

Programme  
International Symposium

May 16 - 18, 2024  
Natural History Museum  
Vienna, Austria



# Sacred Places - Sacrifices - Feasts

La Tène cult practices in archaeological contexts





## Programme of the International Symposium

# Sacred Places – Sacrifices – Feasts La Tène cult practices in archaeological context

May 16 – 18, 2024

Natural History Museum Vienna

### Organising Institutions

Natural History Museum Vienna (NHM)  
Austrian Federal Monuments Authority (BDA)

### Supported by

Anthropologische Gesellschaft in Wien

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## Approach and content of the conference

La Tène period cult practices, as they manifest in sacred places, sacrifices and feasts have a specific fascination in popular science, but also are a highly interesting field of study for interdisciplinary research. Within the framework of this international conference, the current status of research at the most diverse sites of La Tène period cult and religious practice are presented and debated. The focus is on the evidence, the reconstruction and the interpretation of different cult practices in the archaeological context, whereby similarities and differences of the individual manifestations are to be discussed.

In addition to archaeological research, there is a significant emphasis on the interdisciplinary research of these sacred sites: in particular, specialist disciplines such as anthropology, archaeozoology and archaeobotany or various other scientific analysis on archaeological material etc. enable significant contributions to an interpretation approach that is as holistic as possible.

The impetus for this international conference was on the one hand by the book presentation on the many years of interdisciplinary rescue excavations and research in the Celtic cult area on the Perl-/Stadläckern on the Frauenberg near Leibnitz/Styria as well as the results of 30 years of interdisciplinary research on the sanctuaries on the Sandberg in Roseldorf/Lower Austria.



## Preliminary Conference Programme

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2024**

9:00–13:00 Registration Conference Office, Lecture Hall, Hall 16, Natural History Museum Vienna

### Greeting Words and Introduction

10:00–10:30 **Katrin Vohland**, General Director and Scientific CEO of the Natural History Museum Vienna, Austria  
**Christoph Bazil**, President of the Austrian Federal Monuments Authority, Austria  
**Karina Grömer**, Head of the Department of Prehistory, Natural History Museum Vienna, Austria

### New Research on the La Tène sanctuaries at Roseldorf

*Chair: Karina Grömer, Department of Prehistory, Natural History Museum Vienna, Austria*

10:30–10:50 **Veronika Holzer**, Department of Prehistory of the Natural History Museum Vienna, Austria  
*Zusammenfassender Überblick über die latènezeitlichen Heiligtümer und Riten in den Kultbezirken von Roseldorf (Niederösterreich)*

10:50–11:10 **Maciej Karwowski**, Independent Researcher, Vienna, Austria  
*Keramische Funde aus dem Kultbezirk der Zentralsiedlung von Roseldorf (Niederösterreich)*

11:10–11:20 **Discussion**

11:20–11:40 **Maria Teschler-Nicola**, Department of Anthropology, Natural History Museum Vienna  
*Komplexe Vielfalt – Die menschlichen Skelettreste aus den Sakralbauten der latènezeitlichen Zentralsiedlung von Roseldorf (Niederösterreich)*

11:40–12:00 **Tim Langnitschke**, Archaeozoology, Natural History Museum Vienna, Austria  
*Zwischen ritueller Selektion und nachhaltiger Siedlungswirtschaft. Neue archäozoologische Analysen zum Kultbezirk 2 im latènezeitlichen Roseldorf (Niederösterreich)*

12:00–12:10 **Discussion**

**12:10–14:00 Lunch break**

14:00–14:20 **Konstantina Saliari**, Archaeozoology, Natural History Museum Vienna, Austria  
*Imported beef for the gods and the wealthy: morphometric investigation and ancient mtDNA analysis of cattle remains from the Iron Age north of the Alps“*

14:20–14:40 **Michaela Popovtschak**, Independent researcher, Vienna, Austria  
*Archäobotanische Funde aus zwei keltischen Kultbereichen – Versuch eines Vergleichs“*

14:40–14:50 **Discussion**

14:50–15:30 **Coffee break**

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## Characteristics of La Tène sanctuaries and their variations

Chair: Manuel Fernandez-Götz, University of Edinburgh, Great Britain

- 15:30–15:50 **Stephan Fichtl**, Université de Strasbourg, France  
*Architektur und Organisation der Heiligtümer in Gallien*
- 15:50–16:10 **Martin Schönfelder**, Leibniz-Zentrum für Archäologie, Mainz, Germany  
*Heiligtümer und Götter – ein Überblick und viele Fragen*
- 16:10–16:20 **Discussion**
- 16:20–16:40 **Benedict Thomas**, Julius-Maximilians University Würzburg, Germany  
*Menschenopfer als Bestandteil latènezeitlicher Kultpraktiken? Quellenlage, Definition und Nachweismöglichkeiten*
- 16:40–17:00: **Mitja Guštin/Žan Špendal**, University of Primorska, Koper/University Ljubljana, Slovenia  
*The sacred Sites of Norici. Belenus/Belinus, God of Celts and Citizens of Aquileia“*
- 17:00–17:20 **Leif Hansen/Dirk Krause**, Landesamt für Denkmalpflege im Regierungspräsidium Stuttgart, Germany  
*Die Alte Burg – Kult- und Versammlungsplatz im Umfeld der Heuneburg*
- 17:20–17:30 **Discussion**
- 17:30–19:00 **break**
- 19:00–20:00 **Keynote speech Georg Tiefengraber**, Department of Prehistory, Natural History Museum, Vienna, Austria  
*Der latènezeitliche Kultbezirk am Frauenberg bei Leibnitz (Steiermark)*

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### Book Presentation

***Der latènezeitliche Kultbezirk am Frauenberg bei Leibnitz (Steiermark). Teil 1: Der archäologische Befund und die kontextuelle Auswertung des archäologischen Fundmaterials (Georg Tiefengraber)***

Host: Bernhard Hebert, Austrian Federal Monuments Authority, Vienna, Austria

Followed by a **buffet by the** Austrian Federal Monuments Authority in the Upper Dome Hall of the NHM

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2024**

## Cult and Settlements

Chair: Georg Tiefengraber, Department of Prehistory, Natural History Museum Vienna, Austria

- 09:00–09:20 **Peter Trebsche**, Institute of Archaeologies University Innsbruck, Austria  
*Rituals in La Tène settlements – settlements as ritual space*
- 09:20–09:40 **Holger Wendling**, Bavarian State Archaeological Collection Munich, Germany  
*Manching City of Cults – Religious Life in a Celtic Metropolis*



- 09:40–10:00 **Gerd Stegmaier**, *Departement of Pre- and Protohistory, University Tübingen, Germany*  
*Sacrifice and ancestor worship: Ritual sites and structures in the area of the Late La Tène oppidum Heidengraben (Southwest Germany)*
- 10:00–10:10 **Discussion**
- 10:10–11:00 **Coffee break**
- 11:00–11:20 **Manuel Zeiler**, *LWL-Archäologie für Westfalen, Münster, Germany*  
*Eine Kultlandschaft hinter den Bergen? Jüngererisenzeitliche Wallburgen mit Deponierungen im rechtsrheinischen Schiefergebirge*
- 11:20–11:40 **Robin Bernhard Franke**, *Nationalinstitut für Vor- und Frühgeschichtliche und provinzialrömische Archäologie der LMU München, Germany*  
*Examples of cult practices in the Late Iron Age central settlement near Neubau*
- 11:40–11:50 **Julij Emilov**, *Sofia University, Departement of Ancient History, Thracian Studies and Medieval History, Bulgaria*  
*Fake News: Ancient Celtic sanctuary discovered in Thrace! Cult Interpretations and Archaeological Realities*
- 11:50–12:00 **Discussion**
- 12:00–12:30 **Poster Presentations (with short comments)**
- 12:30–14:00 **Lunch break**

## Rituals and Sacred Sites – from Bohemia to Asia

*Chair: Holger Wendling, Bavarian State Archaeological Collection Munich, Germany*

- 14:00–14:10 **Jiří Militký/Jan John**, *National Museum Praha/ University South Bohemia, Czech Republic*  
*Coins in the Bohemian borderland: Evidence of travel rituals in the Late La Tène period?*
- 14:10–14:30 **Boštjan Laharnar/Miha Mlinar**, *Tolminski muzej/ Narodni muzej Slovenije, Slovenia*  
*La Tène sacred places in the Posočje region*
- 14:30–14:40 **Discussion**
- 14:40–14:50 **Janja Mavrović Mokos/Laura Šejić/Luka Drahotusky-Bruketa/Kim Korpes/Magdalena Kolenc**, *University of Zagreb, Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences, Department of Archaeology/ University of Zagreb, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Departement of Anatomy, Histology and Embryology, Croatia*  
*The Late Hallstatt ritual structure at Sveti Križ (Croatia)*
- 14:50–15:10 **Marko Dizdar/Mario Novak/Siniša Radović /Slavica Filipović**, *Institute of Archaeology, Zagreb/ Institute for Anthropological Science and Arts, Zagreb/ Archaeological Museum Osijek, Croatia*  
*Late La Tène sanctuary of the Scordisci in Osijek, Eastern Croatia*
- 15:10–15:20 **Discussion**
- 15:20–16:00 **Coffee break**



Chair: *Peter Trebsche*, University Innsbruck, Austria

- 16:00–16:20 **Ivan Čižmář/Natalie Venclová/Hana Čižmářova/Miroslav Popelka**,  
Institute for Archaeological Heritage Brno, Czech Republic  
*The quadrangular enclosure from Nemčice*
- 16:20–16:40 **Karl Strobel**, University Klagenfurt, Austria  
*Archäologische Funde religiöser Praktiken und Heiligtümer in Latène-tradition  
in Zentralanatolien*
- 16:40–17:00 **Ivan Drnić**, Archaeological Museum in Zagreb, Croatia  
*Hoardings of iron tools from the La Tène period in southern Pannonia –  
profane or ritual practice?*
- 17:00–17:10 **Discussion**
- 18:00 **Guided tours through the Natural History Museum Vienna, Restoration labs, storage facilities**

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2024**

## **Rituals and Sacred Places – a view to the West**

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Chair: *Peter Rams*, University of Vienna, Austria

- 09:00–09:15 **Tanja Romankiewicz/Katharina Becker**, School of history, Classics and Archaeology,  
University of Edinburgh/ Old Medical School, Teviot, Great Britain  
*Architektonische Prozesse und Produkte in der Kultpraxis der britischen und irischen  
Eisenzeit*
- 09:20–09:40 **Fraser Hunter**, National Museums Scotland, Edinburgh, Great Britain  
*Cult places and practices in the Scottish Iron Age*
- 09:40–10:00 **Luis Berrocal-Rangel/Manuel Fernández-Götz/Lucía Ruano/Pablo Sánchez de Oro**,  
School of History, Classics and Archaeology, University of Edinburgh, Great Britain  
*Ritual practices at the edge of the Celtic world: The hillfort of Castrejón de Capote  
(SW Spain)*
- 10:00–10:10 **Discussion**
- 10:10–10:40 **Coffee break**



## Sacred places in Nature

- 10:40–11:00 **Tomás Mangel/Martina Bekova/Mária Novotná/Marcela Horákova/  
Miriam Nývltová-Fisaková**, Philosophical faculty of the University Hradec Králové, Czech Republic  
*Water spring rituals in the La Tène period: a new evidence from eastern Bohemia?*
- 11:00–11:20 **Natalie El Dana**, Julius Maximilians Universität Würzburg, Lehrstuhl für Vor- und frühgeschichtliche Archäologie, Germany  
*Die Rothensteine bei Stübig – ein naturheiliger Platz der Latènezeit*
- 11:20–11:40 **Tamara Ruhland**, University Innsbruck, Austria  
*New research on the burnt offering site at the Piller Sattel in Fließ, Tyrol*
- 11:40–11:50 **Discussion**
- 11:50–13:30 **Lunch break**

## Cult and Rituals in burials and cemeteries

*Chair: Gerd Stegmaier, Departement of Pre- and Protohistory, University Tübingen, Germany*

- 13:30–13:50 **Iliya Hadzhipetkov**, Institut National de Recherches Archéologiques, Luxembourg  
*Die Verfüllung der Speichergruben des treverischen Gehöfts von Gevenmacher-Granzegebirg (Luxemburg)*
- 13:50–14:10 **Pavel Sankot**, Alma Nationalmuseum Prague, Czech Republic  
*Beispiele der latènezeitlichen ritualen Praktiken in Böhmen*
- 14:10–14:30 **Peter C. Ramsel**, Departement of Prehistoric and Historical Archaeology, University Vienna, Austria  
*Abgrenzung und Einbindung: Grabenanlagen in latènezeitlichen Gräberfeldern*
- 14:30–14:40 **Discussion**
- 14:40–15:10 **Coffee break**
- 15:10–15:30 **Dorothea Talaa**, Museum Wöllersdorf, Austria  
*Die Stele von Wöllersdorf. Kultpraktiken im latènezeitlichen Gräberfeld von Wöllersdorf*
- 15:30–15:50 **Diana Gergova/Jordan Anastassov**, National Academy of Art Sofia, Bulgaria/Musée Romain, ville de Nyon, France  
*Celtic gifts, sacrifices and sanctuary in the burial complex of the Getic ruler Kotela in the Sboryanovo National Reserve, NE Bulgaria*
- 15:50–16:10 **László Bartosiewicz/Erszébet Jerem/Károly Tankó/Ferenc Újvári**, *archaeolingua*, Hungary  
*Rest in pieces ... Ritual Manipulation and Animal Sacrifice in Early La Tène Burials in North-Western Hungary*

*Chair: Veronika Holzer, Georg Tiefengraber und Karina Grömer, Natural History Museum Vienna*

- 16:10–16:30 **Concluding Discussion**



## Poster

**Radoslav Alexandrov**, National Archaeological Institute with museum at the Bulgarian Academy of Science, Sofia, Bulgaria  
*Unraveling the mystery: Multidisciplinary approach to the study of some rare small ceramic objects from the Late Iron Age burials in the region of Sashtinska Sredna gora*

**Barbara Hirsch**, Department of Prehistory of the Natural History Museum Vienna, Austria  
*Latènezeitliche Heiligtümer als Wirtschaftsfaktoren*

**Veronika Holzer**, Department of Prehistory of the Natural History Museum Vienna, Austria  
*Kettenpanzerfragmente aus den Kultbezirken von Roseldorf (Niederösterreich)*

**Nikolas Karaš**, Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, faculty of Arts, Department of Archaeology, Nitra, Slovak Republic  
*Cult places of Celts in the La Tène period from the territory of nowadays Slovakia*

**Kalina Petkova**, National Archaeological Institute with museum at the Bulgarian Academy of Science, Sofia, Bulgaria  
*Small-size and Miniature Ceramic vessels from the La Tene Pit Sanctuary near Voditsa, North-eastern Bulgaria“*

**Georg Tiefengraber**, Department of Prehistory of the Natural History Museum Vienna, Austria  
*Das spätlatène- und römerzeitliche Höhenheiligtum auf dem Hüttenberger Erzberg (Kärnten)*

**Johannes Wimmer/Norbert Spichtig**, Archäologische Bodenforschung des Kantons Basel-Stadt, Switzerland:  
*Die Gefäßkeramik einer aussergewöhnlichen Deponierung aus der jüngerlatènezeitlichen Zentralsiedlung Basel-Gasfabrik (CH)*

### Venue

Natural History Museum Vienna, Hall 16, Burgring 7, 1010 Vienna, Austria  
Homepage: <https://www.nhm-wien.ac.at/>

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