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POSTMARITAL RESIDENCE PRACTICES IN THE AVAR PERIOD EASTERN TRANS-DANUBIA, HUNGARY

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In 568 AD the Avars, an Asian-originated tribal confederation appeared in the Carpathian Basin. The Avar conquerors united under their rule the whole territory, subjugated its inhabitant and eventually established the Avar Khaganate. The provision of the regions was mainly implemented in a nomadic way. Thus, the established polity constituted a different way from the early European development.

During the early Avar period, Eastern Transdanubia can be regarded as a contact zone between the steppe, the Merovingian and the Mediterranean worlds. The coexistence was not only cultural, but it took also place at the biological level of populations.

Postmarital residence analysis accompanied with biodistance analysis could provide a suitable tool to explore the biological and social interactions between the different populations. Phenotypic traits of the human remains can be used as a proxy to evaluate the diversion between different populations and the extent of sex-specific variation. Significant differences in morphological variability between the sexes could be indicative of a sex-biased pattern of postmarital residence. Postmarital residence analysis in this study is based on the assumption that the sex with a higher migration rate exhibits greater phenotypic variability.

Concerning the between- and within-group variability of the sexes, it is possible to assume a higher rate of female exchange between the communities.

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Keywords

Avar Period, Bioarchaeology, Postmarital residence, Mobility

Note/comment