

Revisiting the connections between southern Scandinavia and the Baltic at the end of the Bronze Age and the beginning of the Iron Age (1100-500 BC)

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Abstract:

Recent investigations into metal provenance show that communities on both sides of the Baltic Sea used metal originating in southern and western Europe throughout the Late Bronze Age and into the Early Iron Age (1100-500 BC). The ability to address the increasing need of metal would have required locally available exchange resources or a strong communal tie for networking; possibly a combination of the two.

The communities separated by the Baltic Sea show both significant differences and interesting similarities expressed for instance in burials, hoarding practices, and landscape management strategies. These suggest that interregional exchange networks between both areas and with the rest of the continent remained active over time despite cultural differences. Our questions are:

- Can we reconstruct different or complementary exchange networks over time?
- Combine multiple datasets to distinguish between maritime (Baltic-North Sea related) and riverine (Continental) networks?
- Integrate the study of Late Bronze Age individual mobility patterns (both isotopically and genetically) with archaeological evidence
- Shed light on the socio-cultural or political processes that enabled communities to maintain exchange networks over time?

We invite contributions exploring these questions through empirical research on, but not limited to, archaeometallurgy, burial practices, bioarchaeology, landscape management, chronological modeling, as well as theoretical approaches towards continuity and change in social, political and economic organization across the Baltic in general and Pomerania and southern Scandinavia, in particular. We encourage submissions that present fine-tuned case studies, innovative models, and critical analyses of different datasets impacting on our perception of locally rooted traditions and of long-distance exchanges. By integrating diverse approaches and datasets, we aim to offer fresh insights into Late Bronze Age connectivity, addressing questions of mobility, exchanges and cultural transformation at various scales, from site-specific to interregional analyses.