

The swift progress of genetic research has opened up new perspectives for the study of history. In particular, recent technological innovations in deciphering the genome in ancient DNA allow posing new questions about the history of populations, following a line of research laid out by Luca Cavalli-Sforza and others, but now at a level of detail impossible even a few years ago. However, and in contrast to the refinement of genetic tools, the methodology of drawing historical conclusions from genetic evidence has as yet hardly been discussed. How do we relate the clusters of genetic similarity to historical human groupings? Can DNA analysis help us to detect migrations, demographic processes, ethnic or territorial groups, or family structures? On the basis of an initiative at UCLA, an international study group of geneticists, archaeologists, anthropologists and historians from the USA, Italy, Hungary, Germany and Austria has formed in order to conduct an exemplary study of early medieval material. The sixth century AD in Central Europe and Italy has the advantage to offer both extensive archaeological evidence from graves with rich apparel and a considerable body of written texts, which can be confronted with the results of genetic testing, and may help to refine the interdisciplinary methodology. The workshop has two main goals: the first part, on Monday 30/1 morning, will offer a general discussion of the state of the art and the methodological options and problems, while the further proceedings in a more restricted circle will serve to discuss the shape of the planned pilot project.

LOCATION

Sitzungssaal der ÖAW
Dr. Ignaz Seipel-Platz 2
Stiege 1, 1. Stock
1010 Wien

INFORMATION

ERC SCIRE Project Coordination
Institut für Mittelalterforschung (IMAFÖ)
Wohllebengasse 12-14
1040 Wien
Tel.: +43 (0)1 51581 7228
ingrid.hartl@univie.ac.at
<http://erc-scire.univie.ac.at>



subject to change



International Workshop • Vienna

30-31 January 2012

GENETIC HISTORY & *Medieval Studies*

Towards a Pilot Project



SCIRE

social
cohesion,
identity
and
religion
in
Europe,
400-1200

ERC Advanced Grant

Monday, January 30

Public Presentations:

Sitzungssaal der ÖAW · Dr. Ignaz Seipel-Platz 2 · 1010 Wien

9:00 - 10:30 **Welcome**

Helmut DENK, *President of the Austrian Academy of Sciences*

Patrick GEARY (*Princeton*)

Genetic history: general introduction

Walter POHL (*Vienna*)

Longobard history – questions to geneticists

Discussion

10:30 - 11:00 *Coffee break*

11:00 - 12:30 Guido BARBUJANI (*Ferrara*)

New genetic methods and their uses for history

Discussion

Irene BARBIERA (*Padova/Budapest*)

Longobard archaeology and what genetics may contribute

Discussion



12:30 - 2:00 *Lunch break*

Internal Meeting:

Seminar Room, Ground Floor · IMAFO · Wohllebengasse 12-14 · 1040 Wien

LONGOBARD ARCHAEOLOGY BETWEEN PANNONIA AND ITALY

2:00 - 3:30

Presentations:

Tivadar VIDA, Sauro GELICHI

Discussion

3:30 - 4:00 *Coffee break*

4:00 - 5:30

Panel discussion: Csanád BÁLINT, Irene BARBIERA, Francesca BERTOLDI, Daniel PETERS, Falko DAIM

Discussion

5:30 - 6:00

Concluding discussion: What questions does the archaeological evidence pose for genetic research and for historical interpretations?

Tuesday, January 31

Internal Meeting: Seminar Room, Ground Floor · IMAFO · Wohllebengasse 12-14 · 1040 Wien

ANCIENT DNA AND ITS POTENTIAL FOR GENETIC HISTORY

9:00 - 10:30

Presentations:

David CARAMELLI, Krishna VEERAMAH

Discussion

10:30 - 11:00 *Coffee break*

11:00 - 12:30

Panel discussion: Robert WAYNE, John NOVEMBRE, Guido BARBUJANI, Silvia GHIROTTI, Balázs MENDE

12:30 - 1:00

Concluding discussion: How can genetics help early medieval studies?

1:00 - 2:00 *Lunch break*

PERSPECTIVES OF A PILOT PROJECT

2:00 - 3:30

Cristina LA ROCCA

Response from the historian's perspective

General discussion: What have we learnt from each other?

3:30 - 5:00

Where do we go from here? Discussion of goals of a project and what would be needed in a grant to accomplish them

5:00 *End of workshop*