

Propositions

Unlocking teeth

Development and application of isotopic methods for human provenance studies

Esther Plomp-Peterson

- (1) Single isotopic analysis is inadequate for reliable interpretations in human provenance and dietary studies.
- (2) Neodymium isotope analysis can expand the existing isotopic techniques used to study human provenance in coastal regions such as the Caribbean.
- (3) Assessing individual and populational isotopic variation, as well as how and over which exact time period this isotopic variation is incorporated in human tooth enamel, are key challenges in isotopic research.
- (4) You are isotopically what you eat. Reference samples should therefore be carefully considered, especially in countries heavily dependent on the import of food such as the Netherlands.
- (5) Interoperability and transparency in data collection and analysis are assets to isotopic research, which are currently not optimally implemented.
- (6) Research is a collaborative effort where contributions from lab technicians, data managers and curators, science communicators, project managers, and research software engineers need to be recognised in contribution/authorship.
- (7) Researchers, at the forefront of innovative discoveries, are remarkably slow in moving away from the current exploitive scientific publishing system that allows for the disappearance of public money, that could be used for research, into the pockets of for-profit companies.
- (8) Share or it didn't happen: Research outputs should be openly available and accessible to others, so that they can verify the results and build upon them.
- (9) Despite limited isotopic data on Caribbean teeth, most of the work of this dissertation has been made considerably more enjoyable thanks to West-Indian music. Soca is life.
- (10) 'Doing laboratory work' is fancy phrasing for 'doing the dishes', as the majority of the time spent in the lab consists of cleaning beakers (but then with acid instead of soap).

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