



International Student
Anthropological-Archaeological
Conference
Connected by People

The fourth edition of the international student anthropological–archaeological conference Connected By People 2025, held on 28 November 2025 at the University of West Bohemia in Plzeň, once again confirmed the importance of this event as a stable platform for the exchange of ideas among young researchers in archaeology, anthropology, and related disciplines. Building on the success of previous years, the conference continued to develop its core principle: fostering professional dialogue, sharing methodological approaches, and strengthening international cooperation among the emerging generation of scholars.

The 2025 conference was traditionally organised by the Department of Archaeology, Faculty of Arts, University of West Bohemia, in cooperation with the Wrocław University of Environmental and Life Sciences. Participants included students and early-career researchers from the Czech Republic and Poland, particularly from the University of Wrocław, the Institute of Archaeology, and partner institutions of both universities. This international composition significantly contributed to the thematic breadth and methodological diversity of the programme.

The academic programme opened with a keynote lecture focusing on interdisciplinary research into medieval castles, highlighting the value of collaboration between archaeology, architectural history, and digital documentation. The subsequent sessions covered a wide range of topics, including bioarchaeological and anthropological analyses of burial assemblages,

iconography and symbolism in material culture, as well as the application of modern methods such as remote sensing, geophysical prospection, and archaeozoological analysis.

An integral part of the conference was the poster session, which provided space for the presentation of individual research projects and encouraged open discussion with the authors. The accompanying programme also included a guided tour of the University of West Bohemia campus and an informal evening gathering, both of which further supported networking, exchange of experience, and the development of new professional connections.

The present volume brings together the contributions presented at Connected By People 2025 and reflects the thematic scope, methodological diversity, and international character of this year's conference. We hope that the published abstracts and texts will serve not only as a record of the event, but also as a source of inspiration for future research and continued collaboration across institutions and disciplines.

University of West Bohemia – Alma mater to thousands of students

Statistical evidence proves that the University of West Bohemia is one of the most successful universities in the Czech Republic. We do, however, have a more visible criterion: the admirable successes of our students in many technical fields, humanities, arts, and the field of health care. We do our best to nurture our students' talents and abilities.

We do not close ourselves off to the surrounding world. Every student has a chance to build his/her own study programme according to their interests, to get excellent language training, study abroad, get involved in research programmes, and put their knowledge to the test. And we will be equally happy if our students remember the students' festivals, victories in sports, open-air concerts, or just moments spent with friends drinking draught beer. We prepare our students for life in all its fullness.

The Department of Archeology

The Department of Archeology provides education especially in prehistoric, medieval and modern archeology. Many of its teachers are prominent scientists. Our graduates gain a deep understanding of the artefact heritage of the past and its significance for modern humanity and at the same time acquire a wide range of knowledge and skills not provided by other social sciences. One of our main goals is to educate specialists for work in archeology and related disciplines and the preparation of students for further education in archeology.

The Department of Archeology is a research center similar to those of Western European universities. It develops research in theoretical and practical archeology, deals with problems of archaeological methodology, spatial and non-destructive archeology, the creation of complex archaeological databases and the processing of spatial archaeological data using geographic information systems.

Uniwersytet Przyrodniczy we Wrocławiu

Zakład Antropologii Uniwersytetu Przyrodniczego we Wrocławiu powstała 1 października 2009 roku. Funkcjonuje jako jednostka Instytutu Biologii Środowiskowej na Wydziale Biologii i Hodowli Zwierząt. Zakład zajmuje okazały budynek z wieloma pomieszczeniami dydaktycznymi i pracowniami. Działalność dydaktyczna rozpoczęła się wraz z powstaniem jednostki w roku akademickim 2009/2010 i utworzeniem na kierunku Biologia studiów stacjonarnych drugiego stopnia o specjalności Biologia człowieka. Od października 2014 r. uruchomione zostały pierwsze w Polsce 3-letnie studia licencjackie na kierunku Biologia człowieka, a od roku akademickiego 2017/18 2-letnie studia magisterskie z trzema ścieżkami dydaktycznymi: Środowisko pracy i BHP, Antropologia kryminalistyczna oraz Antropologia biomedyczna.

Główne zagadnienia oraz tematy badawcze, którymi zajmują się pracownicy Zakładu Antropologii to:

- Przebieg ontogenezy w zależności od czynników środowiskowych
- Badania ludzkich populacji pradziejowych oraz historycznych
- Biologia współczesnych populacji ludzkich
- Ergonomia korekcyjna oraz ergonomia koncepcyjna
- Biologiczne aspekty kryminalistyki
- Paleontologia
- Archeologia

The Department of Anthropology

The Department of Anthropology of the University of Life Sciences in Wrocław was established on October 1, 2009. It functions as a unit of the Institute of Environmental Biology at the Faculty of Biology and Animal Science. The Department occupies an impressive building with many teaching rooms and studios. The didactic activity began with the establishment of the unit in the academic year 2009/2010 and the creation of full-time second-cycle studies in the field of Biology, specializing in Human Biology. From October 2014, the first 3-year bachelor's studies in the field of Human Biology were launched in Poland, and from the 2017/18 academic year, 2-year master's studies with three educational paths: Work environment and OHS, Forensic Anthropology and Biomedical Anthropology.

The main issues and research topics that the employees of the Department of Anthropology deal with include:

- The course of ontogenesis depending on environmental factors
- Studies of prehistoric and historical human populations
- Biology of modern human populations
- Corrective ergonomics and conceptual ergonomics
- Biological aspects of forensics
- Palaeontology
- Archeology

Organisation team



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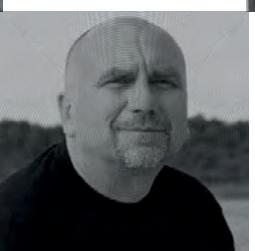
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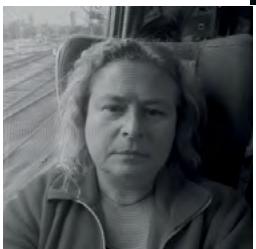
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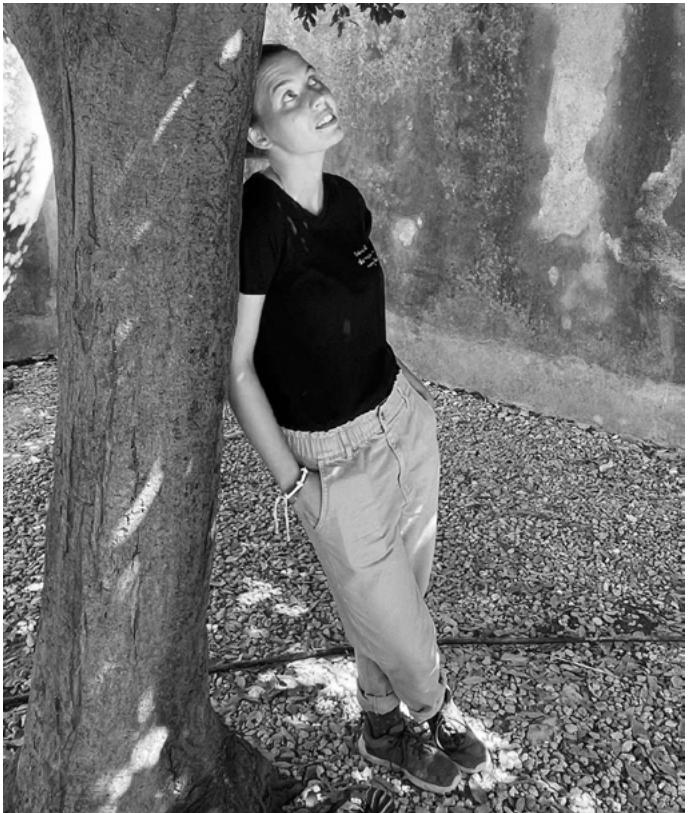
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1. Mgr. Jana Caisová
2. Dr. Katarzyna Graja
3. Mgr. Lada Heřmanová
4. Dr. Katarzyna Biernacka
5. Mgr. Klementyna Mackiewicz

6. Mgr. Atilla Vatansever
7. Dr hab. Barbara Kwiatkowska, Prof. Uczelni
8. Dr Jacek Szczurowski, Prof. Uczelni
9. Mgr. Aneta Gołębiowska-Tobiasz Ph.D.
10. dr hab. Paweł Konczewski, prof. Uczelni

Presentation of projects



*Jagoda Kurpis
University of Wrocław*

I am a second-year MA student in Archaeology at the University of Wrocław. I hold a BA in Physical Education from the Józef Piłsudski University of Physical Education in Warsaw. My main research interest lies in integrating archaeological perspectives with insights from sport sciences.

Differences in the Depictions of Short- and Long-Distance Runners in Greek Vase Painting

This presentation explores the iconographic differentiation between representations of short- and long-distance runners in Greek vase painting, integrating perspectives from archaeology, art history, and sport sciences. It outlines the historical development of running events and examines stylistic and anatomical variations in the portrayal of athletes. The study argues that ancient artists, guided by keen observation, intuitively reflected biomechanical distinctions while expressing broader cultural ideals of competition and physical excellence.



Julia Jasińska University of Wrocław

Julia Jasińska, archaeology student at the University of Wrocław. Her research focuses on the archaeology of early modern conflicts, with particular reference to the 17th century. Her main area of study is battles related to the Thirty Years' War in Central Europe. She has participated in archaeological fieldwork in Poland and abroad.

How to study death? Different approaches to the interpretation of mass graves.

Mass graves constitute an important source of information for the study of conflict archaeology. The analysis of selected European sites demonstrates the use of interdisciplinary methods in reconstructing the sequence of events and the lives of the fallen. The research focuses on mass graves of victims of the Thirty Years' War, the largest conflict in seventeenth-century Europe. Methods used allow for tracing soldiers' fates, their final moments, and the causes of their death, while also shedding light on burial practices and the social consequences of war.



*Aleksandra Jarosz
University of Wrocław*

I am a graduate in Archaeology and a second-year master's student at the University of Wrocław. I have fieldwork experience in Poland and abroad. My research focuses on Greco-Roman Egypt. In early 2025 I completed a two-month research scholarship in Cairo, organized by the Polish Centre of Mediterranean Archaeology of the University of Warsaw.

From Reptile to Deity: The Mummification of Crocodiles in Ancient Egypt

This presentation, based on a bachelor's thesis, focuses on crocodile mummies in ancient Egypt. Through analysis of literature, digital sources, and photographic documentation, the research establishes a typology of crocodile mummies, tracing their development from the Late Period to the Roman era. This framework enables a clearer understanding of their ritual roles and treatment within cult practice. Key case studies include Kom Ombo, with its sanctuary of Sobek, and the Manfalut deposit, interpreted as the burial of a priestess caring for sacred crocodiles.



Hanna Jendres University of Wrocław

Hanna Jendres, archeology student at the University of Wrocław. Her main area of study are atypical burials from Migration Period and Middle Ages. Her interests also include archeology of witchcraft and counter-witchcraft. She has participated in archeological fieldwork in Poland.

The term atypical burial reconsidered in a debate on Migration Period graves from Żerniki Wielkie site No. 4.

The concept of an “anti-vampire burials” and of “deviant graves” is highly problematic, as the very terminology imposes an interpretation of the funerary treatment of the deceased. However, is the term “atypical burial,” currently used by researchers, entirely free from negative connotations? To answer this question, it is first necessary to consider what is a “typical grave”. The discussion focuses on whether the term „atypical burial” is accurate for skeletal graves, using the cemetery at Żerniki Wielkie 4 as an example.



*Kacper Mancki
University of Wrocław*

Kacper Mancki. Student of Archaeology at the University of Wrocław. His current research focuses on the weaponry of warriors from the Przeworsk and La Tène cultures. He is particularly interested in the typology, function, and cultural context of ancient armaments. His academic interests also include medieval weaponry and the evolution of military equipment throughout European history.

How accurately grave-finds reflect arms and armour known from the Barbaricum?

Should we base our hypotheses on the use of military equipment in the Barbaricum solely on burial sites? This poster aims to offer a new perspective on arms and armour used by societies beyond the limes. The focus is on the weaponry of warriors from the Przeworsk culture, and especially artifacts from burial and votive sites. One key issue discussed here is the lack of objects made of organic materials in cremation graves.



*Klára Hanáková
University of West Bohemia*

She is a medieval and post-medieval archaeologist specializing in landscape archaeology. Her research focuses on the historical development of the western Ore Mountains, including settlement, mining, and industrial areas. Using historical maps and written sources, she creates 3D reconstructions of past landscapes and their features.

Remote Sensing of the Landscape of the Kraslice Region in the 2nd Half of the 20th Century

The region of the Kraslice is located in the border region - the so-called Sudetenland. It was considerably transformed by the Communist regime in terms of settlement activity and changes in land use. These changes can be observed using aerial surveys regularly taken by the Czech army for some areas as early as the late 1940s. The author of the paper explores the changes in the landscape in the area from the 1950s to the beginning of the 21st century, when we can observe the reduction of residential activity in the border zones, the construction of protective border zones, etc.



*Maja Sosnowska
University of Wrocław*

Maja Sosnowska is pursuing a master's degree in archaeology at the University of Wrocław. She examines the funerary practices of ancient Egypt, with particular attention to ritual, symbolism, and conceptions of the afterlife. She has taken part in archaeological excavations in Poland and abroad, developing extensive fieldwork experience.

Fauna and the Sacred: The Symbolism of Animals in Egyptian Tombs

Animal remains discovered in ancient Egyptian tombs reveal complex relationships between humans, nature and the sacred. Based on archaeological and textual sources, this study examines animals as votive offerings, divine incarnations, food gifts and companions in the afterlife. Burials from Saqqara, Thebes and Valley of the Kings, dated to the First Intermediate Period, the New Kingdom and the Third Intermediate Period, illustrate the richness of animal symbolism and the spiritual dialogue between the living and the dead.



*Marta Szustakiewicz
Wrocław University of
Environmental and Life
Sciences*

My name is Marta Szustakiewicz. I am currently a first-year master's student in Human Biology at the University of Environmental and Life Sciences in Wrocław. My interests focus on historical populations and paleopathology.

Pathological changes in the hip joint of an individual from the medieval cemetery at the church of St. Michael in Libkovice (Czech Republic)

This study aimed to characterise and differentially diagnose pathological changes in the left hip joint of a male individual buried in the medieval cemetery at St. Michael's Church in Libkovice. The hypotheses included Legg–Calvé–Perthes disease (LCPD) and developmental dysplasia of the hip (DDH). The research material consisted of remains excavated during excavations carried out in Libkovice by UAPP Most, ZČU, and UPWr. The changes observed — an enlarged, “mushroom-shaped” femoral head, absence of the fovea capitis, thickened neck, and a shallow, wide acetabulum — are consistent with manifestations of LCPD described in the palaeopathological literature. Further diagnostics are needed.



*Klementyna Mackiewicz,
Karolina Hruba, Mircavid
Ağalarov, Jakub Stępnik, Mark
Iserlis, Khagani Almamedov*

*University of West Bohemia
in Pilsen*

The biological anthropologist, graduate of the University of Environment and Life Sciences in Wrocław (Poland). Currently a PhD candidate at the University of West Bohemia in Pilsen (Czechia). The specialist in the cremation burials analyses. The member of Tel Yaqush Research Project (Israel), research of Castrum Novum (Italy), archaeological research of Kyrgyzstan and Lowland Karabakh Research and Excavation Project (Azerbaijan).

Anthropology of death in the Leylatepe phenomenon – case study of the Late Chalcolitic jar burials from Azerbaijan

Janavartepe is a settlement mound located in the Karabakh Steppe in western Azerbaijan, by the dry river Shirkhangobusu. The site indicates its connection with the so-called Leylatepe phenomenon from the Late Chalcolithic period (ca. 3,960–3,450 cal BC). The phenomenon, associated with the Middle East and Caucasian cultures has intrigued archaeologists for several decades, but still remains inadequately defined in terms of material and non-material culture. During the excavation season 2024, six graves were discovered within the tepe, including three infant burials in ceramic vessels. This paper presents a case study of jar burials, analyzing their form and significance for understanding the culture of the Janavartepe's community.



*Oliwia Witowska,
Piotr Konczewski
Wrocław University of
Environmental and Life
Sciences*

Oliwia Witowska – Master of Applied Biology and graduate of postgraduate studies in forensic biology and forensic anthropology. Currently a Master's student in human biology at the Wrocław University of Environmental and Life Sciences.

Piotr Konczewski – Master of Archaeology, owner of the company 'Vestigia Archeologia Piotr Konczewski'.

Archaeological discoveries in the northern courtyard of the monastery in Trzebnica: relics of the 13th-century cloister and later architectural transformations

In 2025 archaeological research was conducted in the northern courtyard of the former Cistercian abbey in Trzebnica. Relics of the 13th-century cloister were uncovered: a fragment of a cloister with a three-colour floor, walls and pillars of the cellarum and medieval portal frames. Seventeenth-century paving and a water channel were also recorded. In addition numerous artefacts related to the daily functioning of the monastery were discovered.



*Jakub Adamek
Instytut Archeologii
Uniwersytetu Wrocławskiego*

The author is a student of archaeology at the University of Wrocław. His research interests focus on stone tools from both the Early and Late Stone Age, with particular attention to lithic technology, artifact production and prehistoric manufacturing strategies.

Flint Artifacts from Stroke-ornamented ware culture Features in Dzielnica, Opole Voivodeship

This study presents the characteristics of flint artifacts from features linked to the Linear Pottery Culture with Punctured Ornamentation at the Dzielnica 17 site in the Cisek commune. The applied methods, including dynamic classification, the MANA approach, the MNT count and refitting, allowed for comparison with other assemblages of this culture. Attribute pair correlations based on the Pearson coefficient were used to examine technological origins. The results show that both inventories are consistent in raw material and technology and correspond well with materials from Silesia.



Zdeňka Šůrová University of West Bohemia

She graduated in zoology from the University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice and is currently studying for a PhD in archaeology at the University of West Bohemia.

The potential of cesspit fills from the perspective of an archaeozoologist

Medieval and post-medieval cesspits are used to store waste of all kinds, from broken crockery to kitchen or manufacturing residues to dead animals and building rubble. Often their fill is captured for only a very short period of time in the form of a one-off backfill.

As far as archaeozoological finds are concerned, the cesspits often preserve remains that would decompose in other contexts (for example, skins, scales, feathers and soft tissues, but also bones of small vertebrates). Due to their nature, these assemblages may also differ from other archaeological sites in having a significant concentration of bones of dead animals of smaller size (typically cats) or a concentration of waste from the bone industry.



*Aleksandra Muszyńska
Wrocław University of
Environmental and Life
Sciences, Department of
Anthropology*

I am a second-year Master's student in Human Biology in the Department of Anthropology at the Faculty of Biology and Animal Science, Wrocław University of Environmental and Life Sciences. My main research interests focuses on paleopathology.

Overview of Disease-Related Skeletal Lesions in Human Remains from the Collegiate Church of St. Michael the Archangel in Plock (17th–19th Centuries)

Authors: Aleksandra Muszyńska, Eliza Rosiek
This study presents a paleopathological analysis of an Early Modern urban skeletal sample from northern central Europe. Macroscopic assessment revealed a wide range of conditions, with inflammatory diseases being the most frequent, followed by trauma and degenerative changes. Evidence of metabolic disorders and treponemal infection was also noted. The findings illustrate the health challenges and physiological stress experienced by this community and contribute to reconstructing living conditions in Early Modern populations.



*Tomáš Fair, M.A.
University of West Bohemia
in Pilsen.*

Born in Plzeň (1982), PhD. student of archaeology at University of West Bohemia in Pilsen. He specializes in laboratory methods for processing archaeobotanical and anthropological samples and field sampling

of environmental samples. Since 2008 (Mgr. - KAR ZČU in Pilsen), he has worked as a field technician and archaeologist (Archeo Pro, NPÚ Liberec, Pueblo o.p.s.). He has been running an independent environmental archaeology laboratory for seven years; currently a Ph.D. student in archaeology, he is involved in the development and modification of methods for wet sieving archaeobotanical samples, the preparation) of micromorphological sections for archaeobotanical purposes, and the identification of microartefacts and ecofacts in sediments.

Wet sieving and fragmentation of cremation burials: methodological findings

Tomáš Fair 1, Klementyna Mackiewicz 1, Milan Kukla 2,
Drahomíra 2

The contribution evaluates the effect of laboratory washing on the preservation of heavily fragmented human cremation remains from the Hallstatt period cemetery in Kolovraty (800–400 BC), uncovered during rescue research of the Do/5II construction between Běchovice and Říčany in 2024 (Central Bohemia). The research was conducted by ÚAPP SČ in cooperation with KAR ZČU in Plzeň. Analysis of 12 samples – flat pit burials – shows the varying destructiveness of flotation, wet sieving and reflootation and proposes methodological procedures to limit the loss of anthropological and archaeobotanical material.

Keywords: cremation; fragmentation; flotation;
wet sieving; Hallstatt period

1) KAR ZČU, 2) ÚAPP SČ, 3) ARÚ Praha

KAR 2025

The Department
of Archeology
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of West Bohemia

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