

## HOW ARCHAEOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY CAN BUILD ON ADNA ANALYSES OF ENTIRE CEMETERIES

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Within the ERC-funded HistoGenes project, we assess several hundred inhumations from Austrian cemeteries dated between the 4th and the 9th century A.D. The interdisciplinary analysis encompasses archaeological, anthropological as well as molecular methods, including aDNA and isotope analyses. Ancient DNA data creates new possibilities to reevaluate and interpret funerary customs and chronological sequences by tracking generations and families in the population. Based on preliminary data from the cemetery of Leobersdorf (7th to 8th c. A.D.), located at the periphery of the Avar empire, we will demonstrate new possible investigations on demography and disease burden.

This interdisciplinary perspective will show the impact of the integrated analyses on the anthropological, archaeological, and ultimately the overall cultural-historical interpretation. Joint interpretations shed new light on aspects of chronology, age at death, biological sex estimations, gender, pedigrees, and maternity. Our data on these aspects will open up new perspectives on social life which previously could not have been recognised or verified.

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### Keywords

aDNA, Leobersdorf, population history, Early Medieval Period, Avar empire

### Note/comment