



## IRISH INSTITUTE OF HELLENIC STUDIES AT ATHENS

*Institiúid Éireannach san Aitíen don Léann Heilléanach*  
*Ιρλανδικό Ινστιτούτο Ελληνικών Σπουδών στην Αθήνα*

### 7<sup>th</sup> Theoretical Seminar on the “*Multifaceted Aspects of Ritual*”

by Prof. Bettina Arnold- University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, USA.

## Frequent Hearses: The Archaeology of Funeral Ritual in Early Iron Age West-Central Europe

*“On all the line a sudden vengeance waits, and frequent hearses shall besiege your gates.”*

To the Memory of an Unfortunate Lady



It has been said that archaeologists excavate burials, not funerals. It is certainly true that the presence of a body, or bodies, whether preserved or implied by the presence of grave goods, is the defining feature of mortuary contexts in prehistory. However, in Early Iron Age west-central Europe the grave itself represents just one inflection point, a single stage in a process extending back in time to the period before the interment as well

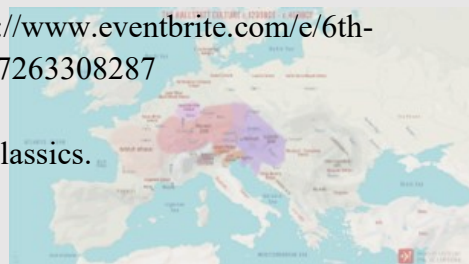
as after it. The four-wheeled and two-wheeled vehicles found in late Hallstatt and early La Tène burials in the West Hallstatt zone and other evidence for post-depositional activity in a select number of elite graves are part of a complex, multi-stage process that appears to have been accompanied by mourning activity including the cutting of hair, opening of the grave to remove or insert objects or persons, and depositing food offerings after the laying to rest of the dead. Some of these activities, represented by evidence of burning and small stone altars on burial mound surfaces, appear to have gone on for several generations, as this presentation will demonstrate. Viewed as a process rather than an event, the funeral rituals of the early Iron Age in west-central Europe provide a window into how people dealt with death in the past even in the absence of documentary evidence.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** The seminar is directed only to graduate students.

Up to twenty students will attend the seminar in person. In order to reserve a seat please contact the Assist. Director at [irishinstitute@icd.ac.uk](mailto:irishinstitute@icd.ac.uk).

Ten students will register via Eventbrite to attend online here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/6th-theoretical-seminar-of-the-iihsa-given-by-prof-bettina-arnold-tickets-547263308287>

The lecture is co-hosted by University College Dublin, Department of Classics.



Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> May 2023

Lecture begins at 19.30 pm (Greece time)-17.30 pm (Ireland time)

Navarhou Notara 51a  
106 83 Athens  
Greece

Tel/Fax: +30-210-8848074  
Email: [irishinstitute@icd.ac.uk](mailto:irishinstitute@icd.ac.uk)  
[www.iihsa.ie](http://www.iihsa.ie)