Siklósi Zsuzsanna: Social archaeological interpretation of Early Copper Age copper artefacts on the Great Hungarian Plain in the light of new archaeometric data

with contributuion by Richard Madgwick, Katie Faillace, Morten Andersen, Marc-Alban Millet, Hajdu Tamás, Kiss Krisztián, Szilágyi Márton and Faragó Norbert

During the last decade, AMS measurements of short-lived samples from a known archaeological find context suggested the chronological overlap between the Early Copper Age Tiszapolgár and Middle Copper Age Bodrogkeresztúr cultures on the Great Hungarian Plain. To further investigate this chronological problem, new measurements were made, and AMS measurements of the period were collected not only from the Great Hungarian Plain but also from the surrounding regions. As a result, we were able to model the chronological relationship between the assemblages accompanied by Tiszapolgár-style or Bodrogkeresztúr-style potteries based on 86 measurements. Bayes modelling of radiocarbon measurements estimated a 130 (68.2%) 230-year overlap between the two styles that can be completed with spatial differences.

The main issue of the project is the interpretation of the social background of metallurgy, which requires a thorough re-interpretation in this new chronological situation. Instead of a homogeneous unit of archaeological cultures, we use a bottom-up approach, which allows us the description of the past sociocultural diversity. In this presentation, we discuss the social organization of the Early Copper Age communities, including the results of new studies on the origin of copper raw material (lead isotope and chemical compositional) and human mobility (strontium isotope).