PM seminarium – 2026-01-28
Institutionen för arkeologi och antikens kultur, Stockholms universitet

Halvtidsseminarium

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Investigating human and animal relations in Prehistoric Central Europe through genomics.

With the process of Neolithisation, Europe witnessed changes in how humans interacted with their environment through the domestication of plants and animals. This closer relationship with their surroundings has been in constant fluctuation throughout history; the dynamic nature in the role that animals have played in human society spreads from being a dietary protein source to religious veneration. These changes cannot only be identified in the archaeological record through material culture and osteological analyses, but they also leave a molecular mark that can be studied through ancient DNA (aDNA). In a similar way in which pottery provides information about human migration and cultural changes, aDNA provides a tool that complements classical archaeological approaches for a more robust understanding of the human past. Likewise, these genetic changes will also be present in domesticated animals, becoming a reflection of the role they were assigned by humans at a specific time. By weaving together genomic lineages and shifting human-animal dynamics, this project aims to re-evaluate the history of humans, canines, and caprini in southern Poland, to test if a multispecies framework could redefine our understanding of the past.