

## **The Annual Meeting and Workshop of the SGA and the AGHAS, October 2018**

The 2018 Annual SGA meeting's activities were held at Lausanne and Bern. During the first day (October 5<sup>th</sup>), 17 participants of the workshop on *"Imaging in Anthropology"* were warmly received at the Centre universitaire romand de médecine légale at Lausanne (CURML). During the morning session, a series of lectures introduced the subject in the forensic and anthropological context. Dr. Negahnaz Moghaddam welcomed the participants, followed by Prof. Silke Grabherr, director of the CURML, who talked on *"Forensic Imaging and Anthropology at the CURML"*. Dr. Fabrice Dedouit (CURML) and Prof. Niels Lynnerup (University of Copenhagen, Denmark) gave presentations on *"Imaging and Anthropology: towards virtual anthropology"* and *"The new osteological collections. Using forensic postmortem imaging for osteological research"*, respectively, with a focus on the potential of imaging in anthropology and forensic sciences. The evening session included a series of presentations and practicals, offered by the staff of CURML, IRM Bern and IEM Zurich. Dipl. Ing. Lorenzo Campana (CURML) explained the *"3D-surface acquisition"* with the use of sophisticated equipment and techniques. M.A. Amelie Alterauge (IRM Bern) and Dr. Roger Seiler (IEM, Zurich) presented on *"Mobile X-ray device"* the benefits of portable radiographic devices for the study of human and dental remains. Dr. Pia Genet (CURML) introduced the use of *"Imaging in age-estimation of the living"*, giving the theoretical framework of the methods applied, while participants were actively involved in applying these methods on specific cases. MER. Alejandro Dominguez (CURML), presented on *"Computed tomography"*, demonstrating the facilities at the CURML and inviting participants to familiarize themselves with the preparation of human skeletal remains for the scanning process. Lunch and closing reception were offered under the sunny sky of Lausanne.

During the second day (October 6<sup>th</sup>), activities took place at the Unitobler in Bern. The morning session was devoted to the official business meeting of the SGA and the AGHAS. The evening session included three keynote lectures and various presentations. The first keynote lecture was given by Dr. Estelle Herrscher (Aix-Marseille Université, Marseille), on *"Understanding millet crop diffusion from Asia to Europe: the key region of Caucasus"*, presenting the fascinating project on an interdisciplinary study of various sites in the area of Caucasus, dating from the Neolithic to the Early Iron Age. The second keynote lecture was given by Marcel Keller (PhD candidate at the Max Planck Institute, Jena) on *"The First and Second Plague Pandemic: what have we learned from ancient DNA?"*, presenting the current state of play regarding bacterial genome reconstructions from archaeological material. Furthermore, Prof. Niels Lynnerup (University of Copenhagen) presented *"Old and new corpses: forensic pathological imaging"*, showing the numerous possibilities of imaging and 3D reconstruction in the study of mummies (e.g. the bog mummies of Denmark and the Andean mummies of Argentina), and forensic cases. The remaining presentations offered interesting insights into various bioarchaeological aspects: Dr. Chryssa Bourbou (University of Fribourg) discussed on the *"Diagnosis of pathological conditions in perinatal skeletal remains-an impossible task? The case of Aventicum, Roman Switzerland (1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> c. AD)"*, emphasizing on the promises and pitfalls derived from the study of perinatal remains from Aventicum; Inga Siebke (PhD candidate, University of Bern), presented on *"Morphological Analyses of Late Neolithic human remains from Oberbipp"*, discussing the results of a multidisciplinary study on an important Neolithic assemblage from Switzerland. David Roth (University of Basel), talked on *"Die menschlichen Überreste aus der neolithischen Höhle von Els Trocs (Bisaurri, Spanien)"*, demonstrating the results of a study of a Neolithic human skeletal collection from Spain. Finally, Dr. Christine Cooper (Amt für Kultur / Archäologie im Fürstentum Liechtenstein), offered a presentation on *"Anthropologische Untersuchungen der Skelette aus dem Anstaltsfriedhof von Cazis-Realta"*, discussing the intriguing paleopathological conditions suffered by the patients of an Institution at Cazis-Realta. The excellently organized second day closed with a wonderful reception.

Dr. Chryssa Bourbou