

Autour des populations du passé : les migrations humaines

Séminaire bi-mensuel coordonné par
Isabelle Séguy (INED/Cepam)
et **Claudia Contente (univ. Pompeu Fabre, Barcelone)**

Séance 11: « Diversité des populations et des conditions de vie »

Mardi 2 février 2016 - de 14h30 à 16h30

INED, Paris— salle 111
MSH-Sud-Est, Nice - salle 009
(Renseignements pratiques en dernière page)

Conférence-débat

Nikola KOEPKE

**Evolutionary Morphology and Adaptation Group,
Institute of Evolutionary Medicine, University of Zurich (Suisse)**

What do the bones tell us?

The very long-run Trajectory of the human Well-Being in Europe



Séance 11: « Diversité des populations et des conditions de vie »

Abstract

What do the bones tell us? The very long-run Trajectory of the human Well-Being in Europe

Nikola KOEPKE

Evolutionary Morphology and Adaptation Group,
Institute of Evolutionary Medicine, University of Zurich (Suisse)

nikola.koepke@iem.uzh.ch

How did human well-being develop in pre-modern Europe? For a long-run study on living conditions from pre-historic times onwards sufficient data are very rare: no 'conventional' economic data exist; moreover, no quantitative information on alternative aspects used in today's welfare research (e.g., infant mortality) is available in adequate quantity to study overall living standards. Promising though is an interdisciplinary concept, utilising skeletal material as data source of mean height and applying anthropometric methods in order to determine the net nutrition, and thus the biological standard of living of the population. This approach is employed here to investigate the conditions in Europe from the 8th century B.C. until the 18th century A.D. This way the first time in economic-social history this study provides insights in the well-being in the very long-run from Iron Age onwards. The study is based on the data of over 18500 individuals.

For the centuries B.C. onwards, I find a modest increase in the mean height of about 0.5 cm per 1000 years. However, strong variations between centuries are observable: Conditions of constrained human welfare repeatedly superseded enhanced living conditions during pre-industrial history.

Various potential determinants could explain this finding. One aspect of particular interest in this very long-run is the question concerning the Roman impact and medieval conditions, which is still in lively debate. Contrary to conventional perception I find a decline in mean height at the time of Roman rule and a recovery after the end of the imperium Romanum. Other statistically significant determinants include the urban rate, with a negative impact, and the cattle share, as an indicator for milk consumption, with a positive effect. Other variables, such as changes in population density, did not have a decisive impact on the overall long-run development of European net nutrition in the course of the centuries under study.



Renseignements pratiques

Le séminaire se déroule en visio-conférence

entre

l'INED- salle 111 (1^{er} étage)

http://www.ined.fr/fr/institut/infos_pratiques/venir/

(prévoyez de prendre votre carte d'identité, elle pourrait vous être réclamée à l'accueil)

et

la Maison des Sciences de l'Homme et de la Société Sud-Est (MSHS-Sud-Est), 3 avenue François Mitterrand, 06300 Nice, salle 009 (rez-de-chaussée)

http://mshs.unice.fr/?page_id=1147

Contacts : seguy@ined.fr

(+33 4-89-88-15-15 ou +33 6-87-44-86-17)

luc.buchet@cepam.cnrs.fr

claudia.contente@upf.edu

