

University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Arts, Department of Archaeology
and
Samara State University of Social Sciences and Education

24th Neolithic Seminar

***Neolithisation Processes in
Eurasia: Retrospect and Prospect***

**Programme
and
Abstract book**

**Friday 26th – Saturday 27th
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material from the Marmara region and the neighbouring areas of SE Europe (Thrace, Macedonia, Northern Bulgaria, Walachia).

Mothers, babies and figurines in the Neolithic of Central Balkans

Ana Tripković, Mihailo Radinović, Marko Porčić and Sofija Stefanović

Neolithization brought great changes to the prehistoric communities in different parts of Eurasia. One aspect of change, thoroughly studied in recent years, is the Neolithic demographic transition. It has been suggested that the demographic expansion on the onset of Neolithic was caused by increased fertility – increase in the number of pregnancies and consequently babies – which was feasible due to sedentary life and more stable food supplies. These changes in fertility and daily life could have been displayed in material culture. In this study we analyse anthropomorphic figurines as possible representations of body and corporeality. In order to test the hypothesis that Neolithic figurines are related to fertility (*i.e.*, that they directly represent pregnant women), we record attributes of figurine bodies that are related to pregnancy and sex on figurines from different sites in the Central Balkans. If they are, the attributes related to fertility should be frequently depicted on figurines, especially in the initial stages of Neolithic, when the population boom happened.

The human-suid relations in Early Neolithic Europe: a case study of the Bulgarian site Džuljunica-Smărdeš

Donna A. J. de Groene, Petar Zidarov and Canan Çakırlar

The Bulgarian site Džuljunica-Smărdeš, dating to 6205–5529 cal BC, is one of the earliest Neolithic sites in Europe. Both domestic cattle and domestic caprines are well represented in the zooarchaeological assemblage. Sus, in contrast, are extremely rare at the site. It is not known if the earliest Neolithic people in Europe did rear domestic pigs at all, practised some form of pig management, or only hunted wild boar.

This research investigates the human pig relationships, using biometry, kill-off patterns, and isotopic dietary analysis. With this integrated methodological approach, it might be possible to characterize human-suid relationships in this pivotal early Neolithic site with greater accuracy. Understanding this relationship at this site contributes to the broader debate on how neolithisation and domesticates spread through Europe, and which bio-cultural mechanisms were responsible for differential patterns of animal exploitation.