



BIWEEKLY COLLOQUIUM
Monday, January 12th, 4:15 p.m.

**CHANCES OF ANTHROPOLOGY AND PALEOPATHOLOGY
IN ARCHAEOLOGY**

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Actual anthropological investigations of ancient skeletons imply much more than the estimation of age and sex and the determination of body height. Physical anthropology and paleopathology are the base for all further investigations of human bones in terms of isotopic studies and DNA research. Apart from that, anthropology and paleopathology contribute a great deal to the history of ancient people, especially, if no written sources are present. In other cases they may support or contradict well-known theories about for example human behavior. Aside from the etiology and epidemiology of diseases of different ancient populations, further information about social interactions can be achieved. For illustration, the research of several current projects will be used.

Special burial rites were found at Neolithic Göbekli Tepe in Turkey where apart from partly burned human bone fragments, signs of defleshing and carving decorations of human skulls may elucidate the purpose of the amazing archaeological site.

Medical inventions and techniques show the high specialization of small groups of people. A center of surgical knowledge, necessary for trepanation of the skull, was found in Early Bronze Age in the northern Caucasus.

The reliability of representation of the power of potentates in Egyptian wall paintings is proofed by the finding of several cut right hands in front of a temple in Northern Egypt. Investigations of the real hands give information of the way of hunting trophies and the enemies they were taken from.

These examples show only a small part of the information gained by anthropological/paleopathological investigations. Further development of new methods will enlarge the spectrum of possibilities.

Venue: Leibnizstraße 1, Seminar Room 204