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**Mobility of individuals and populations in the prehistoric period.
Confrontation of archaeological, ethnological and natural
scientific methods.**

Abstract of dissertation thesis

This thesis focuses on the use of natural scientific methods and cross-cultural research to study the mobility of individuals and populations in the prehistoric period and confronts these methods with the results of traditional archaeological approaches. In the first part, the advantages and limits of multiple-tooth strontium isotope analysis are critically assessed. Analysis of published strontium data of more than 1,000 individuals across the world reveals a high degree of variability in childhood mobility patterns between different regions and periods. In the second part, the association between post-marital residence and dwelling size is tested using phylogenetic comparative analysis methods and a global sample of 86 pre-industrial societies. The results confirm that large dwellings are associated with matrilocality (whereas smaller with patrilocality) and suggest that average dwelling size can be used as a material proxy for inferring post-marital residence rules in prehistoric societies. The last part of the thesis combines various types of evidence (archaeological, strontium and ethnographic) to determine post-marital residence patterns in the Early Neolithic of the Central European temperate zone. Two Linear Pottery Culture burial sites in Vedrovice (Czechia) and Nitra (Slovakia) serve as a case study. The thesis warns against one-sided interpretation of strontium isotope results and suggests that in addition to patrilocality, other residential rules were also possible, albeit less likely. A hypothetical model combining different post-marital rules on different social and geographical levels is proposed.