



Although regional variation is increasingly acknowledged for the early Neolithic Linearbandkeramik (LBK; 5500?4900 cal BC) culture, we are some distance from understanding the scale of these differences. For example, was regional diversity super-seeded by locally recognised variation in social and cultural practice? Answering these questions will facilitate better modelling of LBK community and individual identities. One potential avenue to exploring cultural diversity is the isotopic analysis of human and animal remains. In this seminar, I will present results from 'The first farmers in central Europe: diversity in LBK lifeways' project (funded by the AHRC), which set out to investigate diversity in the LBK, through a range of different isotope analyses (carbon, nitrogen, strontium, calcium and oxygen) on a sample of over 550 individuals. The main objectives of this project were to use the data to explore regional patterns of diet, health and movement and hence to investigate diverse lifeways, incorporating the isotope results with a detailed consideration of their archaeological context. Our results are throwing light on the scales of diversity in the LBK, but also emphasising shared experiences of community organisation.

● 'The first farmers of central Europe: diversity in LBK lifeways'

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Wednesday 4:00pm – 5:30pm

MA Seminar Room, 43 Woodland Rd