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Message from the Guest Editor

Recent years have witnessed rapid technological advancements in the sensitivity of diagnostic tools, a significant drop in analytical costs, the increased robustness of data processing and the emergence of novel investigative methods which are invaluable in archaeological and anthropological studies. In particular, ancient DNA, proteomics and isotope analyses are ubiquitous and are no longer restricted to specialist publications, becoming instead a part of standardized analytical toolkit which can be applied to specific questions and hypotheses testing. This interdisciplinary alliance results partially from breakthroughs within the respective fields themselves, such as the advances in DNA sequencing, computer modelling or ancient pathogen detection, and partially from moving towards utilisation of novel sources of information, such as, e.g., sediment cores. With the overarching aim of addressing archaeological questions the researchers step beyond conventional investigation of osteological material towards the study of associated contexts applying methodologies transgressing traditional division between fields of anthropology, chemistry, geology, climatology, zoology, etc.



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