

Social interaction, mobility, and institutional participation: Archaeology and Ancient Genomes interwoven

Michael Frachetti

Washington University in St. Louis

Saint Louis, MO US

Abstract

The recent surge in ancient genomic research in Central Eurasia has provide considerable nuance to archaeological narratives concerning social and economic interaction in the Bronze Age, evincing regional mobility and connectivity and innovations and expressions of both technology and ideology. This paper presents a synthetic review of recently published aDNA studies alongside selected archaeological case studies to revisit current models of economic change and socio-political complexity in the Eurasia steppe region from the 3rd to 1st mill. BCE. In particular, Bronze Age sites (excavated by the author) from the so-called "Inner Asian Mountain Corridor" along with research from surrounding territories are used to expose the nuanced choices and diverse strategies that brought regional communities into shared interactive arenas, reshaping both the genomic and cultural landscapes of the region in dramatic ways.