth, the annual meeting went on with this topic. The keynote speaker Stefano Benazzi from the Department of Cultural Heritage of the University of Bologna started with a lecture about dental macrowear: "From dental macrowear to biomechanics". His presentation showed that the study of dental macrowear in early hominid until modern *Homo sapiens* helps for the reconstruction of paleodiet, para-masticatory activities, occlusal contact restoration and functional biomechanics. One surprisingly conclusion of his studies was that the macrowear of the teeth might actually be helpful to reduce tensile stress at tooth.

According to the discussed topic about non-metric traits on teeth, Dr. Jocelyn Desideri showed some projects and application possibilities which have been conducted at the University of Geneva. Dental non-metric traits are used to identify mobility of individuals and they are highly correlated with the results of isotopic investigations. Victoria Kern (University of Vienna/University of Zurich) started her presentation with a short introduction about the virtual investigation of tooth forms. Only size and shape together lead to the correct form which can be used for further investigations and comparisons, as presented in her talk about "Mandibular premolars' enamel-dentine-junction: Morphology and discrete traits".

After a very nice pizza enjoyment at the nearby restaurant, the afternoon was characterized by some interesting presentations based on the famous hospital cemetery from Basel. The hospital records still exist on these buried individuals, therefore the material gives the unique opportunity to verify or newly develop analytical methods. Gabriela Mani-Caplazi tried to conduct the TCA-method by using synchrotron CT pictures. F. Alexandros Karakostis presented a new 3D based method to evaluate hand muscle attachment markers. David Roth and Christina Schmidt presented the tragically but scientifically interesting story of Babette Saxer. She was a runtish woman from Basel to whom the first well documented Caesarean section has been performed. Unfortunately, she did not survive this medical operation but her baby did.

Nakita Frater gave a presentation on the vertebral column curvature of the Neanderthal from La Chapelle-aux-Saints. Geneviève Perréard about newly found identity and very interesting trepanation of the infant individual in 18th century burials in the church choir of Daillens (Vaud) made the final of the this year's annual meeting. The participants ended up with interesting discussions, a fine glass of wine and some nibbles.