

COMPARATIVE ANALYSES OF SOCIOCULTURAL CHANGES AND GENETIC TRANSITIONS IN THE AVAR PERIOD SOUTHERN-TRANSDANUBIA

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Kölked-Feketekapu is one of the largest cemeteries from the Avar Period Carpathian Basin. With more than 1300 graves and well-documented archaeological remains, it provides a unique resource for observing the numerous cultural transitions in the Southern-Transdanubian region. The cemeteries and the attached settlements were used between the 6th and the 8th century AD. This wide timescale gives archeologists and geneticists a great chance to track not only the impact of the Late Antique, Merovingian and eastern nomadic cultures but also the Avar Period transitions in the region. The social stratification can be examined at the site, due to the higher social status of several families in the community. Kölked-Feketekapu A site consists of a traditional Reihengräberfeld that contained around half of the burials excavated at Kölked. The other part of the graves are divided into 16 groups (Kölked-Feketekapu B) and were scattered all over the settlement's area. In the 6-7th centuries, the settlement was divided into households and elite grave groups which could be connected with several economic units of the village. This structure provides great potential in the reconstruction of social stratification. Our main goal in this paper is to 1) better understand the complex sociological and genetic kinship-based structure of the community in Kölked-Feketekapu B cemetery; 2) remodel the genetic and archeological transition in the Southern-Transdanubian region. For these purposes we have sequenced ~200 human DNA samples targeting 1.2 million polymorphic sites genome wide, involved stable isotopic data for most of the samples and analysed them in the context of the HistoGenes ERC project.

Keywords

aDNA, Carpathian Basin, Avar Period, HistoGenes project

Note/comment