

Salzmünde – rule or exception?

Call for Papers

Interdisciplinary Symposium 18th – 20th of October 2012 in Halle (Saale)

New and extensive excavations in Saxony-Anhalt provide a unique insight into the 4th millennium BC. Around 3300 BC at Salzmünde, the eponymous site, a double ditched earthwork comes into being. Numerous burials are to be found inside and outside of the earthwork and within the ditches parts of skeletons were deposited. The multiple grave of four women and five children at the focus of our research project allows – in connection with further, in some cases postmortally modified burials, transfers of remains, and depositions – on the one hand to review middle Neolithic (cultural) interactions and on the other hand to reconsider the matter of the significance of earthworks. Do we have at Salzmünde some kind of fortification or a symbol of power? Does the multiple burial represent a family that got killed in an accident or rather the result of complex death rituals? Which genetic relations exist between them? How are the nine individuals connected to the other Salzmünde burials at the site? Which members of this community are local and which might be foreign? Can evidence of their ways and conditions of living be found? Do signs of their occupation show in the bone material? Why are some burials missing their skulls? Have these been deposited in the enclosing ditches in the course of a multi-phase burial ceremony? Is the Salzmünde earthwork a singular phenomenon?

Concerning this the State Museum of Prehistory will present a special exhibition in 2013. In the run-up to the exhibition this symposium shall create a pan-European and up-to-date picture of the 4th millennium BC. At the same time questions concerning the deposition of people in earthwork ditches, the manner of family and multiple burials as well as the death ritual will be focal points.

If you are interested to accentuate or enlarge this picture by presenting a 20 minute paper or poster presentation we would be very delighted. All papers and posters will be first included in a volume of abstracts handed out to all participants and will be afterwards published in our conference proceedings.

Please send in your subject proposals with a half page summary by June, 22nd 2012 at the latest.

Contact

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