

# UISPP XIX World Congress - Meknes 2020

## Commission 30:

### *Pratiques mortuaires dans la Préhistoire et la Protohistoire/* **Mortuary Practices in Prehistory and Protohistory**

#### **Proposal Session: *Man and his companions (horse and dog) in Eurasian Graves (3<sup>rd</sup> mill. BC-1<sup>st</sup> mill. AD***

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The horse and the dog had a particular position in the society, due to the important part that these animals played in the life of the human communities of this period, which is obvious also in the funerary finds. The horse was of great importance in battle or at hunting, in the contests and ceremonies, while the dog had to protect the house and the flocks, to accompany humans at hunting, therefore these two animals were particularly treated in graves. They are considered “companions” of the deceased, that is why they were buried by the deceased’s side, often with all the harness gear (the horses), or with grave goods (the dog).

Considering and studying this phenomenon on large spaces (from the Pacific to the Atlantic) and on a long period (four millennia), at different populations and in various stages of development, we intend to point out the common elements and those particular as well, and how the human communities, the elites mainly, treated these noble animals.

Different aspects of the funerary finds will be taken into consideration: the grave type (tumular or flat), the organization of the space (with funerary chambers or not, some separate pits), the rite (inhumation or cremation), the position towards the deceased, the grave goods and the offerings; as far as the inhumations are concerned, the position and the condition of the skeletons will be taken into account as well.

Certainly, we need to discuss also the iconographic representations (in case they exist) or the written sources which give us valuable information concerning the role of these noble animals in the societies of the period taken into consideration.