

Being, Doing and Seeming: Identity, Mobility and Culture Change at the Early Bronze Age Cemetery of Jelšovce, Slovakia
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Identity, mobility and culture change number among the most hotly debated archaeological topics in recent years. Rapid advances in material sciences as well as archaeology's theoretical approach to material culture have undergone a tremendous amount of change and upheaval over recent decades. In the context of the Early Bronze Age cemetery of Jelšovce (2200-1600 BC), Reiter has sought to define and redefine the convoluted relationship between these fascinating social phenomena. In so doing, she poses the following questions:

- 1) How was identity formulated in the grave at Jelšovce?
- 2) Was there a one-to-one relationship between the foreign/local appearance and the foreign/local origin of inhumations within the cemetery?
- 3) If the ancient Jelšovcians manipulated mobility and/or the concept of exoticism, how and why was this done?
- 4) Can the Aunjetitz-Mad'arovce Horizon at this site be characterized as the end product of population exchange/takeover?
- 5) If the late Early Bronze Age cultural turnover at Jelšovce was not the result of human migration, then by what means was it effectuated?

In addressing these focal points of her research, Reiter introduces a new theoretical schema for the analysis of identity, differentiating between individual identity ("I"-density) and the identities assigned to us by a group ("eye"-density). The push/pull effect of identity creation and manipulation by individuals, she argues, is both affected (and made visible) by the social changes wrought by mobility and culture change. In Jelšovce, these changes are best analyzed and understood by the juxtaposition of the *being, doing and seeming* of in-grave "eye"-density and the comparison of the local and the exotic. In her study, Reiter employs both traditional archaeological methods to analyse the vertical and horizontal construction of social grammar at Jelšovce as well as geochemical origin studies (isotopic isotopes) and osteological methods for the measurement of genetic relatedness (non-metric traits).

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Please join us on 21 February at 13:15 at the Foredragsalonen, Moesgaard (Aarhus University) for Reiter's forsvær.