KÖRPER & TOD
Cluster 3 des DAI

DEUTSCHES
ARCHÄOLOGISCHES INSTITUT

Cluster 3 „Körper und Tod. Konzepte – Medien – Praktiken“

Abendvorträge 2026
Evening Lectures 2026

3. November 2026 – 18 Uhr (online)

Fotis Georgiadis / Anastasia Papathanasiou

Ephorate of Palaeoanthropology-Speleology of the Hellenic Ministry of Culture

“Bits and pieces of them”: The human remains in the Neolithic Agriomernos cave, Samos Island

A major research field of prehistoric archaeology is how people treated their dead since the establishment of permanent settlements and structured societies, a field which has been augmented with the contribution of physical anthropology. Great variability is observed in the funerary expression through the Mediterranean and Europe during this early phase. The Neolithic mortuary record includes every form of primary and secondary deposition and treatment. Specifically, secondary deposits of human bones in caves are widespread and follow particular rituals and procedures in the handling of the remains of the deceased.


Photo: Fotis Georgiadis

Agriomernos Cave on Samos Island in the Northern Aegean represents one such example, recently investigated and studied by the Ephorate of Palaeoanthropology and Speleology of the Hellenic Ministry of Culture. The primary chronological horizon of the cave’s occupation corresponds to the Final Neolithic, although the site was also sporadically revisited during the Bronze Age, the Hellenistic and the Late Roman periods. Samples from the human remains were radiocarbon dated to the Final Neolithic period. The undisturbed depositional contexts inside the cave display all the characteristics of a well-structured ritual of a secondary treatment and final deposition of a selected number of human remains, in a formalized way, in a remote natural landmark. The lecture discusses the evidence, interpretation, and comparative placement of this finding, alongside the methodological limitations of the study.

Online login: https://dainst-org.zoom.us/j/92941877087

Kontakt: alexander.gramsch@dainst.de - lukas.kerk@uni-muenster.de - pape.eleonore@gmail.com