


20th Congress of the European
Anthropological Association



**European Anthropology
in a Changing World:
From Culture to Global Biology**

Zagreb, Croatia
24th – 28th August 2016

**ABSTRACT
BOOK**



Institute for Anthropological Research,
Zagreb, Croatia

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1977

Croatian
Anthropological Society



European
Anthropological
Association

during Last Glacial Maximum), but patterns evident on the lithic finds, ornaments and faunal remains indicate strongly pronounced Epigravettian tradition.

CRANIAL DEFORMATIONS IN A OSTHROGOTH CEMETERY FROM CROATIA

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Archaeological excavation of the Novi Čeminac – Jauhov salaš (JASA) site was conducted in 2014/2015. The excavation revealed numerous archaeological structures that are dated from prehistoric to late medieval times. Eleven graves were also discovered on the site. Based on grave finds all of the graves were dated to the 5th century AD and the Ostrogoth culture. The skeletal sample consisted of 4 females, 5 males and 2 subadults. Of interest is the fact that 6 of the 11 skeletons had artificially deformed crania. Individuals with artificially deformed crania included 3 adult females, 2 adult males and a single subadult. The females were aged 15-40 years, both males were aged 30-40, while the subadult (the first subadult with artificially deformed crania recovered in Croatia) was 6-7 years old at time of death. The crania were deformed by at least two different methods – circular oblique deformation and tabular erect deformation. The practice of artificially deforming crania has been present from the beginning of human history and was spread across the world. Archaeological cultures that practised this habit in Croatia include the Ostrogoths, Huns, Gepids and Avars. So far, artificially deformed skulls have been discovered in Croatia only as single finds.

SEX, SURVIVAL AND SUBSISTENCE - MORTALITY CHANGES DURING THE HOLOCENE PERIOD

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For most ancient populations there is a clear difference between male and female mortality regimes. Mortality data derived from human skeletons can help to reconstruct these sex-specific survival patterns. The observed differential mortality between the sexes might be shaped by a combination of biological and cultural factors. Therefore, the shape of sex-specific mortality might be influenced by the level of social and economic development of a community. To test this hypothesis, mortality patterns are contrasted for populations with four different subsistence forms: Intense foraging, horticulture and foraging, partly market integrated agriculture and urban (fully) market integrated agriculture. The data set comprises 10152 individuals from five countries around the Baltic Sea (Denmark, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Sweden), and the United States (Illinois, Kentucky, and California), buried between ~7000 BC and 1850 AD. Throughout the Holocene period two major changes in mortality regimes can be recognized. The first was a shift from nearly equal risk of dying for both sexes in the Mesolithic Period to an increased female mortality during the reproductive years in the rural populations of the Iron and Middle Ages. The second change, starting in the urban centers of the Mediaeval Period, resulted in a surplus mortality of males in all age classes. The observed transitions run parallel to the important changes in subsistence patterns between the analyzed communities: from intense foraging via horticulture and foraging to an urban life and fully market integrated