



*New Perspectives on Child Health and the
Life Course in Bioarchaeology*

Conference Programme



Durham University, Department of Archaeology

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*Welcome to the Little Lives
Conference 2016*

Organising Committee:

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Society for the Study of Childhood in the Past (SSCIP)

Two cases of childhood tuberculosis from Late Medieval/Modern Period Croatia.

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Tuberculosis is an infectious disease caused by *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* that is most often transmitted through the respiratory system. Tuberculosis is also mostly a disease of childhood whose severity, duration and outcome are influenced by numerous factors. So far only a few cases of tuberculosis have been reported from Croatian osteological series and most of them were identified in adult skeletons exhibiting signs of skeletal tuberculosis. Because of the fragility of subadult bones childhood tuberculosis is still considered to be a paleopathological rarity. Although numerous cases of tuberculosis affecting juveniles have been described in the international scientific literature there is only one published case of subadult tuberculosis from Croatia. This research presents two cases of childhood tuberculosis from the Late Medieval/Modern Period Croatia. The first case describes destructive lesions on the vertebrae and sacrum and porosity on long and flat bones which are all consistent with tuberculosis, while the second case (due to the preservation of the skeleton) concentrates more on the lesions on cranial bones and ribs. Since examples of child tuberculosis are rare in Croatian osteological series, the aim of this research is to contribute to the knowledge of this infectious disease in children by describing the osteological remains of two subadults that exhibit lesions which are consistent with tuberculosis.