



BABAO Conference

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Dr Eline Schotsmans
Post-doctoral Research Fellow

Dr. Eline Schotsmans specialises in taphonomic processes and funerary archaeology. Her research lies at the interface between archaeo-anthropology and forensic sciences. Originally from Belgium, she completed her PhD at the University of Bradford (UK) studying plaster burials. Her current work, funded by the European Commission, as Marie Skłodowska-Curie post-doctoral research fellow between the University of Bordeaux (FR) and the University of Wollongong (AU), focuses on Neolithic funerary treatments, taphonomy and burial inclusions in order to elucidate aspects of social organisation and belief in the Neolithic Near East. She is carrying out field work, methodological research and actualistic experiments on human remains to better understand potential desiccation (mummification) and other delayed burial practices in the Neolithic Near East.

Eline's interdisciplinary approach brings together archaeology, anthropology, archaeometry, histology and microbiology in order to characterise the funerary practices, depositional environment and taphonomic context of archaeological, contemporary and experimental graves. Next to her archaeological field work, Eline is regularly consulted on forensic casework. She also edited the volume *Taphonomy of Human Remains. Forensic Analysis of the Dead and the Depositional Environment* (Wiley, 2017).