

Multi-provenance isotopic investigations of archaeological human remains of single individuals

KARIN MARGARITA FREI

¹National Museum of Denmark, Frederiksholms
Kanal 12, (1220) Copenhagen-K, Denmark,
Karin.M.Frei@natmus.dk

Strontium isotopic investigations are often applied to archaeological human remains in order to identify if the individuals found at a certain site are of local or non-local origin. However, novel method developments –in the field of strontium isotope analyses- have recently allowed the in-detail mobility investigation of the last months/years of a person's life, in cases where scalp hair and/or nails are preserved. This presentation will therefore take its point of departure on the two first case studies from female graves from Denmark, where this methodology has been applied. The Bronze Age high status female, known as the Egtved Girl, has provided evidence for long distance and complex mobility for 3.400 years ago. Furthermore, the Egtved Girl, showed to have been buried with wool textiles that were made of non-local wool. However, her garments were weaved in a fashion that fits the local traditions, indicative of a high complex social and economic network during this period in southern Scandinavia. Furthermore, the Iron Age female bog body known as the Haraldskær Woman, has also recently revealed an unexpected mobility during the last months of her life, which provide yet another layer of information in which bog bodies can be interpreted.