

THE HOLY TOOTH: THE PROJECT



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Introduction

- “Differences in corpse treatment can help us understand status differences between groups and individuals and reveal group affiliation, belief systems, and ethnic distinctions.”¹
- Funerary contexts of the Late Neolithic and Chalcolithic (4th-3rd millennia BCE) are abundant and diverse in Portuguese territory^{1,2}
→ Socio-economic and/or socio-cultural differences?
- Childhood is defined by biological, social, and cultural factors, and the study of non-adults is extremely important to access socio-cultural and socio-economic differences between communities³.



A- Upper Morgado Cave, collective grave, Neolithic-Chalcolithic period (author's photo); B- Anta Grande do Zambujeiro, collective grave, Neolithic-Chalcolithic period (https://media-manager.noticiasominuto.com/1920/naom_5d1359b5b98c9.jpg); C- Cist, individual grave, Bronze age (author's photo); D- Quinta do Anjo Hypogeum, collective grave, Neolithic-Chalcolithic period (<https://www.cm-palmela.pt/viver/cultura/patrimonio-cultural/patrimonio-arqueologico/grutas-artificiais-de-quinta-do-anjo>)

Samples

Late Neolithic:

Hypogeum of Monte da Comenda 3, Beja
Hypogeum of Outeiro Alto 2, Serpa

Full Chalcolithic:

Tomb 3 of Perdigões, Reguengos de Monsaraz
Pit of Cinco Reis 5, Beja

Late Chalcolithic:

Tomb 4 of Perdigões, Reguengos de Monsaraz



Location of the study sites

Acknowledgements

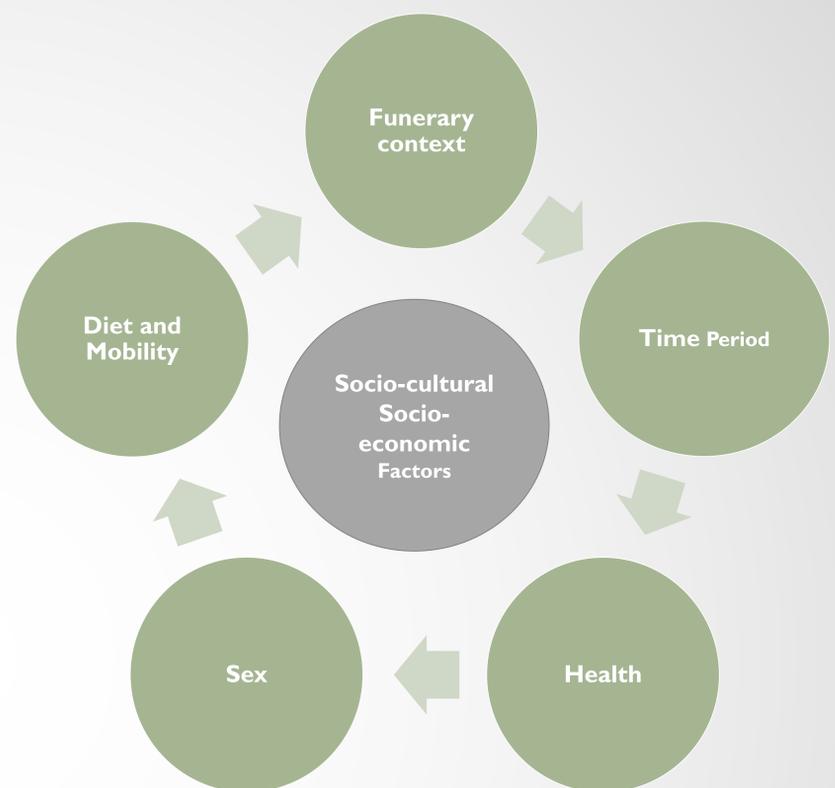
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Study Aims

- Bio-cultural approach which will enable novel insights about the hypothetical relationship between funerary behaviour and biological aspects of the examined Neolithic-Chalcolithic period populations.



Methodologies

- Funerary rituals, demography and health
↳ **Anthropological analyses;**
- $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ and $\delta^{15}\text{N}$ isotopes measured in incremental dentine samples
↳ **Childhood diet**
- $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$ and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ isotopes → **Mobility**
- Trace elements (LA-ICP-MS) → **Diet, heavy metal contaminations, etc.;**
- Enamel peptides → **Sexual diagnosis**
- Micro-CT → **Archive for future researchers**

Bibliography

¹Weiss-Krejci, E. 2011. Changing Perspectives on Mortuary Practices in Late Neolithic/Copper Age and Early Bronze Age Iberia. In K. Lillios (ed). *Comparative Archaeologies. Prehistoric Iberia (3000-1500 BC) and the American Southwest (AD 900-1600)*, 153- 174. Oxbow: Oxford and Oakville

²Cardoso, J.L. 2007. *Pré-História de Portugal*. Editorial VERBO.

³Lewis, M.E. 2007. *The Bioarchaeology of Children. Perspectives from Biological and Forensic Anthropology*. Cambridge University Press.