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# Integrating lifeways and taskways to reconstruct Central European Early Neolithic sexual division of labour: a contribution from use-wear and isotope analysis

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## Résumé

Sexual division of labour and gendered task specialisation have been noted to be key issues for understanding social, political, and economic systems in social sciences worldwide. However, its presence and possible social implications during the formation of the first farming societies during the European Neolithic is still a work in progress.

Use-wear analysis, that is the study of the past uses of tools through surface microscopic examination, has been applied to both ground and flaked stone instruments found in male and female graves from six LBK cemeteries spread across Centre Europe. The aim of our research is to go beyond the analysis of the funerary sphere as a straight-forward presentation of the two sexes at death, by considering the relationship between the tasks carried out in life and the ways in which they may have been represented at death.

At the same time, a revision of the buried individual's diet and mobility patterns has been accomplished by means of  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ ,  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$ ,  $\delta^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  isotope analyses to better understand their lifeways. By studying and comparing the first farming communities' lifeways and workways we want to contribute to explore the possible onset of sexual division of labour social and tackle its social implications.

**Mots-Clés:** gender, sexual division of labour, LBK, Rubané, use, wear analysis, lithic stoon tools

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