



CENTER FOR
RUSSIAN
AND EAST
EUROPEAN
STUDIES

Ancient Deathways: Analysis of Human Remains from the Bronze Age Cemetery at Ostojićevo, Serbia

Katherine Haas

PhD Student

Department of Anthropology

**Wednesday, September 11
12:00pm
4217 Posvar Hall**



Bioarchaeology has impacted how archaeologists reconstruct past lifeways. Through detailed analyses of human remains in relation within their mortuary context, bioarchaeologists have contributed to understanding how social identity among the living (gender, status, occupation, social relations, etc) is represented in death. Analyses of grave goods and burial treatment have been brought to bear on aspects of gender, status, and social age for individuals from the Bronze Age Maros cemeteries of Mokrin and Ostojićevo of the Banat region of northeast Serbia (ca. 2100-1600 BC). Here, I present preliminary results from an in-depth osteological inventory of the Ostojićevo collection, housed at the Narodni Muzej Kikinda. Data collection, carried out over the past three summers, included analysis of skeletal completeness and preservation, biological sex, age at death, and dental and skeletal pathology (disease and/or trauma).

Despite similarities in the mortuary programs at Mokrin and Ostojićevo, the practice of burying newborns and infants in ceramic urns at Ostojićevo provides evidence for changing burial customs associated with broader economic and social transitions in the region. In a population where 33% of individuals died before their 6th birthday and 50% died before their 25th, death was an ever-present and important part of community life. This is reflected in the use of body treatment, body orientation, and material culture to differentiate individuals on the basis of gendered status likely associated with fertility, marital status, and possible evidence for inherited status.



UCIS
UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR
INTERNATIONAL
STUDIES

