

Cremation in prehistory

Programme

11.00 Introduction

11.10 Flames of Transition: an archaeological perspective on cremation practices in Bronze Age Austria

Hannah Skerjanz

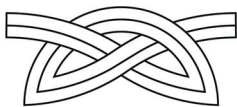
During the Middle Bronze Age Tumulus Culture (1600-1300/1200 BC), the predominant burial practice changed from inhumation to cremation within the time span of just 300 years, ultimately leading to uniform urnfield cemeteries in the Late Bronze Age. The study of cremation practices is multifaceted, offering valuable insights into funerary behaviours, shared beliefs, and rituals of past societies. This talk will present case studies from the "Unlocking the Secrets of Cremated Human Remains" project, discussing different aspects of cremation practices and their implications, particularly through the lens of archaeological evidence.

11.40 Decoding Prehistoric Cremations – a bone-deep investigation

Lukas Waltenberger

The analysis of human cremated remains is a challenging task that often yields unsatisfactory results due to the limited amount of material. Using a case study of two Late Bronze Age urn burials, I will discuss the osteological examination process and how a multidisciplinary approach — including archaeobotany, zooarchaeology, isotopic analysis, soil chemistry, and radiology — can provide deeper insights into the lives of people 3,000 years ago and the funerary practices of the Urnfield culture.

12.10-12.30 Discussion



INSTITUT ZA
ARHEOLOGIJU



INSTITUT ZA
ANTROPOLOGIJU

