Institut für Österreichische Geschichtsforschung
Universität Wien, Universitätsring 1, 1010 Wien

EINLADUNG

zum 246. Institutsseminar
am Montag, dem 26. April 2021, um 17 Uhr c.t., Videokonferenz

Kirsten I. Bos

(Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History, Jena)

Historical infectious diseases as seen through the lens of ancient DNA

Zur Veranstaltung (Zoom):
https://univienna.zoom.us/j/94743238166?pwd=TXRPNGV0b0VwWDRuVnFZUXV4MU1udz09

Recent years have seen a transformation in the way historians, anthropologists, and scientists understand historical infectious diseases. Questions about the presence, causes, and course of infectious disease once answered only through textual evidence alone can now be studied through the lens of ancient DNA. Methods of ancient DNA retrieval permit us to reconstruct ancient pathogen genomes from archaeologically-preserved remains using computational methods. This allows scientists to identify pathogens that affected human populations centuries ago and to analyze their genetic relationship to one another and to modern forms.

Major advances have been made by Dr. Bos and her colleagues for some of the most important pathogens in human history, notably *Yersinia pestis* (the bacterium responsible for the Black Death and other epidemic outbreaks), ancient tuberculosis in the New World and beyond, and a growing number of other diseases as well. Dr. Bos will offer an overview of the ways she and other scientists are rewriting the history of disease through the tools of ancient DNA.

Kirsten I. Bos studied Bio-medical Science at the University of Guelph (2001), studied at the University of Manitoba (2002), and received her MA (2004) and PhD (2012) in Anthropology at McMaster University. After this, she carried out research funded by the SSHRC and the ERC in the department of Archaeological Sciences at the University of Tübingen. She is currently Group Leaders of Molecular Palaeopathology at the Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History at Jena. Her research interests include palaeopathology, infectious disease, ancient DNA, skeletal biology, microbiology, and disease resistance. Among an extensive bibliography are important contributions to our understanding of *Yersinia pestis* (plague), leprosy, cholera, tuberculosis, and paratyphoid fever.

Moderation: Shane Bobrycki

Christian Lackner
Institutsdirektor

Gäste sind herzlich willkommen!