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d'Anthropologie

2025 BULLETIN



Overlapping burials discovered at the Lully site (Bernex, Geneva)

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Contents

Information from the SGA/SSA board	4
Report of the SGA/ SSA Annual Meeting and Workshop 2025 in Vaduz	5
Annual Meeting Contributions	7
Does hard work pay off? Application of New Methods for Frailty Estimation and Age at Death on the Skeletal Remains from the Early Iron Age Cemetery Hallstatt, Austria - <i>Nikolai Goritschnig</i>	8
Working, Apprenticing, and Building together: Insights from the Genevan Experience at Lully (Bernex) - <i>Jocelyne Desideri, Audrey Poncet and Nathan Badoud</i>	11
Plants in early alpine food systems: Microbotanical signatures from dental calculus, Middle Neolithic Barmaz I and II, Valais, Switzerland - <i>Charlie Le Moyne, Déborah Rosselet-Christ and Jocelyne Desideri</i>	12
Trauma prevalence in two early medieval skeletal series from the canton of GR - <i>Viera Trancik Petitpierre</i>	13
Widespread Skeletal Pathology in a 19th-Century UK Soldier: Combining Macroscopic, Radiographic, and Micro-CT Analysis - <i>Chiara Huwiler, Thomas Delbey and Nivien Petiti</i> .	14
Late antique burials with animal bones from Zizers (GR) Vial, Schlossbungert - <i>Joe Heinrich, Sandra Pichler, Sabine Deschler-Erb, Viera Trancik Petitpierre</i>	15
Misfortune strikes in threes? Trauma as a pathway to intersecting identities and health inequality in an Early Modern skeletal sample from Basel - <i>Laura Rindlisbacher and Sandra Pichler</i>	17
Pelvis Morphology and Locomotor Energetics: Preliminary Findings from Athletes - <i>Cédric Cordey, Jasmin Sonogo, Guillermo Bravo Morante, Martin Hora, Michal Struška, Vladimír Sládek, Christina Spengler, Johannes Scherr, Nora Wieloch, Nicole M. Webb, Martin Haeusler</i>	18
Interpersonal violence among early production societies in the Horn of Africa: new evidences from Antakari 3 - <i>Laura Maréchal, Mariam Abdoukader, Jocelyne Desideri, Amélie Diaz, Stéphane Hérouin, Yasmine Mechadi, Carlo Mologni, Jessie Cauliez</i>	20
Neuauwertung des Grabes eines "enthaupteten Verbrechers" aus dem Gräberfeld Windisch-Dammstrasse - <i>Lukas Gomez, Viera Trancik Petitpierre and Sandra Pichler</i>	21

Growing Up Human? Ontogenetic Insights from the Femur of Turkana Boy - <i>Benjamin Tournan, Alessandro Urciuoli, Guillermo Bravo Morante, Christine Tardieu, Tea Jashashvili, Christopher Ruff and Martin Haeusler</i>	22
Cute dogs and risky birth - <i>Victoria Poltze, Guillermo Bravo Morante, Henning Richter, Karen Rosenberg, Nicole Grunstra and Martin Haeusler</i>	23
Sketches of the Present, Echoes of the Past: A Journey into a Medieval Necropolis - <i>Jocelyne Desideri and Raphaël Seyfried</i>	24
R_AGE: Refining AGE-at-Death Estimates through Late-Maturing Skeletal Markers - <i>Axelle Paszkowiak and Jocelyne Desideri</i>	27
Revealing Past Maternal Lives: Evidence from the Simon Reference Collection of identified skeletons - <i>Mila Courlet and Jocelyne Desideri</i>	30
Cremation Analysis and Insights into Past Lives: The Roman Necropolis of Grandvillard Fossard d’En-Bas (Fribourg) - <i>Antoine Mailhot and Jocelyne Desideri</i>	33
Student Grant Reports	36
Fieldwork Report – South Africa (January–February 2026) - <i>Victoria Poltze and Benjamin Tournan</i>	37
Members’ Information	39

Information from the SGA/SSA board

By Jocelyne Desideri

Here is the second volume of the new edition of the Bulletin of the Swiss Society of Anthropology !

In this issue, you will find the report on the SGA/SSA Annual Meeting and Workshop 2025, which took place in Vaduz last November, as well as a section presenting the oral and written contributions delivered at the meeting. This volume also includes a fieldwork report by Victoria Poltze and Benjamin Tournan, doctoral students from the University of Zurich, who were awarded grants to support their research missions in South Africa.

In addition, we are pleased to provide a section with information for members, including the English and French translations of two key documents - the Society's statutes and the guidelines for submitting applications for student grants - which are now also available on the Society's website at the following address <https://anthropologie.ch>, alongside the German versions.

We wish you an enjoyable read and look forward to meeting you in person at our Annual Assembly in Bern in June 2026.

Report of the SGA/SSA Annual Meeting and Workshop 2025 in Vaduz

By Joe Heinrich, Aimée Nixon and Federico Fibbioli

The 2025 Annual Meeting and Workshop of the Swiss Society for Anthropology took place on November 28-29 in Vaduz at the Liechtenstein National Museum and it was kindly organized by Christine Cooper and the Liechtenstein National Museum.

The main topic of this meeting was trauma in the human skeletal remains.



Friday 28th of November

The first day of the conference was held in a room at the Liechtenstein National Museum. After an initial welcome, the Skeletal Trauma Session began. During this session, Dr. Viera Trancik Petitpierre presented the results of the analysis of two series of medieval skeletons from the canton of Grisons. This was followed by a presentation of research by Laura Maréchal, Mariam Abdoulkader, Jocelyne Desideri, Amélie Diaz, Stéphane Hérouin, Yasmine Mechadi, Carlo Mogni, and Jessie Cauliez on the Antakari 3 archaeological site in Africa (Interpersonal violence among early production societies in the Horn of Africa: new evidence from Antakari 3).

Laura Rindlisbacher then presented the results of her research on Trauma as a pathway to intersecting identities and health inequality in an Early Modern skeletal sample from Basel.

The session concluded with a keynote talk by Dr. Thomas Böni on Pathological Fractures and how to distinguish them from traumatic fractures.

During the Varia Session, Nikolai Goritschnig presented the results of applying a new method for estimating the age of death on skeletal remains and compared the results obtained with

this method with those obtained with another method on skeletal remains from the Early Iron Age Cemetery Hallstatt in Austria.

Jocelyne Desideri presented the current excavation organized by the University of Geneva in Lully, where burials were found.

Cédric Cordey then presented the preliminary results of a study on pelvic depth (Pelvic Depth, not Width, predicts Locomotor Energetics: Preliminary Findings from Athletes).

Charlie Le Moyne presented his research on microbotanical remains in dental impressions, and Joe Heinrich presented his bachelor thesis, in which he analysed human and animal remains in some burials from Zizers (Grisons). Finally, Chiara Huwiler spoke about her study on Skeletal Pathology in a 19th-Century UK Soldier, in which she combined macroscopic, radiographic, and micro-CT analysis.

To conclude the series of presentations, posters from the Institute of Evolutionary Medicine in Zurich and the University of Lausanne were presented. The posters showed master theses and current research projects in progress.

Saturday 29th of November

On Saturday morning the meeting continued at the Liechtenstein National Museum with the general assembly of the Swiss Society of Anthropology. During the general assembly Sandra Löschi reviewed the activities of the past year, the budget and accounts were approved and the current status of the bulletin was presented. Timea Remsey was declared as the new webmaster and Lara Indra was warmly thanked for her previous work as webmaster. New members of the Swiss Society of Anthropology were welcomed and it was emphasized that this year's meeting had more participants than it had in a long time. During the assembly a group of members presented the newly formed working group for field anthropology. They wish to connect excavating anthropologists in Switzerland and address the lack of standardised field documentation in the German speaking parts. Christine Cooper and the Liechtenstein National Museum were warmly thanked for the organisation of this year's assembly, for providing the location and the very appreciated catering.

Lunch was served at the restaurant New Castle in a nice rustical atmosphere.

In the afternoon the second part of the Skeletal Trauma Session took place where Lukas Gomez presented one skeleton of his bachelor thesis, where he talked about the presumed method of execution used on this individual. Afterwards Marco Milella, new Professor at the University of Pisa, held his enlightening Keynote Talk about "Bodies of communication: reading violence as a social language". After the Trauma Session Giada Steiger, PhD student at the Liverpool John Moores University, held a workshop about "Identifying Trauma in Forensic and Archaeological Human Remains". The participants learned which tools and weapons lead to what kind of trauma. The main focus was put on different kind of knives/blades and how to distinguish which cutmarks on bone are caused by which kind of blade. Later participants could test their learned knowledge with pictures of cutmarks and compare it to the results a trained AI concluded.

The meeting closed after the workshop.

Annual Meeting Contributions

Does hard work pay off? Application of New Methods for Frailty Estimation and Age at Death on the Skeletal Remains from the Early Iron Age Cemetery Hallstatt, Austria

Nikolai Goritschnig

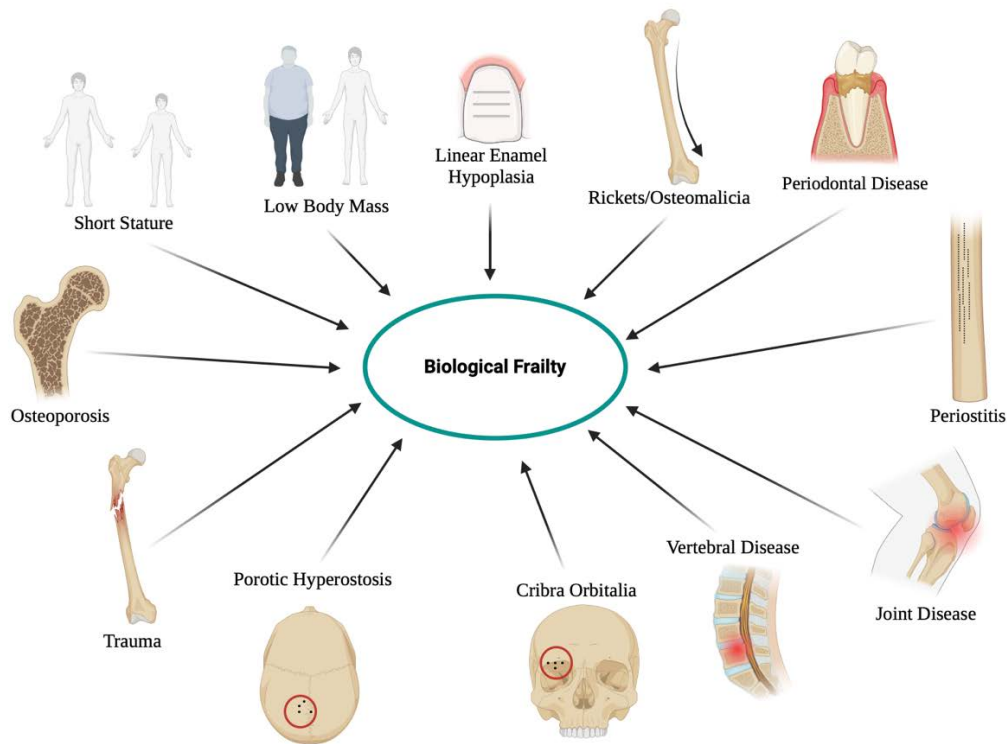
University of Bern, Switzerland

Hallstatt in Austria is one of the key archaeological sites for the European Early Iron Age and closely associated with large scale salt production. Because this economic setting is often linked to demanding labour, Hallstatt offers an important framework for exploring how work and living conditions are reflected in skeletal health. This study reassesses age at death and investigates biological frailty in an adult cemetery sample by combining Transition Analysis 3 as a probabilistic ageing approach with the Biological Index of Frailty as a standardised measure of skeletal stress.



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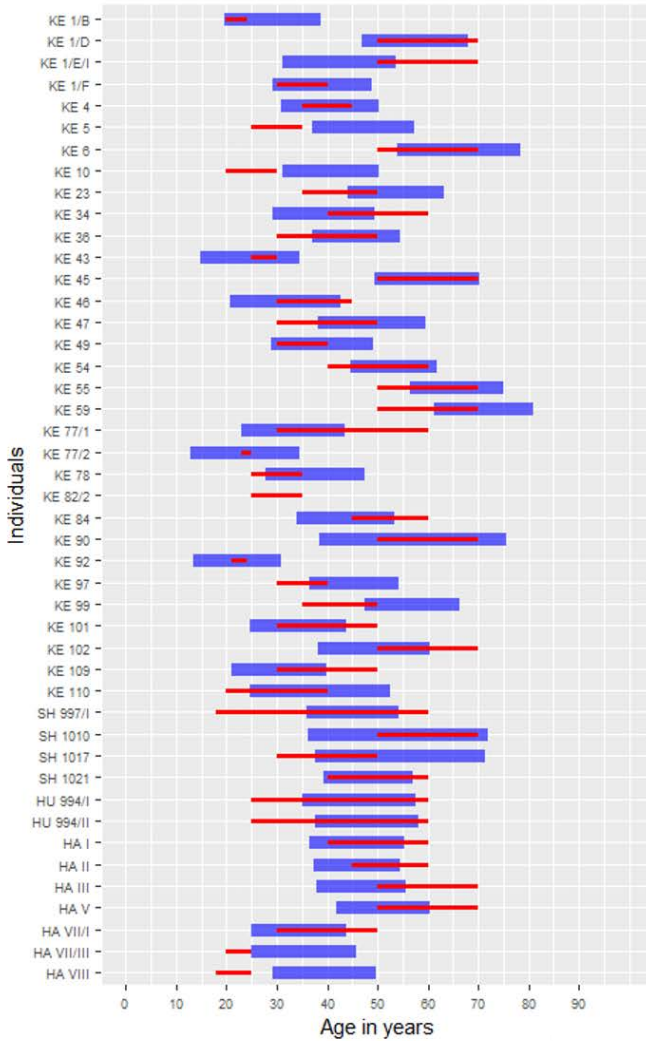
For this study a total of 165 individuals was available. After age based exclusion and the removal of poorly preserved and highly fragmented remains, 91 adult individuals formed the final sample. Previously established sex determinations and traditional age estimates were used as a reference, and Transition Analysis 3 was applied wherever sufficient traits were observable. Frailty was assessed using the Biological Index of Frailty, which combines 12 skeletal biomarkers into a weighted score to allow comparisons between groups.



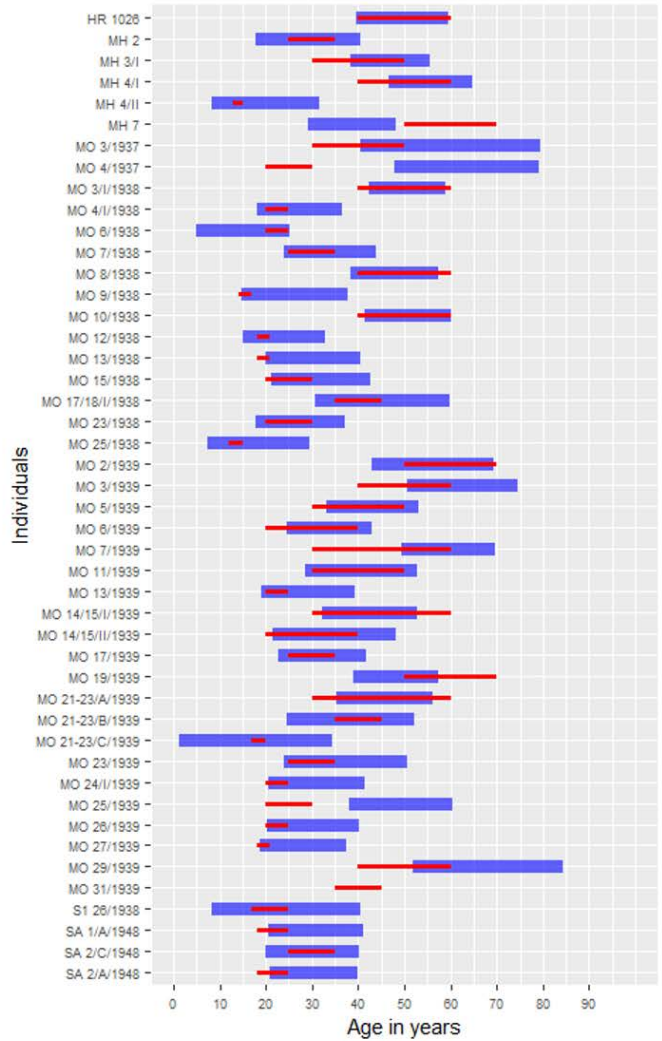
Traditional age estimates were available for all 91 individuals, while Transition Analysis 3 could be applied to 89. On average, 31.2 of 126 Transition Analysis 3 traits were observable per individual, corresponding to 24.2 percent. Median age at death estimates were similar for both approaches, with 40.0 years for the traditional method and 40.7 years for Transition Analysis 3. Precision differed between methods, with a mean deviation of 7.5 years for traditional estimates and a mean standard error of 10.9 years for Transition Analysis 3 ($Z = -5.405$, $p < 0.001$, $n = 89$). Biological Index of Frailty scores clustered around medium frailty, with a median score of 22.65. Mean frailty scores were 26.45 in females and 24.22 in males, with no significant sex difference ($U = 486$, $p = 0.496$, $n = 69$). Mean scores were 24.91 in individuals under 50 years and 29.66 in those older than 50 years, with no significant difference ($U = 467$, $p = 0.276$, $n = 78$). Across the whole frailty profile, biomarkers associated with physical stress were more frequent than those typically linked to nutritional stress.

These findings support the interpretation of other studies that adult women and men in Hallstatt experienced comparable levels of skeletal stress, consistent with a community shaped by sustained physical work. At the same time, the comparatively low expression of biomarkers associated with malnutrition suggests that nutritional stress was not a dominant factor among the people of Hallstatt, which fits a context in which access to resources may have been relatively stable. Transition Analysis 3 shows strong potential for age at death estimation, but greater reference data is needed to increase precision. However, even at its current stage, it can be a valuable tool, especially for poorly preserved individuals where traditional ageing methods are often limited.

Individual age at death estimation



Individual age at death estimation



— Traditional Methods
 ■ Transition Analysis 3

Supervisors: Prof. Dr. Sabine Eggers (NHM Vienna, Anthropology Department); Dr. Margit Berner (NHM Vienna, Anthropology Department); Dr. Doris Pany-Kucera (NHM Vienna, Anthropology Department)

Working, Apprenticing, and Building together: Insights from the Genevan Experience at Lully (Bernex)

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A new construction project in Lully (Bernex), in the canton of Geneva, has once again brought together the University of Geneva and the Cantonal Archaeology Service to launch a training excavation. Following earlier editions in Aire-la-Ville (2022) and Vessy (2024), the initiative offers students the chance either to deepen their skills or to take their first steps in funerary archaeology.

The site under investigation - a funerary area whose precise dating is still in progress - comprises several wall remains, more than a hundred individual graves, and some unusual burials. The excavation, which began on June 23 and will continue until October 31, 2025, serves as a field school for bachelor's, master's, and even doctoral students, mainly from the University of Geneva. More than 15 students have already gained hands-on experience in funerary archaeology: learning excavation methods, mastering recording techniques, and practicing the processing of finds, sediments, and documentation (protocols, drawings, photography). At the same time, Geneva-based anthropologists are implementing a newly revised, expanded, and modernized field documentation system, bridging research innovation with hands-on training.

This presentation shares the preliminary results of this preventive excavation, which also served as a highly successful field school. It highlights not only the findings, but also the fruitful collaboration carried out by two Genevan institutions - SAGe and ARCAN - to design new protocols aimed at improving data collection, quality, and processing.

Plants in early alpine food systems: Microbotanical signatures from dental calculus, Middle Neolithic Barmaz I and II, Valais, Switzerland

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2 - Plant Humanities, Royal Botanic Garden, Kew

Reflecting regionally specific adaptations to the environmental conditions of the inner Alps, Neolithic trajectories in the Rhone Valley are characterised by increasingly elaborate funerary traditions, southern transalpine influences, and an emphasis on sheep/goat herding. Unlike adjacent regions such as the Swiss Plateau and the French Alps, evidence from the Rhone Valley provides limited indication for the exploitation of wild plant and animal species. Instead, subsistence appears to have relied primarily on domesticates within the fertile alluvial plain and lower valley slopes. However, detecting plant use is often constrained by the inherent biases associated with the carbonisation of various plant remains (i.e. greater preservation of cereals, legumes and shelled fruits) and the composition of storage contexts.

Microbotanical analyses - such as the study of starch granules from dental calculus - provides an alternative means through which we can detect past processing and consumption of plant species often underrepresented in the archaeological record. As part of an ongoing SNSF-funded project investigating Neolithic socio-economic trajectories in the Rhone Valley, this paper presents new dental calculus results from 22 individuals from Barmaz I and II (4500-3800 BCE). Alongside evidence for domesticated cereals, the identification of underground storage organs and traces of cooking practices reveal additional aspects of Neolithic plant use and diet. Contextualised within existing studies, these findings provide a complementary perspective and highlight the importance of integrating microbotanical approaches as part of broader multiproxy frameworks.

Trauma prevalence in two early medieval skeletal series from the canton of GR

Viera Trancik Petitpierre

IPAS, University of Basel, Switzerland

During archaeological investigations, 55 graves were recovered in Sagogn and 57 in Tamins, canton GR (Trancik Petitpierre 2023; 2025). Radiocarbon dating of various individuals shows that both cemeteries were in use between the 5th/6th and 8th/9th centuries. Neither burial ground has been completely excavated, but they nevertheless provide initial insights into the populations at that time, including the prevalence of trauma.

The data from Sagogn indicate a farming population with an average height of 167 cm for men (n=22) and 158 cm for women (n=16). Healed fractures were found on the skulls, upper and lower extremities, and ribs of both male and female skeletons, as well as those of children, with a high prevalence of long bones fractures (Table 1). In Tamins, the data indicate that the deceased may have belonged to a higher social position. The average height of the men is 172 cm (n=23) and that of the women 156 cm (n=12). Healed fractures are only detected in the skeletons of men. The affected body parts include the skull, upper arm, hand, vertebrae, femur, patella, and foot. The prevalence of fractures in the long bones is low (Table 2).

The preliminary results of this study indicate that systematic recording of trauma is also a useful tool for describing physical stress of past populations.

	N Observable LB	n Affected LB	%
Male	140	3	2.1
Female	114	8	7.0
Indet	34	0	0.0
Non-adults	48	1	2.1
Total	336	12	3.6

Table 1 - Fracture prevalence in long bones in Sagogn (LB = Long Bones)

	N Observable LB	n Affected LB	%
Male	284	2	0.7
Female	131	0	0
Indet	21	0	0
Non-adults	54	0	0
Total	490	2	0.4

Table 2 - Fracture prevalence in long bones in Tamins (LB = Long Bones)

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Widespread Skeletal Pathology in a 19th-Century UK Soldier: Combining Macroscopic, Radiographic, and Micro-CT Analysis

Chiara Huwiler, Thomas Delbey and Nivien Petiti

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This study analyses a single skeleton with extensive pathological changes to explore how macroscopic, radiographic, and micro-CT approaches complement each other in reconstructing individual life history and health. The human remains belong to a probable file-and-rank soldier (18-25 years) buried in the mid-19th-century military cemetery at Chatham, Kent (UK). Macroscopic assessment was combined with radiographic and micro-CT analysis of the upper limbs.

Lesions were mapped, characterised, and interpreted within a differential diagnosis and osteobiographical framework. The skeleton displays widespread mixed lytic and proliferative lesions, periosteal reactions, and porosities affecting nearly all major skeletal regions. Both woven and lamellar bone were observed, indicating chronic, systemic and partly healing processes. Reflecting the multi-method approach showed the value of macroscopy to give the diagnostic baseline, radiography to confirm internal changes, and micro-CT to refine lesion characterisation.

Although no definitive diagnosis was reached, findings point to a multifocal, chronic, and aggressive process affecting most of the skeleton, broadening the differential diagnosis to include non-local pathogens associated with overseas service. The findings highlight significant physiological stress and long-term disease burden in a young adult soldier, likely reflecting military life, overseas exposure, and possible hospital treatment before death.

Late antique burials with animal bones from Zizers (GR) Vial, Schlossbungert

Joe Heinrich, Sandra Pichler, Sabine Deschler-Erb †, Viera Trancik Petitpierre

IPAS, University of Basel, Switzerland

In Zizers (GR) 16 late antique graves were excavated in 2021–2022, nine of which contained animal bones. These were investigated in an interdisciplinary BSc thesis (Heinrich 2025), addressing the following research questions: Who were these people and what were their life histories? What animal species were identified? What characterizes burials with animal bones as opposed to those without?

The burial community consists of seven men, four women, two likely females and three infants II–juveniles in total (Heinrich 2025, Trancik Petitpierre 2023). In terms of physical activity, all of the seven adults investigated within the BSc thesis show medium to major enthesial changes in the shoulder and thigh regions. Most of the individuals show multiple pathologies. Caries is the most frequent one, but spinal pathologies like Morbus Scheuermann and scoliosis follow closely. Multiple individuals show well-healed fractures, with a healed skull fracture of individual 17 showcasing good medical knowledge (figure 1). The animal species found as grave goods are sheep/goat, pig and one Galliformes. Very young animals as well as animals at prime slaughtering age were chosen.



Figure 1 – Zizers GR Vial, Schlossbungert. Healed fracture of the right os temporale in individual 17. Because of the location of the fracture both an accident or interpersonal violence may have caused this blunt force trauma (Photo: Joe Heinrich)

The people of late antique Zizers appear to have carried out strenuous physical labour. Simultaneously they exhibited a variety of pathological lesions, some probably caused by their everyday labours. Other lesions are indicative of instances of physiological stress and/or malnourishment during childhood. In terms of animal grave goods, Zizers shows similarities

with the late antique burial site of Rhäzüns (GR), while they differ in species and frequencies from other regions (Casaulta et al. 2022). The graves with animal bones and those without only diverge regarding the burial position of the humans. This suggests that animals weren't offered because of a special social status of the interred but represented a distinct ritual among the specific group.

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Misfortune strikes in threes? Trauma as a pathway to intersecting identities and health inequality in an Early Modern skeletal sample from Basel

Laura Rindlisbacher and Sandra Pichler

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Traumatic injuries oftentimes change a person's life profoundly, but outcomes may differ dependent on their socioeconomic status (SES). Low-SES individuals don't have access to the same resources as their wealthier peers and thus for them traumatic injuries might initiate a spiral of an even further loss of resources.

The post-Reformation skeletal sample from the Stadtcasino site in Basel, with its high percentage of pathological lesions including numerous evidences of skeletal trauma, offers an excellent case study to observe the possible impact of traumatic injuries in an Early Modern urban setting. While men and women show different injury patterns, the overall proportion of traumatic lesions is the same for both sexes. These patterns offer insights into processes of marginalization due to "differential access to resources, unequal workloads, and structural violence burdening some members of a society due to their [...] status" (Mant et al. 2021, 586).

By considering additional pathological processes beyond traumatic lesions, we assessed the impact of injury events on the overall health of individuals and identified groups which might have been more prone to spirals of resource loss. A comparison of three different burial groups in the Stadtcasino sample opens up a glimpse into a diverse population of lower-SES individuals who lived in a society with rigid rules and norms about individual and societal morality. It thus becomes evident that adequate injury recovery seemed to have been a luxury not granted to all residents of Early Modern Basel.

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Pelvis Morphology and Locomotor Energetics: Preliminary Findings from Athletes

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The obstetrical dilemma proposes that the human pelvis evolved as a compromise between accommodating the birth of large-brained offspring and maintaining efficient bipedal locomotion. According to classic biomechanical models, increases in pelvic width, particularly bi-acetabular breadth, should reduce the mechanical advantage of the hip abductors, thereby increasing the energetic cost of locomotion. This framework has strongly influenced interpretations of sexual dimorphism in pelvic morphology and the evolutionary constraints acting on female pelvic form. However, more recent dynamic and experimental biomechanical studies have challenged these predictions, reporting negligible or inconsistent effects of pelvic breadth on walking energetics. Subsequent reanalysis of these data suggested weak but statistically significant increases in energy expenditure with greater bi-acetabular width, particularly in females, leaving the functional and evolutionary relevance of pelvic morphology unresolved.

To further investigate the relationship between pelvic shape and locomotor energetics, we conducted an experimental study combining metabolic, kinematic, and kinetic measurements with detailed three-dimensional assessments of pelvic morphology. Cost of transport (COT) was measured at preferred walking speed as well as at fixed speeds of 1.5 m/s, 2.5 m/s, and 3.5 m/s in a sex-balanced sample of trained endurance runners (total N = 60). This population was chosen to minimize variation in gait mechanics due to fitness or movement inefficiency and to facilitate comparisons across speeds. Pelvic and lower limb morphology were captured using MRI-based 3D models, and whole-pelvis shape was quantified using a configuration of 64 fixed anatomical landmarks.

At present, analyses are limited to a preliminary subset of participants (N = 28), while biomechanical data processing and integration for the full sample are ongoing. Initial results indicate that pelvic morphology in trained endurance athletes closely resembles that of the general population and that, despite pronounced sexual dimorphism in pelvic shape, no consistent sex differences in locomotor energetics are evident across walking speeds. Moreover, contrary to the longstanding emphasis on pelvic width, no single mediolateral pelvic dimension consistently correlates with COT across speeds in the subset analyzed. However, anteroposterior pelvic depth shows a positive association with COT in both sexes at

multiple speeds, suggesting that pelvic depth may play a more important role in locomotor energetics than previously recognized.

Together, these preliminary findings support the view that modern human pelvic dimensions are broadly optimized for efficient bipedal locomotion, with relatively small energetic consequences of shape variation. At the same time, they underscore the importance of treating the pelvis as a complex three-dimensional structure and integrating trunk biomechanics when evaluating energetic trade-offs associated with bipedalism, sexual dimorphism, and childbirth. Final interpretations will depend on completion of biomechanical analyses and inclusion of the full sample of 60 participants.

Financial support was provided by the Swiss National Science Foundation Grant No. 310030_212984 and the University of Zurich Candoc Grant FK-24-024. This work is also part of the Leibniz-Kooperative Exzellenz project K438/2022.

Interpersonal violence among early production societies in the Horn of Africa: new evidences from Antakari 3

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Introduction

The necropolis of Antakari 3 (3rd millennium BCE, Gobaad Basin, Djibouti) is a key archaeological site for understanding the identity, culture, and social dynamics of the earliest food-producing groups in the Horn of Africa. This paper presents a preliminary reassessment of the Antakari 3 collection, focusing on the role of violence in shaping the social identities of these communities.

Material and methods

During the most recent excavation campaigns, several individuals were identified with traumatic lesions that, in certain cases, suggest interpersonal violence. To complement field observations, we re-examined the remains from the 2023 and 2025 excavations, with particular attention to the morphology, location, and timing of lesions, as well as associated burial practices.

Results

One individual, buried in an unusual position, displayed a perimortem injury caused by a knapped obsidian fragment found within the lesion, strongly suggesting intentional killing. A broader reassessment of the skeletal assemblage revealed additional individuals with healed and unhealed traumas. Their frequency, type, and distribution raise questions about whether these injuries were the result of accidents or episodes of interpersonal violence.

Discussion

These findings invite a reconsideration of how violence was socially constructed in early food-producing societies of the Horn of Africa. Beyond reflecting individual conflict, such marks of trauma may speak to broader processes of territoriality, emerging cultural differentiation, and the negotiation of power and domination within communities undergoing profound social transformation.

Neuauwertung des Grabes eines "enthauppteten Verbrechers" aus dem Gräberfeld Windisch-Dammstrasse

Lukas Gomez, Viera Trancik Petitpierre and Sandra Pichler

IPAS, University of Basel, Switzerland

Das Grab 18 aus dem 1998 ausgegrabenen spätantiken Gräberfeld Windisch-Dammstrasse (AG) wurde in einer ersten Publikation (Flück et al. 2005) als enthaupptetes, männliches Individuum vorgestellt. Das Grab weist, abweichend von den anderen Nord-Süd ausgerichteten Gräbern des Gräberfelds, eine Ost-West-Ausrichtung auf. Der Schädel war nicht im anatomischen Verband, sondern wurde im Hüftbereich gefunden. Aufgrund der anderen Ausrichtung und der Beobachtung von Schnittspuren am Schädel ging man von der Dekapitation eines Verbrechers aus. Im Rahmen einer Bachelorarbeit (Gomez 2024) wurde ein Teil des Gräberfelds Windisch-Dammstrasse anthropologisch neu ausgewertet. Dabei wurde dem Individuum aus Grab 18 neu ein weibliches Geschlecht zugewiesen. Zudem ergaben sich Hinweise darauf, dass das Individuum erhängt wurde und die Enthauptung erst nach dem Tod erfolgte. Die Ergebnisse machen damit eine Neuinterpretation des Grabes erforderlich.

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Growing Up Human? Ontogenetic Insights from the Femur of Turkana Boy

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Turkana Boy (KNM-WT 15000), the remarkably complete 1.5-million-year-old juvenile *Homo erectus* skeleton from Nariokotome, Kenya, is central to debates on growth and development in early *Homo*. Despite its completeness, discrepancies persist between dental age estimates (7.6-8.8 years) and skeletal maturation indicators suggesting an older developmental stage (13-15 years by modern human standards). This mismatch raises key questions about whether *H. erectus* followed a human-like growth trajectory or exhibited a heterochronic pattern with asynchronous development of dental and postcranial systems.

Since epiphyseal morphology reflects skeletal maturation, it offers a promising proxy for developmental age. However, previous inferences based on the deformed distal femoral epiphysis may have been biased. We present a new virtual reconstruction of the distal femoral epiphysis of KNM-WT 15000, using micro-CT data. In addition, the femoral head and greater trochanter were compared to an ontogenetic series of 83 modern humans (8-18 years old) using deformation-based shape analysis (Deformetrica 4.3).

Our results show consistent alignment of KNM-WT 15000's femoral morphology with early adolescent modern humans, especially between 12.5 and 13.3 years. These estimates agree with previous assessments of elbow maturation and suggest several remaining years of growth. We demonstrate that deformation-based analysis of epiphyseal shape provides a robust, landmark-free method for developmental age estimation in fossil hominins. This approach contributes new evidence to ongoing debates on *H. erectus* growth patterns and improves estimates of body size and life history in early *Homo*.

Cute dogs and risky birth

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The evolutionary origin of the characteristic birth difficulty of modern humans has intrigued researchers for decades due to our high maternal and neonatal mortality rates compared to other mammals. The obstetrical dilemma hypothesis explains this risk as a trade-off between birthing large-brained offspring and a pelvis adapted for efficient bipedal locomotion, resulting in a shortened hipbone relative to our common ancestor with chimpanzees. This dilemma is somewhat alleviated by increased neurological immaturity of newborns and greater pelvic sexual dimorphism. However, the hypothesis faces criticism for its lack of empirical testing, particularly regarding the impact of a shortened hipbone on the birth process.

Interestingly, similar problems are observed in certain dog breeds, especially small brachycephalic breeds, which exhibit high rates of dystocia and Caesarean sections. Previous analyses indicate that these breeds have shortened hipbones and narrower pelvic canals, paralleling the evolutionary changes in early hominins related to bipedalism.

In this study, we analyze pelvic shape and sexual dimorphism in French Bulldogs (N = 25) compared to other dog breeds (N = 30) and wolves (N = 35). Using geometric morphometrics analyses, our preliminary results show a distinct morphological separation of wolves from domestic breeds, due to hipbone shortening. This supports our hypothesis linking dystocia to hipbone length and suggests significant evolutionary changes in pelvic morphology due to domestication.

Our findings contribute to the debate over the obstetrical dilemma by providing a rare non-primate analogy and evaluating the impact of hipbone length on difficult births in humans.

Sketches of the Present, Echoes of the Past: A Journey into a Medieval Necropolis

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The Medieval City of Komani: A Crossroads of History and Research

The medieval city of Komani extends over more than 30 hectares of hills overlooking the left bank of the Drin River, at the crossroads of key strategic regions: the Albanian Alps to the north, the Kosovo plain to the east, and the Shkodra–Lezha plain to the west. At the heart of this vast complex, the citadel, perched nearly 600 meters above sea level, commands a privileged view over the Drin valley.

Known since the 6th century, Komani experienced remarkable growth during the 7th and 8th centuries, driven by the arrival of new populations settling on lands once part of the Eastern Empire. This period of expansion shaped the city's history, which remained a significant regional center until its abandonment around the 14th century.

For over fifteen years, the medieval site of Komani has been the focus of an ambitious Franco-Albanian archaeological program, co-directed by Elvana Metalla (Institute of Archaeology, Tirana) and Etleva Nallbani (CNRS, UMR 8167 & École française de Rome). Entitled The Drin Valley in the Middle Ages, the project aims to explore the socio-economic interactions of medieval urban centers within the broader Balkan–Mediterranean world.

A Swiss–Albanian Collaboration in Bioarchaeology

In 2017, a collaboration between the École française de Rome and the University of Geneva was established to further these investigations. Led by Jocelyne Desideri (Lecturer, ARCAN/UNIGE), this partnership focuses on the excavation, study, and scientific dissemination of the funerary areas integrated within the project.

Since then, a University of Geneva research team has taken charge of studying the necropolis and associated burial areas of medieval sites in the Drin Valley. Their work combines new field investigations with a reassessment of earlier excavations conducted during the 1960s and 1980s.

Field campaigns have been supported by the University of Geneva (2017–2019), the *Société académique de Genève* (2020–2023) and currently by SLSA.

Excavation Training and Knowledge Transfer

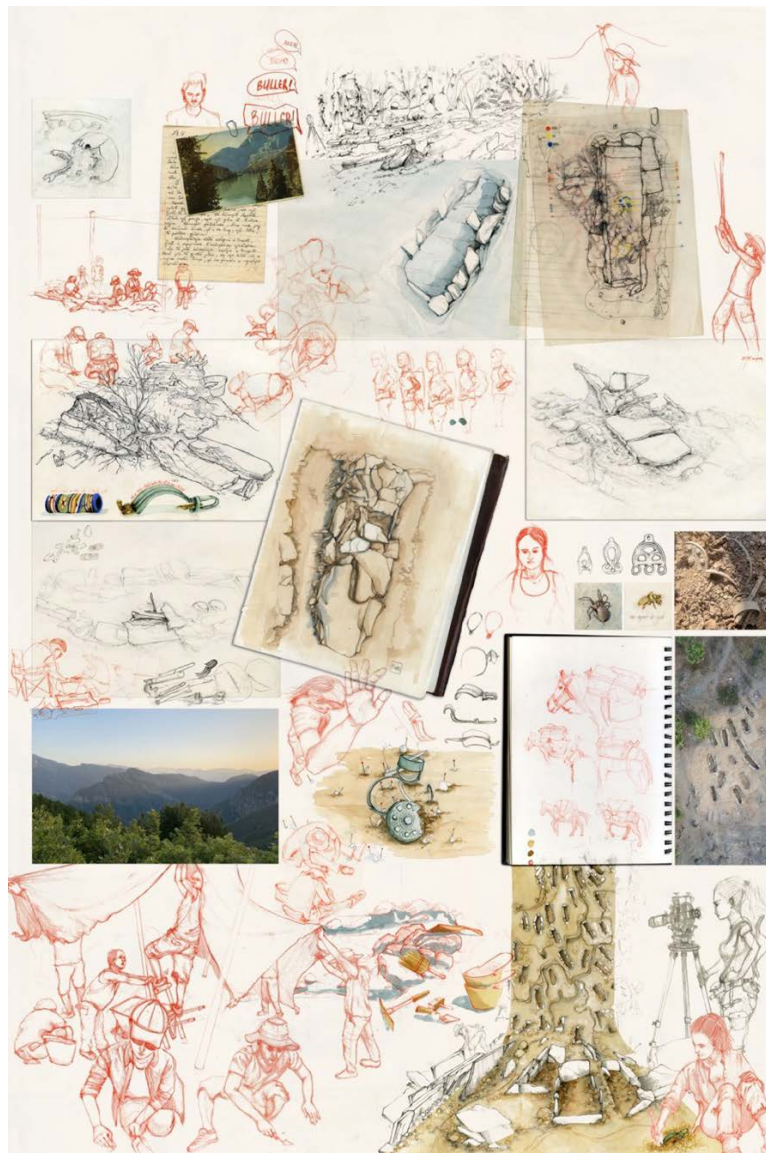
The Swiss team's work - conducted in collaboration with and in training of Albanian archaeologists - has focused primarily on the main necropolis of the medieval city. Additional

documentation was occasionally carried out beyond the main area to record endangered structures.

A flagship component of the project is the Komani Field School, an excavation-based training initiative that welcomes new generations of students each year. The most recent campaign brought together nine Albanian, Swiss, and French students, offering them a unique hands-on experience in funerary archaeology. Fifteen burial structures were documented, providing fresh insights into the spatial organization and functional dynamics of the funerary zone.

From Research to Public Engagement

Alongside its scientific goals, the project places a strong emphasis on heritage preservation and outreach. Recent initiatives have included targeted restorations of religious buildings and the creation of an archaeological walking trail featuring interpretive panels that present the city's history and excavated sectors. To showcase this exceptional heritage and the meticulous work of archaeologists, anthropologists, and students, the mission also launched an illustrated field notebook project, written and illustrated by Raphaël Seyfried, landscape architect and artist.



Notebook in progress © Travel Roll

This *expedition notebook* aims to highlight the richness of the Komani necropolis and the sustained efforts to preserve and understand this unique funerary landscape. Through drawing, complex and highly specialized topics - such as the medieval city of Komani and its necropolis - become more engaging and accessible to a broader audience.

The illustrated notebook thus serves as an innovative tool for science communication, transforming scholarly research into a visually captivating and educational experience. A prototype poster created during the fieldwork marks the beginning of what is expected to become a growing visual narrative over future campaigns.

Inset: Raphaël Seyfried

Since 2015, **Raphaël Seyfried** (www.travelroll.fr) has been creating Travel Rolls - illustrated scrolls designed to celebrate Khmer culture in Cambodia. His work now bridges art and science, using illustration to make archaeological research more accessible to the public. His Travel Rolls have earned several awards at illustration and travel journal festivals. Commissioned by the *Grands Sites de France* network, Seyfried is currently developing a series of illustrations for the Aven d'Ornac Cave, following his acclaimed *Parchemin des grottes et de la préhistoire*.

R_AGE: Refining AGE-at-Death Estimates through Late-Maturing Skeletal Markers

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Introduction

Estimating age-at-death is a central aspect of bioanthropology, as it allows researchers to reconstruct part of an individual's biological identity or to analyze mortuary recruitment within a necropolis in an archaeological context.

Among the various age categories, immature individuals occupy a particularly significant place in bioanthropological studies. Their skeletons, still undergoing growth, display a series of developmental markers that enable a relatively precise estimation of age-at-death. In adults, determining age-at-death is often challenging, because most bones have reached full maturity and undergo remodeling that varies between individuals. By contrast, young adults represent a particularly interesting category for bioanthropology, as their skeletons still exhibit signs of bone maturation.

This master's research project aims to improve the identification of young adults and refine age-at-death estimates by focusing on three late-maturing skeletal markers. To achieve this, we are working with individuals from the Simon Reference Collection of identified skeletons, for whom the age-at-death is known.

Objectives of the Study

To refine the identification of young adults and enhance the precision of age-at-death estimation, this master's research focuses on three skeletal markers that exhibit late maturation, specifically by examining their degree of ossification.

Material

The Simon Reference Collection of identified skeletons housed at the University of Geneva comprises 495 individuals (194 females, 283 males, and 16 immatures) who died between the late 19th and early 20th centuries in the canton of Vaud. For each individual, various biographical and social data are recorded, including sex, date and place of birth and death, occupation, kinship relationships, and, for women, parity. Among these parameters, the documented civil age represents the reference variable for this research, as it provides a reliable standard for validating osteological age estimation methods.

We selected 60 individuals from the Simon Reference Collection. The main group includes 30 individuals aged 20 to 29 years, with an equal sex distribution. Two comparative subgroups - balanced by sex - are also incorporated:

- 10 individuals aged 15 to 19 years
- 20 individuals aged 30 to 39 years

This sampling strategy enables the observation of skeletal maturation across a continuum of age categories encompassing late adolescence, early adulthood and the beginning of skeletal aging.

Methodology

Following a comprehensive review of the existing literature (Bassed et al. 2010, Ekizoglu et al. 2016, El Morsi et al. 2015, Lottering et al. 2017, McLaughlin 1990), a preliminary observation code was developed. This protocol, designed to be iterative and adaptable, will be refined as the study progresses and as data collection advances.

The three selected markers - the spheno-occipital suture, the sternal epiphysis of the clavicle, and the iliac crest of the os coxae - are commonly used in bioanthropology and forensic medicine to estimate age-at-death among young adults (figure 1).

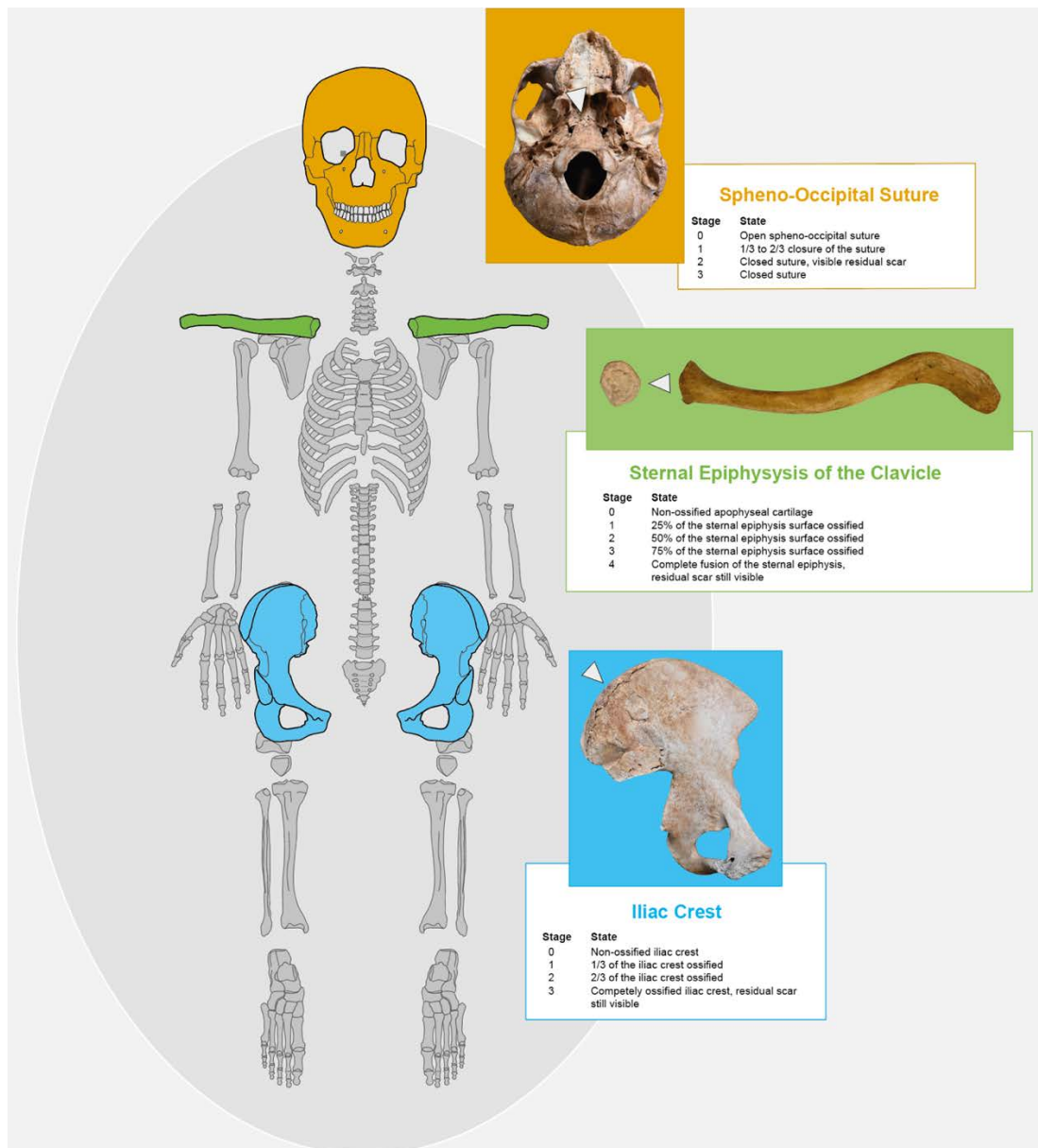


Figure 1 – The selected markers and the different degrees of development © ARCAN/UNIGE.

The proposed observation protocol includes a combined-sex classification, while also distinguishing between sexes for the analysis of the clavicular sternal epiphysis and the iliac crest in order to assess sexual dimorphism in the timing of these late fusions.

Special attention is given to the analysis of residual fusion scars, to better understand their evolution and attenuation over time. In addition, the bilateral symmetry of the clavicular and iliac epiphyses will be examined to evaluate the consistency of maturation processes between both sides of the skeleton.

Conclusion

Based on the Simon Reference Collection, which consists of individuals with known age-at-death, this research contributes to improving the identification of young adults. It also allows for refining age-at-death estimation methods through the analysis of late-maturing skeletal markers.

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Revealing Past Maternal Lives: Evidence from the Simon Reference Collection of identified skeletons

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Introduction

Since the 1970s, numerous studies have examined pelvic features potentially associated with pregnancy and childbirth. While some have identified correlations between certain skeletal traits and maternity, others have found no significant relationship. The contradictory results of these studies, along with the possible influence of confounding variables (age, weight, stature, general morphology, pelvic dimensions, etc.), make it difficult to clearly identify which traits are truly linked to parity.

Among the markers recently described, Pany-Kucera and collaborators (2019, 2021) identified two previously undocumented morphological features on the ventral apex of the sacral ala in female individuals from the Austrian site of Unterhautzenthäl: the sacral pre-auricular extension (SPE) and the sacral pre-auricular notch (SPN). A subsequent study conducted on the Simon and Spitalfields reference collections revealed a positive correlation between these markers and parity (Pany-Kucera et al., 2021).

The present study aims to further investigate this relationship using a larger sample from the Simon identified skeletal collection, for which detailed obstetric data are available. The goal is to strengthen the reliability of the association between the sacral traits (SPE and SPN) and parity. Additionally, a third feature, the dorsal pubic pitting (DPP), has been included in the analysis. This marker, although long debated, was recently identified as the only feature significantly correlated with maternity in a reference osteological collection from New Mexico (Waltenberger, 2022).

Material

The Simon Reference Collection of identified skeletons housed at the University of Geneva comprises 495 individuals (194 females, 283 males, and 16 immatures) who died between the late 19th and early 20th centuries in the canton of Vaud. Detailed obstetric data are available for each female individual, allowing for an original parity analysis.

The sample selected for this study includes approximately 100 individuals, of which 85 are females representing a balanced distribution of age and number of children (ranging from 0 to 15). Additionally, a group of 15 males are included in this study.

Methodology

Three skeletal traits will be examined on the os coxae and the sacrum, each evaluated according to a multi-stage scoring system (figure 1).

Sacral Pre-Auricular Extension (SPE)

An osseous extension located on the ventral apex of the sacral ala, along the terminal line (Pany-Kucera, 2019).

Score 0: No visible irregularity

Score 1: Presence of a ventrally oriented bony projection < 2 mm

Score 2: Projection > 2 mm

Sacral Pre-Auricular Notch (SPN)

A notch located on the ventral apex of the sacral ala, characterized by a loss of convexity in this area (Pany-Kucera, 2019).

Score 0: Regular surface, no visible notch

Score 1: Shallow, visible notch

Score 2: Deep notch > 2 mm

Dorsal Pubic Pitting (DPP)

This feature appears as pits, depressions, or cribra-like irregularities on the dorsal surface of the pubic symphysis (Ullrich, 1987; Waltenberger, 2022).

Score 0: Smooth surface without depressions

Score 1: A few shallow pits (< 2 mm)

Score 2: Deeper pits (> 2 mm), distinct and separated by ridges

Score 3: Numerous, irregularly sized and coalescent deep pits

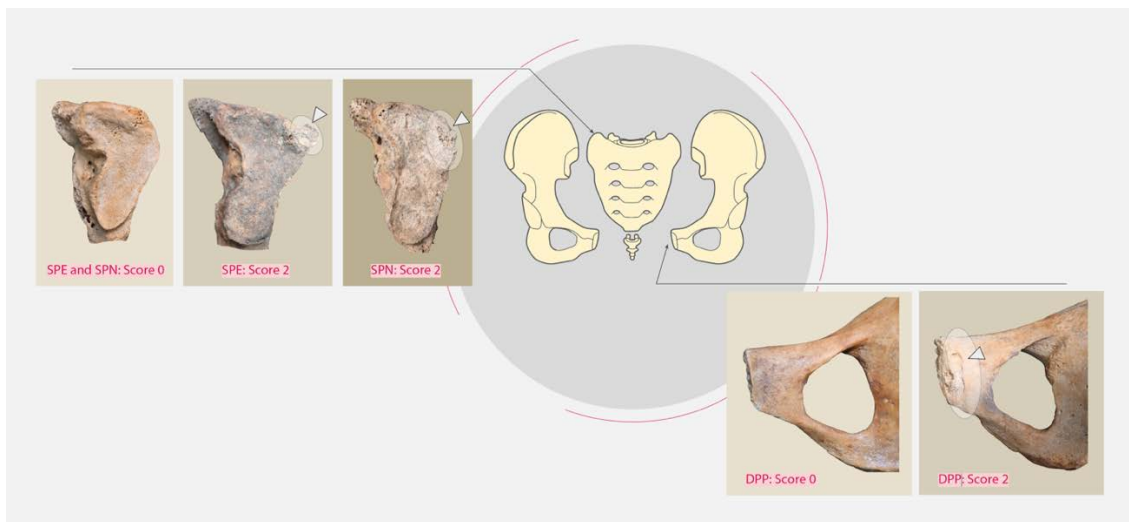


Figure 1 – The variables observed across different degrees of expression © ARCAN/UNIGE.

Research Questions

The main objective is to evaluate to what extent the examined skeletal traits (SPE, SPN and DPP) can be related to maternity, and whether their frequency and intensity vary with increasing parity.

A secondary question is to determine whether the modifications observed in the sacroiliac joint region (likely linked to biomechanical factors during pregnancy and childbirth) show morphological coherence with those observed on the pubic symphysis, which may instead reflect hormonal influences associated with pregnancy.

Conclusion

This study is ongoing and aims to investigate the behavior of these three variables within the Simon osteological collection. The next step will be to test the method on other reference collections before applying it to archaeological assemblages.

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Cremation Analysis and Insights into Past Lives: The Roman Necropolis of Grandvillard Fossard d'En-Bas (Fribourg)

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Introduction

The analysis of cremated human remains represents a distinctive and methodologically complex domain. Careful examination of such remains provides valuable insights into ancient funerary practices and individual life histories.

Excavations conducted in 2020 by the Archaeological Service of the State of Fribourg (SAEF) under the supervision of Louise Rubeli and Jacques Monnier at the site of Grandvillard - Fossard d'En-Bas have revealed archaeological deposits spanning several periods, including the Bronze Age, the Hallstatt period, and the Roman era. The Roman occupation is marked by a small necropolis comprising approximately fifteen cremation burials dated to the late 1st to late 2nd century CE. The Roman necropolis constitutes the focus of the present study.

Aims

Our research aims to address several key aspects: the identification and characterization of human remains, the reconstruction of funerary gestures associated with cremation rituals, and the spatial organization of the deposits. Specific objectives include the estimation of the minimum number of individuals, determination of biological profiles, assessment of anatomical representation, documentation of taphonomic features and evaluation of the spatial distribution of remains. Moreover, this study provides an opportunity to implement a newly revised and standardized recording protocol for cremation burials, developed collaboratively by the Genevan institutions SAGe and ARCAN.

Material

The corpus under study comprises 15 cremation graves found in close spatial association with a Hallstatt tumulus of approximately 12 m in diameter, indicating that the monument remained visible during the establishment of the Roman cemetery. The cremation pits were dug directly into the natural substrate and measured 60–70 cm in diameter. Although the perishable containers originally enclosing the remains have not survived, numerous associated grave goods were recovered, including personal ornaments, glass vessels, and ceramics.

Case Study: FA09

The analytical approach applied to the cremated remains follows the methodological frameworks established by Henry Duda (2009) and by Anouk Bystritzky-Papilloud (2018).

FA09 structure measured 0.60 × 0.40 × 0.10 m.

The first stage consists of the in-situ or laboratory excavation of the structures, conducted according to a standardized excavation protocol designed to produce comprehensive documentation, including graphic recording and spatial distribution mapping of all elements identified within the structure (human remains, faunal material, and artefacts). To better understand the spatial arrangement of the structures, they are documented through subdivision into multiple levels. In this case, FA09 was divided into five layers.

Next step involves the identification of skeletal elements and, where possible, their anatomical attribution. All bone fragments are counted and weighed to quantify the overall volume and mass of the cremated material.

- The total weight of the human remains is 31.8 g, corresponding to an adult individual.
- The fragmentation index of 0.20 indicates a very high degree of fragmentation.

Post-cremation bone coloration is also examined as an indicator of combustion conditions and temperature variation.

- The color variability of the fragments - from black through grey to off-white - suggests heterogeneous burning temperatures, estimated between 500°C and 800°C (Depierre 2014).
- Next, attention is given to the representativeness of the skeletal remains, first by comparing the observed proportions with a reference model of expected percentages, and then by examining the spatial arrangement of the bones within the funerary receptacle (figure 1).

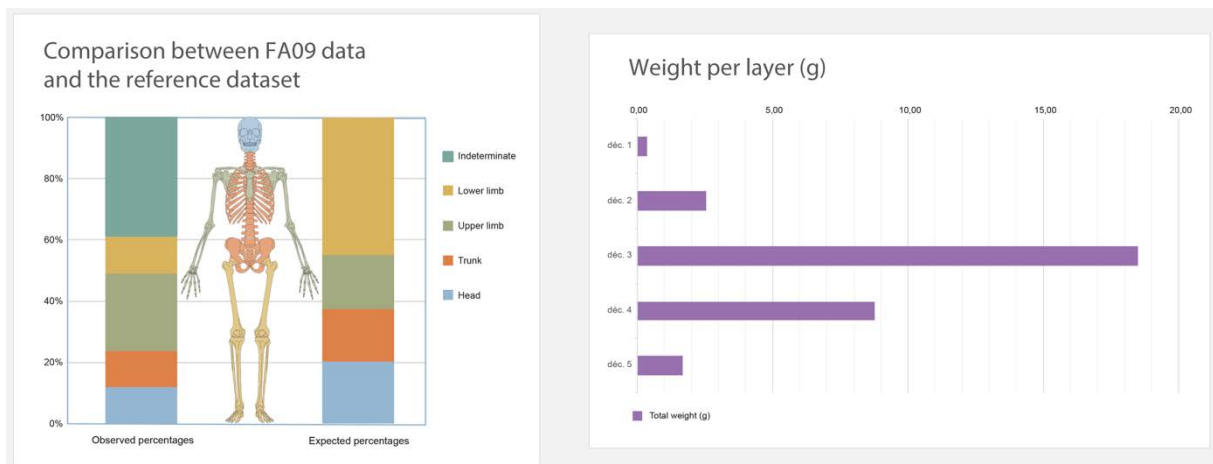


Figure 1 – FA09 - representativeness of the skeletal remains © ARCAN/UNIGE.

- The proportion of observed bones differs from the expected values for a cremated adult, particularly with regard to the lower limbs and, to a lesser extent, the head.

- The spatial analysis shows that most of the bones are concentrated in the central part of the structure, and that no anatomical logic was followed when the burnt remains were deposited in the receptacle.

Finally, the presence or absence of the extremities provides insight into the method used for collecting the cremated remains.

- The study of FA09 shows that no extremities are present, indicating that the pyre was not thoroughly cleared after cremation.

To conclude, FA09 corresponds to the cremation of an adult individual of undetermined sex. The cremation was unevenly conducted, reaching high temperatures but resulting in irregular bone combustion. The remains were only partially collected, without thorough recovery of the pyre deposits, and placed in a perishable receptacle with no anatomical order.

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Student Grant Reports

Fieldwork Report – South Africa (January–February 2026)

Victoria Poltze and Benjamin Tournan

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This report presents the results of a three-week research stay conducted in South Africa from 19 January to 10 February 2026 by Victoria Poltze and Benjamin Tournan from the University of Zurich, Institute of Evolutionary Medicine. The fieldwork forms part of our ongoing doctoral research project entitled “Evolutionary and ontogenetic foundations of modern body form: inferences from the juvenile early Homo skeletons from Nariokotome, Kenya, and Dmanisi, Georgia.” The primary objective of this campaign was the acquisition of an extensive, high-resolution comparative dataset of modern human skeletal remains to address key questions surrounding growth and development in early Homo.

A central issue motivating this work is the unresolved discrepancy in age-at-death and growth patterns of the juvenile Homo erectus skeleton KNM-WT 15000 (Turkana Boy). Previous studies have highlighted inconsistencies between dental age (8–12 years), skeletal maturation (12–15 years), and stature estimates, as well as potential heterochronic development between the appendicular and axial skeleton. Addressing these questions requires robust comparative datasets which capture ontogenetic variation in modern humans. Datasets used in previous studies have been geographically limited and often heterogeneous, and have largely relied on European-derived samples. In this context, the Raymond A. Dart Collection is exceptional, as it represents one of the few large documented collections including juveniles with body proportions differing from typical European populations, thereby providing a more appropriate comparative framework for Turkana Boy. The present fieldwork directly contributes to building such a robust and varied reference framework.

The research stay was conducted at the University of the Witwatersrand (Johannesburg), within the Raymond A. Dart Collection of Modern Human Skeletons. The Dart Collection represents one of the biggest documented modern human skeletal collections in Africa, comprising approximately 3,000 individuals and spanning a wide demographic and ontogenetic range. It is a key reference resource for research on human growth, variation, and skeletal biology, with well-documented individuals and controlled access under established ethical and curatorial frameworks. Its composition, including individuals from southern Africa with body proportions relevant for comparison with KNM-WT 15000, makes it particularly suitable for constructing ontogenetic reference models for our research project.

Data acquisition focused on generating a large, standardized dataset of high-resolution 3D surface models from both sub-adult and adult individuals using structured light scanning, enabling the capture of detailed external morphology across multiple skeletal elements. The sampling strategy prioritized elements present in the KNM-WT 15000 skeleton and relevant to growth and development, including long bones and pelvic components, with particular attention to epiphyseal morphology. This targeted approach means the resulting dataset can directly support the construction of ontogenetic shape trajectories and the quantification of population-level variability, providing the empirical foundation needed to reassess developmental patterns in early Homo and to reassess the developmental status of fossil specimens such as KNM-WT 15000.

In total, 117 individuals were scanned, resulting in approximately 1,400 individual scans and a dataset of approximately 4 terabytes. The sample included 77 males and 40 females, aged 0 to 20 years, and thus covering a broad ontogenetic spectrum. Individuals presenting pathological alterations or preservation issues were excluded to ensure consistency and suitability for morphometric analyses.

The acquisition process involved multiple stages, including scanning, alignment of individual captures, and post-processing to produce watertight 3D meshes. This workflow required careful standardization to ensure consistency across specimens and to minimize sources of variation unrelated to biological morphology. As a result, a robust and reproducible scanning protocol was established, a key methodological outcome of this trip.

Acquiring a dataset of this scale within a condensed timeframe made clear that even minor inconsistencies in scanning or data handling can meaningfully affect high-resolution shape analyses. This reinforced the value of strict protocol standardization at every stage, from specimen handling to final mesh generation and file organization. The resulting workflow ensures compatibility with downstream analytical approaches, including landmark-free morphometric methods, and is directly transferable to future data acquisition campaigns within our projects.

The fieldwork also facilitated important scientific interactions. Collaboration with the curatorial staff of the Dart Collection, namely Brendon Billings and Mashudu Mulaudzi, ensured proper handling of specimens and alignment with institutional standards. Exchanges with researchers and doctoral students working in related areas at the Anatomical Sciences Faculty of the University of the Witwatersrand contributed to methodological refinement and the development of future research directions.

In conclusion, this research stay represents a major step in the development of a large-scale, standardized comparative dataset for studying human skeletal growth and variation. All the objectives for this fieldtrip were successfully met. By providing a robust ontogenetic reference framework, the dataset directly supports the reassessment of developmental patterns in early Homo and contributes to a broader understanding of the evolutionary foundations of modern human body form.

We both want to extend a warm thank you to the SGA and the GRC Travel Grant Committee for supporting and making possible this essential fieldtrip. We hope to give you more updates on this research project in the near future at one of the SGA meetings.

Members' Information



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Statutes

On 20 May 1920, the “Schweizerische Gesellschaft für Anthropologie und Ethnologie” (SGAE), “Société Suisse d’Anthropologie et d’Ethnologie” (SSAE), was founded as an association. By resolution of the General Assembly of 14 October 1972, the association is called “Schweizerische Gesellschaft für Anthropologie” (SGA) or “Société Suisse d’Anthropologie” (SSA).

I. Name, seat and purpose

- Art. 1.- The Schweizerische Gesellschaft für Anthropologie (SGA) / Société Suisse d’Anthropologie (SSA) is an association within the meaning of Art. 60 et seq. of the Swiss Civil Code.
- Art. 2.- The SGA/SSA constitutes a member organisation of the Swiss Academy of Sciences (SCNAT).
- Art. 3.- Its seat is located at the place of residence or work of the respective President. Its duration is unlimited.
- Art. 4.- The purpose of the SGA/SSA is the promotion and dissemination of the anthropological sciences in general and the encouragement of research in this field in particular.
- Art. 5.- The SGA/SSA seeks to achieve its purpose primarily through scientific meetings, through the publication of a journal, and through the exchange of publications and information with other specialist societies. It provides advisory and expert support to authorities and interested institutions.

II. Membership

- Art. 6.- The SGA/SSA consists of individual members, collective members, and honorary members. Individuals who express their interest in promoting anthropological science may be admitted as individual members.

Institutions that demonstrate an interest in the aims of the Society may be admitted as collective members.

Persons who have rendered outstanding services to the Society may be appointed as honorary members.

- Art. 7.- Admission to the Society as an individual member requires the approval of the General Assembly.
Collective members are admitted by the General Assembly on proposal of the Executive Board.
Honorary members are appointed by the General Assembly on proposal of the Executive Board or of one quarter of the members of the Society.
Withdrawal from the Society must be communicated to the Treasurer and takes effect at the end of the calendar year.
The membership fee for the current calendar year is fully payable even in the case of withdrawal during the year.
- Art. 8.- Individual and collective members pay an annual fee, the amount of which is determined by the General Assembly.
Individual members may acquire lifetime membership by making a one-time payment in the amount of twenty times the annual fee.
This contribution is not refunded in the event of withdrawal.
If a member remains in arrears with the annual fee more than twice despite reminders, the member may be automatically excluded by the Executive Board after a further reminder.
The decision of the Executive Board is final.

III. Organisation

- Art. 9.- The organs of the Society are: the General Assembly, the Executive Board, and the Auditors.
- Art. 10.- The ordinary General Assembly takes place once a year.
An extraordinary General Assembly takes place if decided by the Executive Board or if one quarter of the members request it.
Motions of any kind must be submitted to the Executive Board no later than four weeks before the General Assembly and communicated to the members on the agenda at least 14 days in advance.
- Art. 11.- The General Assembly elects, by absolute majority of the members present, the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and the Editor-in-Chief, as well as the Auditors.
The General Assembly approves the annual report and the annual accounts, appoints honorary members, decides on changes to the annual fee and the statutes, and, if applicable, dissolves the Society.

It may exclude members for important reasons.
A two-thirds majority of the members present is required for the removal of members of the Executive Board.
Collective members each have one vote.

- Art. 12.- The Executive Board consists of a President, a Vice President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, an Editor-in-Chief, and the assessors.
The assessors include the former President, the Webmaster, and one representative from each working group.
The term of office of the members of the Executive Board is generally three years, with the exception of the representatives of the individual working groups, who are elected directly by them.
The outgoing President, the Vice President, and the Secretary may be immediately re-elected for only one further term in the same function.
The Secretary may simultaneously perform the function of Treasurer.
The Webmaster and, if required, a maximum of one additional assessor are elected by the Executive Board.
The assessors have voting and election rights within the Executive Board.
- Art. 13.- The financial year corresponds to the calendar year.
- Art. 14.- The Executive Board conducts all business of the Society that is not reserved for the General Assembly (Art. 11).
In addition to the General Assembly, it organises scientific meetings and may convene extraordinary assemblies.
It prepares the agenda of the administrative and scientific meetings and publishes the minutes.
It promotes the formation of regional groups and working groups.
- Art. 15.- The President chairs the General Assemblies of the SGA/SSA, the meetings of the Executive Board, and any committees.
She/ he represents the SGA/SSA externally and is a delegate to the Assembly of Delegates of the SCNAT.
She/ he conducts all ongoing business jointly with the Secretary and the other members of the Executive Board.
In the event of a tie, the President has the casting vote.
- Art. 16.- The Vice President supports the President in conducting ongoing business and represents her/him in the event of absence.
The Vice President is responsible for member recruitment.
- Art. 17.- The Secretary handles the ongoing administrative business.
She/ he prepares the minutes of the meetings.
She/ he ensures communication with the members as well as with the organs

of the SCNAT and serves as the contact point for persons and organisations outside the SGA/SSA.

- Art. 18.- The two Auditors are elected for three years and are immediately eligible for re-election.
They audit the annual accounts and report on them to the General Assembly.
- Art. 19.- The Editorial Committee consists of at least two editors, one of whom serves as Editor-in-Chief on the Executive Board as a voting member and is elected by the General Assembly.
The other editors are elected by the Executive Board upon their own application or on proposal of the Editor-in-Chief.
The collaboration of editors who are not members of the Executive Board may be terminated by either party at any time, subject to a six-month notice period.
The composition of the editorial board is determined by the aims of the SGA/SSA journal; the national languages German and French should, where possible, be represented on the Editorial Committee.
In addition, proof-readers with appropriate skills may also be engaged for proofreading or translation of texts in other languages.
They are likewise appointed by the Executive Board.
Under the leadership of the Editor-in-Chief, the Editorial Committee is responsible for the publication of the journal, the selection and editing of the scientific articles, the editing of the Society's communications, correspondence with reviewers, liaison with the printer, and distribution of the journal to the members by postal or electronic means.
Compliance with legal requirements regarding data protection, intellectual property, and scholarly-ethical guidelines falls under the responsibility of the Editor-in-Chief. Compliance with these requirements is documented by the Editorial Committee. For matters relating to electronic publication and distribution, the Webmaster supports the Editorial Committee.

IV. Accounting

- Art. 20.- The income of the Society consists of membership fees and donations as well as any interest income.
They are administered by the Treasurer.
The accounting year coincides with the calendar year.
The Society's assets alone are liable for the Society's liabilities.
- Art. 21.- The Treasurer is responsible for collecting membership fees and issuing reminders; she/ he is responsible for reclaiming withholding tax.

She/ he settles the Society's outstanding invoices.
The Treasurer prepares the annual financial statements and submits them to the Society's Auditors as well as to the SCNAT.

V. Publications

- Art. 22.- The SGA/SSA publishes a journal in which original scientific papers, summaries of papers presented at SGA/SSA meetings, communications from the Executive Board, and conference reports are published.
The journal or extracts thereof may be published online; this is done at the discretion of the Executive Board.
The Editor-in-Chief and the Webmaster are responsible for the online publication of the journal.
Members have access to the journal also by electronic means.
- Art. 23.- The SGA/SSA maintains a homepage.
The homepage serves communication with the members of the Society and the public and is intended to facilitate the work of the Executive Board.
Furthermore, it is intended to serve the recruitment of new members.
The Webmaster is responsible for the design and structure of the homepage in accordance with the guidelines of the SCNAT and the Executive Board.
She/ he is also responsible for updating the content of the homepage and ensuring its security.
The Executive Board is responsible for the content of the homepage.

VI. Amendments to the statutes and dissolution

- Art. 24.- Amendments to the statutes may be adopted by the General Assembly with at least two thirds of the votes of the members present.
- Art. 25.- The dissolution of the Society may be decided by the General Assembly with at least three quarters of the votes of all members entitled to vote.
In the event of dissolution of the Society, its assets shall pass to the SCNAT.
- Art. 26.- The new statutes enter into force on today's date. In the event of ambiguities, the German text is authoritative.

Basel, 12.11.2016

The President :

Dr Martin Häusler

The Vice President :

Dr Sandra Lösch



Schweizerische Gesellschaft
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www.anthropologie.ch

Statuts

Fondée le 20 mai 1920 sous le nom de *Société Suisse d'Anthropologie et d'Ethnologie* (SSAE), la Société a été renommée *Société Suisse d'Anthropologie* (SSA/SGA) par décision de l'Assemblée générale du 14 octobre 1972.

I. Dénomination, siège et but

- Art. 1.- La Société Suisse d'Anthropologie (SSA/SGA) est une association au sens des art. 60 ss du Code civil suisse.
- Art. 2.- La SSA/SGA est une organisation membre de l'Académie suisse des sciences naturelles (SCNAT).
- Art. 3.- Le siège de la Société se situe au lieu de domicile ou de travail de la présidente ou du président en fonction. Sa durée est illimitée.
- Art. 4.- La SSA/SGA a pour but de promouvoir et de diffuser les sciences anthropologiques en général et de stimuler la recherche dans ce domaine en particulier.
- Art. 5.- La SSA/SGA poursuit son but notamment par l'organisation de manifestations scientifiques, la publication d'une revue, ainsi que par l'échange de publications et d'informations avec d'autres sociétés savantes. Elle agit en outre comme organe consultatif et d'expertise auprès des autorités et des institutions intéressées.

II. Membres

- Art. 6.- La SSA/SGA se compose de membres individuels, de membres collectifs et de membres d'honneur.
- Peuvent être admises comme membres individuels les personnes manifestant un intérêt pour la promotion des sciences anthropologiques.
- Peuvent être admises comme membres collectifs les institutions intéressées par les objectifs de la Société.
- Peuvent être nommées membres d'honneur les personnes ayant rendu des services éminents à la Société.

- Art. 7.- L'admission comme membre individuel requiert l'approbation de l'Assemblée générale.
Les membres collectifs sont admis par l'Assemblée générale sur proposition du Comité.
Les membres d'honneur sont nommés par l'Assemblée générale sur proposition du Comité ou d'un quart des membres de la Société.
La démission doit être annoncée à la trésorière ou au trésorier et prend effet à la fin de l'année civile. La cotisation de l'année en cours est due intégralement, même en cas de démission en cours d'année.
- Art. 8.- Les membres individuels et collectifs acquittent une cotisation annuelle dont le montant est fixé par l'Assemblée générale.
Les membres individuels peuvent acquérir la qualité de membre à vie moyennant le versement unique d'un montant correspondant à vingt fois la cotisation annuelle. Ce montant n'est pas remboursé en cas de démission. Tout membre qui, malgré rappel, reste redevable de la cotisation annuelle plus de deux fois peut être exclu automatiquement par le Comité après un nouveau rappel. La décision du Comité est définitive.

III. Organisation

- Art. 9.- Les organes de la Société sont : l'Assemblée générale, le Comité et les réviseurs des comptes.
- Art. 10.- L'Assemblée générale ordinaire a lieu une fois par an.
Une Assemblée générale extraordinaire est convoquée sur décision du Comité ou à la demande d'un quart des membres.
Toute proposition doit être soumise au Comité au plus tard quatre semaines avant l'Assemblée générale et communiquée aux membres sur l'ordre du jour au moins quatorze jours à l'avance.
- Art. 11.- L'Assemblée générale élit à la majorité absolue des membres présents la présidente ou le président, la vice-présidente ou le vice-président, la secrétaire ou le secrétaire, la trésorière ou le trésorier, la rédactrice ou le rédacteur en chef ainsi que les réviseurs des comptes.
Elle approuve le rapport annuel et les comptes annuels, nomme les membres d'honneur, décide des modifications de cotisation et des statuts, et prononce, le cas échéant, la dissolution de la Société.
Elle peut exclure des membres pour des motifs importants. La révocation d'un membre du Comité requiert une majorité des deux tiers des membres présents.
Chaque membre collectif dispose d'une voix.
- Art. 12.- Le Comité se compose de la présidente ou du président, de la vice-présidente ou du vice-président, de la secrétaire ou du secrétaire, de la trésorière ou du trésorier, de la rédactrice ou du rédacteur en chef et des

assesseures ou assesses.

Font partie des assesseures et assesses l'ancienne présidente ou l'ancien président, la webmestre ou le webmaster, ainsi qu'un représentant de chaque groupe de travail.

La durée du mandat des membres du Comité est en principe de trois ans, à l'exception des représentants des groupes de travail, élus directement par ceux-ci. La présidente ou le président sortant, la vice-présidente ou le vice-président et la secrétaire ou le secrétaire ne sont immédiatement rééligibles qu'une seule fois dans la même fonction.

La secrétaire ou le secrétaire peut cumuler la fonction de trésorière ou trésorier.

La webmestre ou le webmaster, ainsi qu'au besoin au maximum un autre assesseur, est élu par le Comité.

Les assesseures et assesses disposent du droit de vote et d'éligibilité au sein du Comité.

- Art. 13.- L'exercice social correspond à l'année civile.
- Art. 14.- Le Comité gère toutes les affaires de la Société qui ne sont pas réservées à l'Assemblée générale (art. 11). Il organise, outre l'Assemblée générale, des manifestations scientifiques et peut convoquer des assemblées extraordinaires. Il prépare l'ordre du jour des séances administratives et scientifiques et publie les procès-verbaux. Il encourage la création de groupes régionaux et de groupes de travail.
- Art. 15.- La présidente ou le président dirige les Assemblées générales, les séances du Comité et les éventuelles commissions. Il ou elle représente la SSA/SGA à l'extérieur et siège comme délégué à l'Assemblée des délégués de la SCNAT. Il ou elle assure les affaires courantes conjointement avec la secrétaire ou le secrétaire et les autres membres du Comité.
En cas d'égalité des voix, la présidente ou le président dispose de la voix prépondérante.
- Art. 16.- La vice-présidente ou le vice-président assiste la présidente ou le président dans les affaires courantes et le ou la remplace en cas d'empêchement. Il ou elle est responsable du recrutement des membres.
- Art. 17.- La secrétaire ou le secrétaire assume les tâches administratives courantes, rédige les procès-verbaux et assure les relations avec les membres ainsi qu'avec les organes de la SCNAT. Il ou elle est le point de contact pour les personnes et organisations extérieures à la SSA/SGA.
- Art. 18.- Les deux réviseurs des comptes sont élus pour trois ans et sont immédiatement rééligibles. Ils examinent les comptes annuels et en rendent compte à l'Assemblée générale.

Art. 19.- Le comité de rédaction se compose d'au moins deux rédactrices ou rédacteurs, dont l'un exerce la fonction de rédactrice ou rédacteur en chef, siège au Comité avec droit de vote et est élu par l'Assemblée générale. Les autres membres de la rédaction sont élus par le Comité sur candidature personnelle ou sur proposition de la rédactrice ou du rédacteur en chef. La collaboration des rédactrices ou rédacteurs ne siégeant pas au Comité peut être résiliée à tout moment par chacune des parties moyennant un préavis de six mois.

La composition de la rédaction tient compte des objectifs de la revue de la SSA/SGA ; les langues nationales allemande et française doivent, dans la mesure du possible, y être représentées. Des relectrices ou relecteurs et des traductrices ou traducteurs compétents peuvent également être mandatés par le Comité.

Le comité de rédaction, sous la direction de la rédactrice ou du rédacteur en chef, est responsable de la publication de la revue, de la sélection et de la révision des articles scientifiques, de la rédaction des communications de la Société, des relations avec les évaluateurs, de la coordination avec l'imprimerie et de la diffusion de la revue aux membres, par voie postale ou électronique. Le respect des dispositions légales relatives à la protection des données, à la propriété intellectuelle et aux règles d'éthique scientifique relève de la responsabilité de la rédactrice ou du rédacteur en chef et est documenté par le comité de rédaction.

La webmestre ou le webmaster assiste le comité de rédaction pour les questions relatives à la publication et à la diffusion électroniques.

IV. Finances

Art. 20.- Les ressources de la Société proviennent des cotisations des membres, des dons ainsi que d'éventuels produits d'intérêts. Elles sont administrées par la trésorière ou le trésorier. L'exercice comptable correspond à l'année civile. La Société répond de ses engagements exclusivement sur sa fortune.

Art. 21.- La trésorière ou le trésorier est chargé de l'encaissement des cotisations et des rappels, ainsi que du remboursement de l'impôt anticipé. Il ou elle règle les factures de la Société et établit les comptes annuels, qu'il ou elle transmet aux réviseurs des comptes et à la SCNAT.

V. Publications

Art. 22.- La SSA/SGA publie une revue dans laquelle paraissent des travaux scientifiques originaux, des résumés des communications présentées lors des réunions de la SSA/SGA, des informations du Comité ainsi que des rapports de congrès. La revue, ou des extraits de celle-ci, peut être publiée en ligne sur décision du Comité. La publication électronique relève de la responsabilité de la

rédactrice ou du rédacteur en chef et de la webmestre ou du webmaster.
Les membres ont accès à la revue également par voie électronique.

- Art. 23.- La SSA/SGA gère un site internet destiné à la communication avec les membres et le public, et visant à faciliter le travail du Comité ainsi qu'au recrutement de nouveaux membres. La webmestre ou le webmaster est responsable de la conception, de la structure, de la mise à jour et de la sécurité du site, conformément aux directives de la SCNAT et du Comité. Le contenu du site relève de la responsabilité du Comité.

VI. Modification des statuts et dissolution

- Art. 24.- Toute modification des statuts doit être approuvée par l'Assemblée générale à la majorité des deux tiers des membres présents.
- Art. 25.- La dissolution de la Société peut être décidée par l'Assemblée générale à la majorité des trois quarts de l'ensemble des membres disposant du droit de vote. En cas de dissolution, l'actif de la Société est attribué à la SCNAT.
- Art. 26.- Les présents statuts entrent en vigueur à la date de ce jour. En cas d'ambiguïté, le texte allemand fait foi.

Bâle, le 12 novembre 2016

La présidente / Le président :
Dr Martin Häusler

La vice-présidente :
Dr Sandra Lösch



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Bern, 07.11.2022

Regulations for Early Career Researcher Support

With support from the Swiss Academy of Sciences (SCNAT), the Swiss Society for Anthropology (SGA) can provide bursaries towards expenses for early career researchers active in Switzerland for active participation in national and international specialist conferences or continuing education courses. In addition, the SGA supports fieldwork by students at Bachelor's, Master's or doctoral level and grants subsidies towards printing costs for publications. Publications must be peer-reviewed; for degree theses, the assessment of a supervisor of the thesis is sufficient. Applications may be submitted at any time.

The bursaries are granted in the form of contributions towards the actual costs; as a rule, a maximum of CHF 1,400 per person and event is awarded for travel abroad and a maximum of CHF 800 for stays within Switzerland, subject to availability of funds. The application should be addressed to the President of the SGA and submitted together with an abstract, a list of the expected costs, a short justification of the relevance for the applicant, contact details and function of the academic or institutional supervisor, as well as details of the bank account.

Conditions:

- Existing membership in the SGA (no outstanding membership fees).
- Placement of the logos of the SGA and SCNAT on the presentation / poster. For publications, mention of the SGA in the acknowledgements and – if possible – inclusion of the logo in the imprint.
- Submission of a conference report or a summary of the continuing education offer or learning outcomes, or of the results of the supported fieldwork. The text may be published in the Bulletin of the SGA. Guideline: at least 2 A4 pages of text (approx. 1,000 words) plus any illustrations / tables; see the author guidelines of the Bulletin: www.anthropologie.ch.
- Presentation at the Annual Meeting of the SGA.
- After participation, the expense statement must be submitted with receipts as a PDF. The expense statement should include a tabular list of travel and accommodation costs as well as scanned and numbered receipts. Applicants are expected to choose the cheapest reasonable travel option (e.g. public transport, second class). Costs for meals are not eligible for reimbursement. Foreign currencies should be converted into CHF, stating the exchange rate.

Award

Decisions on the allocation of the subsidies are made during meetings of the SGA Executive Board. A copy of the granted support is sent to the respective supervisor.

Right of Appeal

If an application is rejected, a reasoned request for reconsideration may be submitted once to the Executive Board. The review of the request for reconsideration is final. No further appeal may be lodged against this decision.

PD Dr. Sandra Lösch
President SGA

Dr. Sandra Pichler
Vice President SGA



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Kassiererin/Trésorière:

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Bern, 07.11.2022

Règlement pour le support financier des chercheurs en début de carrière

La Société Suisse d'Anthropologie (SSA), avec le soutien de l'Académie suisse des sciences naturelles (SCNAT), peut accorder aux jeunes chercheuses et chercheurs actifs en Suisse des contributions aux frais pour la participation active à des congrès scientifiques nationaux et internationaux ou à des cours de formation continue. La SSA soutient en outre les travaux de terrain d'étudiantes et étudiants de niveau licence, master ou doctorat, et octroie des subventions pour les frais d'impression de publications. Les publications doivent être évaluées par les pairs ; pour les travaux de fin d'études, l'expertise d'une personne encadrante suffit. Les demandes peuvent être déposées à tout moment.

Les subventions prennent la forme de contributions aux coûts effectifs ; en règle générale, un montant maximal de 1'400 CHF par personne et par événement est accordé pour des déplacements à l'étranger, et de 800 CHF au maximum pour des séjours en Suisse, sous réserve de la disponibilité des fonds. La demande doit être adressée au président ou à la présidente de la SSA et accompagnée d'un résumé (abstract), d'un budget prévisionnel des coûts attendus, d'une brève justification de la pertinence pour la personne requérante, des coordonnées et de la fonction de la personne assurant l'encadrement scientifique ou institutionnel, ainsi que des coordonnées bancaires.

Conditions :

- Être membre de la SSA (aucune cotisation en suspens).
- Apposer les logos de la SSA et de la SCNAT sur la présentation orale ou le poster. Pour les publications, mentionner la SSA dans les remerciements et, si possible, inclure le logo dans l'ours.
- Remettre un rapport de congrès ou un résumé de la formation continue suivie, des acquis d'apprentissage ou des résultats du travail de terrain soutenu. Le texte pourra être publié dans le Bulletin de la SSA. Valeur indicative : au moins deux pages A4 (environ 1'000 mots), plus d'éventuelles figures ou tableaux ; voir les directives aux auteurs du Bulletin : www.anthropologie.ch).
- Présenter une communication lors de l'assemblée annuelle de la SSA.
- Après la participation, transmettre le décompte accompagné des justificatifs sous forme de PDF. Le décompte doit inclure un tableau récapitulatif des frais de déplacement et de séjour ainsi que les justificatifs scannés et numérotés. Les candidates et candidats sont tenus de choisir le moyen de transport le moins cher raisonnablement exigible (p. ex. transports publics, 2e classe). Les frais de repas ne sont pas pris en charge. Les devises étrangères doivent être converties en CHF en indiquant le taux de change.

Attribution

La répartition des subventions est décidée lors des séances du comité de la SSA. Une copie de la décision d'octroi est transmise à la personne encadrante concernée.

Possibilité de recours

En cas de refus d'une demande, une requête de réexamen motivée peut être adressée une seule fois au comité. L'examen de cette requête est définitif. Aucune voie de recours supplémentaire n'est possible contre cette décision.

PD Dr. Sandra Lösch
Présidente SSA

Dr. Sandra Pichler
Vice-présidente SSA