



Taphonomy of human remains; analysing the dead and the depositional environment in archaeological and forensic contexts

SEMINAR PRESENTED BY THE CENTRE FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL SCIENCE (CAS)

DATE: MONDAY 13TH FEBRUARY
TIME: 12:30-1:30PM
VENUE: 43.G01, UOW
PRESENTER: DR ELINE SCHOTSMANS

Eline M.J. Schotsmans is a researcher at the University of Bordeaux in France and an honorary research fellow at the University of Bradford, UK. Her research is focused on the burial environment and lies at the interface between archaeo-anthropology and forensic sciences. Originally from Belgium, Eline completed a PhD at the University of Bradford on a taphonomy topic, more specifically the effects of lime on the decay of human remains by studying forensic and archaeological lime burials. Eline's current research focus aims to elucidate aspects of social organisation and belief in the Neolithic Near East. Apart from her expertise in archaeology, Eline has a wide range of forensic experience. She is regularly consulted on forensic casework and her forensic experience includes the response to five aircraft accidents and one terrorist attack. Eline acts as guest lecturer in France and the UK, and edited the volume *Taphonomy of Human Remains. Forensic Analysis of the Dead and the Depositional Environment* (Wiley, 2017).

SEMINAR OVERVIEW: TAPHONOMY OF HUMAN REMAINS

A cadaver and its depositional environment are a complex and dynamic system. Without understanding the depositional environment, it is not possible to reconstruct the original sequence of events leading to the deposition and discovery of the human remains. First, this talk will focus on the effects of lime on the decomposition of human remains by showing experimental, forensic and archaeological plaster burials. This will be followed by a description of plaster burials from the Neolithic Near East and the complex mortuary customs encountered at Neolithic site of Catalhöyük in Central Turkey.



**UNIVERSITY
OF WOLLONGONG
AUSTRALIA**

