

## Who knows what actually happened?

Healers and shamanistic practices in historical and archaeological evidence.

<b>Conference</b>	Friday, June 21, 2024, 9:00 am
<b>Location</b>	Urban Archaeology Hall in Tirol, Hasegg Castle, Hall in Tirol
<b>Excursion</b>	Saturday, June 22, 2024
<b>Organizer</b>	Institute of Archaeology, Department: Medieval and Modern Archaeology
<b>Organization</b>	Hall in Tirol Urban Archaeology Association Harald Stadler, Alexandra Müller-Krassnitzer



**In March 2008, a human skeleton** was discovered during a prospection with a metal detector in the so-called Strader Forest in Tarrenz, Tyrol. The archaeological excavation carried out three months later revealed the remains of a 30–40-year-old woman, buried face down, with over 100 objects, including a cupping set of non-ferrous metal, a Fraisenkette, scissors, jewellery, everyday utensils and costume items.

The location, prone position and combination of finds indicate a special burial which, based on the artifacts and two silver coins, can be dated to the period of the Thirty Years' War and is most likely to be seen in the context of a woman with folk medicine skills.

**Healers have a long history.** Even in the Stone Age, there were women and men who cared for the sick and injured. From the early Middle Ages onwards, female healers in particular worked as midwives and counsellors and were persecuted by the church and secular authorities until the early modern era. In the Middle Ages, executioners were sought-after healers because their profession gave them in-depth knowledge of anatomy and medicine. Some executioners made a career out of this and even achieved the highest honours as the king's personal physician.

**Religious and cultural factors** play an important role in interpreting the various healing practices, which represent an extensive repertoire of psychophysical and religious treatments.

**The international colloquium** aims to provide an overview of archaeological and historical findings and finds in the context of healers and healing practices, primarily in Europe. Doubtful findings will also be discussed and debated.

**Ten speakers from six countries (Austria, Italy, Germany, Israel, Denmark and the USA) will present and discuss their latest findings at Hasegg Castle on June 21. An excursion to the Winkler Pharmacy Museum in Innsbruck and the Knappenwelt Gurgltal and the Healer's Museum in Tarrenz on the program for June 22.**

**The event is open to the public and the conference language will be German and English. It is planned to publish the contributions to the colloquium in the Nearchos series (peer-reviewed).**

## Conference program: Friday, June 21, 2024

- 08:15 - 09:00** Registration
- 09:00 - 09:10** Welcome
- 09:10 - 09:40** Leore Grosman, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel: A 12.000 year old Shaman burial from the Southern Levant (Israel).
- 09:40 - 10:10** Katrine Moberg Riis, Museum Sønderjylland, Denmark: An unusual woman from Ønlev – a richly furnished grave, including a surgical tool, from the late iron age period, 225-250 AD (South Jutland, Denmark).
- 10:10 - 10:40** Annette Frölich, Prehistorian, Copenhagen, Denmark: Archaeologically found medical doctors.
- 10:40 - 11:10** **Coffee break**
- 11:10 - 11:40** Michele Hayeur Smith, Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History & Bridgewater State University, USA: Varðlokkur, Seið and Healing: the Völur in the Viking Age.
- 11:40 - 13:30** **Lunch break**
- 13:30 - 14:00** Armin Torggler, State Museum of Mining, Bressanone, Italy: Vulture claws, cat fat and pigeon dung. Late medieval recipe ingredients between magic and healing. (German)
- 14:00 - 14:30** Harald Stadler, University of Innsbruck, Austria: The healer of the Strader forest. News of a significant find of the 17th century in the Tyrol. (German)
- 14:30 - 15:00** Frank Maixner, Eurac Research, Bolzano, Italy: typhus or plague? Man or woman? DNA analyses on the test bench for the detection of diseases and gender issues. (German)
- 15:00 - 15:30** **Coffee break**
- 15:30 - 16:00** Mark Mersiowsky, University of Stuttgart, Germany: Pilgrimage pendants with mirrors and their meaning. (German)
- 16:00 - 16:30** Ryan Gray, University of New Orleans, USA: Midwives, Healers and Priests: 300 Years of Everyday Magical Practice in New Orleans, Louisiana.
- 16:30 - 17:00** Nicole Bauer, University of Graz, Austria: Insights into hell. Religious studies reflections on exorcism and belief in the devil. (German)
- 17:00 - 17:30** Summary and final discussion

## Excursion on Saturday, June 22, 2024

Knappenwelt Gurgltal (Tschirgant 1, 6464 Tarrenz) and Winkler Pharmacy Museum (Herzog Friedrich Straße 25, 6020 Innsbruck)

- 09:00** Departure from Gasthof Badl (Haller Innbrücke 4, 6070 Ampass)
- 10:00** Visit to the Knappenwelt Gurgeltal & the Healer's Museum in Tarrenz
- 12:00** Lunch in Tarrenz
- 15:00** Visit to the Winkler Pharmacy Museum in Innsbruck
- 17:15** Return to Hall in Tirol
- 17:30** Arrival at Gasthof Badl

**Registration:** Participation only with registration  
Mag. Alexandra Müller-Krassnitzer: office@stadtarchaeologie-hall.at oder  
Tel: +43(0)676/680 4344

Please indicate whether you will only attend the conference (Fri. June 21, 2024) or also participate in the excursion (Sat. June 22, 2024).

**Costs for the Conference:** voluntary donations

**Costs for the excursion:** EUR 40,- for bus journey, entrance fees and guided tours (without lunch or coffee break). The excursion costs are to be paid in advance, the account details will be provided after registration.

## Registration deadline: June 17, 2024

## Accommodation

**Parkhotel Hall \*\*\*\*** Thurnfeldgasse 1, Hall in Tirol, Tel: +43 5223 / 53769, [info@parkhotel-hall.com](mailto:info@parkhotel-hall.com), [www.parkhotel-hall.com](http://www.parkhotel-hall.com), 750 m to the castle

**Hotel Goldener Engl \*\*\*\*** Unterer Stadtplatz 5, Hall in Tirol, Tel: +43 5223 / 54621, [info@goldener-engl.at](mailto:info@goldener-engl.at), [www.goldener-engl.at](http://www.goldener-engl.at), 150 m to the castle

**Kontor Boutiquehotel \*\*\*\*** Unterer Stadtplatz 7a, Hall in Tirol, Tel: +43 5223 / 23801, [info@hotel-kontor.at](mailto:info@hotel-kontor.at), [www.hotel-kontor.at](http://www.hotel-kontor.at), 180 m to the castle

**Gasthof Badl \*\*\*** Haller Innbrücke 4, Ampass, Tel: +43 5223 / 56784, [info@badl.at](mailto:info@badl.at), [www.badl.at](http://www.badl.at), 500 m to the castle

**Gasthof Schatz \*\*** Innsbruckerstraße 62, Hall in Tirol, Tel: +43 5223 / 57994, [gasthof.schatz@cnh.at](mailto:gasthof.schatz@cnh.at), [www.gasthof-schatz.at](http://www.gasthof-schatz.at), 1.6 km to the castle

**Bretzen Studios** Salzburgerstrasse 5/7, Hall in Tirol, +43 5223 / 25125, [info@bretze.xyz](mailto:info@bretze.xyz), <https://www.bretze.xyz/studios>, 200 m to the castle

For further accommodation, restaurants and inns, cafés, see city map of Hall: <https://www.hall-wattens.at/media/tvb-hallstadtplan-23402-ansicht.pdf> or Hall-Wattens tourist office: [www.hall-wattens.at](http://www.hall-wattens.at)