

Research Project

Über die Toten zu den Lebenden: Menschliche Überreste vom spätlatènezeitlichen Fundplatz Basel-Gasfabrik und ihre kulturgeschichtlichen Deutungen.

Third-party funded project

Project title Über die Toten zu den Lebenden: Menschliche Überreste vom spätlatènezeitlichen Fundplatz Basel-Gasfabrik und ihre kulturgeschichtlichen Deutungen.

Principal Investigator(s) [Lassau, Guido](#) ;

Co-Investigator(s) [Röder, Brigitte](#) ; [Schibler, Jörg](#) ;

Project Members [Spichtig, Norbert](#) ; [Pichler, Sandra](#) ; [Kühn, Maria Luise Marlu](#) ; [Rissanen, Eeva Hannele](#) ;

Organisation / Research unit

Departement Altertumswissenschaften / Ur- und Frühgeschichte (Röder)

Departement Umweltwissenschaften / Sozialgeschichte (Röder)

Departement Umweltwissenschaften / Archäozoologie (Schibler)

Department

Project start 01.01.2011

Probable end 30.06.2014

Status Completed

The treatment of dead bodies in the Late La Tène period in particular is a prominent phenomenon, the manifestations of which break present-day taboos. Besides the interment of complete bodies in grave fields, a variety of burials in settlements and sanctuaries are known. Skulls as well as isolated bones showing traces of manipulation have been found in settlements, sometimes associated with refuse, reminiscent of some form of ancestor worship or even anthropophagy. The coexistence of various modes of treating the dead is a manifestation of the complexity that existed in terms of the practices that revolved around dead bodies. These should be analysed and interpreted as a whole and while remaining conscious of one's own taboos. Using the Late La Tène site of Basel-Gasfabrik (c. 150 - 80 BC) as a case study, the research project addresses this desideratum in European Iron Age research. With its two cemeteries and its large-scale settlement area where all the aforementioned categories of mortal remains are represented, this well-documented site offers unique prerequisites for the study of the treatment of the dead in the Late La Tène period, while taking into account for the first time its complexity and multidimensionality. Pioneering work will also be carried out in terms of the systematic analysis of the archaeological features which contained skeletons or parts thereof in the general settlement context, while also paying attention to and reconstructing the underlying taphonomic processes. The study follows the 'integrative archaeology' concept with a close collaboration between archaeology, anthropology, bioarchaeometry, geoarchaeology, archaeozoology and archaeobotany. Only within this framework will it be possible to address questions as to whether human remains in settlements were dumped as waste or whether they might, for example, represent the remnants of multi-stage funerary rites. The multidimensional comparison between individuals from the grave fields and those from the settlement will constitute another central aspect of the investigations. Besides reconstructing potential ritual differences, it will be of interest to ask whether the individuals belonged to different social groups. In this context the great potential of bioarchaeometric and anthropological analyses will provide fundamental information regarding hitherto unknown selection mechanisms in the treatment of the dead. The study of the human remains from Basel-Gasfabrik promises to provide fundamental insight into the collective and individual living conditions, the origins and the gene pool of the population, the social situation and funerary rites.

Keywords archaeozoology, Archäologie, geoarchaeology, anthropology, Siedlung, Archäometrie, bioar-

chaeometry, archaeology, Late La Tène period, Menschliche Skelettreste, funerary rites, Basel-Gasfabrik (c. 150 - 80 BC), Bestattung, settlement, archaeobotany

Financed by

Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF)

Add publication

Published results

2281124, Rissanen, Hannele; Pichler, Sandra; Spichtig, Norbert; Alt, Kurt W.; Brönnimann, David; Knipper, Corina; Kühn, Marlu; Rentzel, Philippe; Röder, Brigitte; Schibler, Jörg; Stopp, Barbara; Vach, Werner; Warnberg, Ole; Lassau, Guido, "Wenn Kinder sterben...": Säuglinge und Kleinkinder vom latènezeitlichen Fundplatz Basel-Gasfabrik (Kanton Basel-Stadt, Schweiz), 978-3-941171-87-9, Publication: ConferencePaper (Artikel, die in Tagungsbänden erschienen sind)

2232882, Pichler, Sandra; Rissanen, Hannele; Spichtig, Norbert; Alt, Kurt Werner; Röder, Brigitte; Schibler, Jörg; Lassau, Guido, Die Regelmässigkeit des Irregulären : menschliche Skelettreste vom spätlatènezeitlichen Fundplatz Basel-Gasfabrik, 978-3-7749-3862-2, Publication: ConferencePaper (Artikel, die in Tagungsbänden erschienen sind)

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Add documents

Specify cooperation partners

ID	Kreditinhaber	Kooperationspartner	Institution	Laufzeit - von	Laufzeit - bis
478851	Röder, Brigitte	Schibler, Jörg	Universität Basel	01.01.2011	31.12.2013
478852	Röder, Brigitte	Lassau, Guido	Archäologische Bodenforschung Basel-Stadt	01.01.2011	31.12.2013
478854	Röder, Brigitte	Alt, Kurt	Universität Mainz	01.01.2011	31.12.2013