

Gostujoča predavanja  
ob stoletnici  
študija arheologije  
na Filozofski fakulteti  
Univerze v Ljubljani



12. 3. 2023, 8.00–10.30

Oddelek za arheologijo UL FF, predavalnica P5

Vabljeni na predavanji:

**KARINA GRÖMER**, Natural History Museum Vienna, Department  
for Prehistory, Austria

*Material Culture Studies: Archaeological  
Textiles Research. Sources – research  
questions – methods*

in

**MARGARITA GLEBA**, Department of Cultural Heritage,  
University Padova, Italy

*Iron Age Textile Cultures of Mediterranean  
Europe: Results of the PROCON and Iron  
FoodTexMet Projects*



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**KARINA GRÖMER**, Natural History Museum Vienna, Department for Prehistory, Austria

*Priv.-Doz. Mag. Dr. Karina Grömer is the director of the Department of Prehistory, Natural History Museum Vienna. Her focus research embraces textile analysis, research on textile tools and reconstruction of prehistoric costume. This is specialised on the analysis of textiles from graves, settlements and saltmines, covering a timespan from 2500 BC till 1000 AD and a geographical area from Central Europe to Iran. Research on technological, economic and social aspects of handicrafts in prehistory, focusing on textile production was the aim of various research projects and the Habilitation in 2019. She also has the aim to bridge gaps between research institutions (Universities, Academies) and cultural heritage institutions and is active in various dissemination activities.*

**Abstract:** The cultural and historical importance of textile technology, especially of spinning and weaving, can hardly be overstated. Textile crafts not only produced essential goods for everyday use, most notably clothing, but also utilitarian objects as well as representative and luxury items. Even after wear and tear, the 'resource textile' – produced with a great amount of time and effort – was handled thoughtfully.

Textiles do survive in archaeological contexts under certain conditions, in ice, salt, bogs, waterlogged or attached to metal items, e.g. in graves. Archaeological textile research can be done on different levels and with a large set of methodologies, some of them will be presented in this overview. Such we gain knowledge on techniques used and their development.

Some key finds can be named in this context: the salt mines from Hallstatt and Dürrnberg in Austria, as well as the princely graves from Hochdorf and Hohmichele in Germany. Within these sites, more than 1000 textile fragments have been found, shedding a fascinating and colourful light on textile production skill 3000 years ago in Central Europe.

The textiles are of high quality, and decoratively designed through weave structures, colours, patterns and elaborately crafted borders. Also, luxurious textiles with imported insect dyes are known. Even the interplay between textiles and metal objects attached on them reaches a very high standard (up to woven-in gold threads) – expressing wealth and beauty. So, the visual complexity of textile objects with bright colours and interesting patterns is demonstrated by the original textile finds from the salt mine Hallstatt. The production modes, but also the consumers and producers of textiles in prehistoric societies will also be in focus of the presentation.

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**MARGARITA GLEBA**, Department of Cultural Heritage, University Padova, Italy

**Prof. dr. Margarita Gleba** is an archaeologist specialising in pre- and protohistory of the Mediterranean region, archaeology of textiles and other organic materials, and the use of scientific methods in archaeology. She was research project manager at the D NRF Centre for Textile Research (2005-2009), Marie Curie Fellow at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London (2009-2011), principal investigator of the ERC project PROCON at the University of Cambridge, UK (2013-2019), and a lecturer at the Institut für Vor- und Frühgeschichtliche Archäologie und Provinzialrömische Archäologie, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, Germany (2020-2021). Since 2021, she is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Cultural Heritage, University of Padua, Italy.

**Abstract:** Recent research on ancient Mediterranean textiles by the ERC project PROCON has demonstrated that since at least the Bronze Age, Italy and Greece developed two highly distinctive textile cultures. While twills dominate in Italy, in Greece only tabbies and weft-faced tabbies are found. The differences between dominant weaves in Greece and Italy also exposed a larger regional pattern whereby Italy's textile culture has closer affinity with central and western Europe (Hallstatt Culture) where twills prevail, while Greece's is closer to that of the Near East where tabbies are ubiquitous. The western Balkans stand out against this general pattern: preliminary results of the ongoing IronFoodTexMet project indicates that both twills and weft-faced tabbies are present in these areas, often at the same sites. The growing number of archaeological textile finds provides the first, preliminary view of local textile sub-cultures and their developments during the Iron Age, demonstrating that the area was an important crossroads for the exchange of textile technological knowledge through human mobility and interaction.