

SESSION TITLE: **Burial in Prehistory: Old Issues and New Techniques**

ORGANISER: Krum Bacvarov (*Bulgaria*)

CO-ORGANISER: Gassia Artin (*France*)

SESSION PROPOSAL:

Burial has been considered in prehistoric archaeology as often as the everyday contexts and this is logical since death has always been a critical element of human life. Throughout the history of archaeology as a discipline, scientists have regularly explored various aspects of this field, from descriptions of excavated remains to assessments of archaeological bones to reconstructions of complicated mortuary practices and ritual behaviour. Research on burial archaeology gradually intensified and set off in separate directions, especially in the last few decades, forming well defined subfields and schools, depending on national scientific traditions as well as on local/regional and chronological variations. Human biology and chemistry contributed greatly to the Archaeology of Death yielding the new discipline of bioarchaeology and brand new and promising techniques of assessing human bones, ranging from stable isotopic studies to ancient DNA analysis.

This session's goal is to bring together mainstream archaeologists as well as bioarchaeologists and geneticists, from different research centres/schools who are currently working on aspects of prehistoric mortuary practices, to discuss their respective fields of expertise and to find similarities and distinctions both in their subjects and their approaches, to share their respective views on how these different approaches and techniques are to be combined and used together to construct new interpretative frameworks. The space and time framework of the session covers Europe and the Near East, from the Palaeolithic to the Iron Age.

PLEASE CONTACT:

Krum Bacvarov

National Institute of Archaeology and Museum

Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

Bulgaria

T: +359 887 431 893

E: krum.bacvarov@gmail.com