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Stereotype

The role of grave sets in Corded Ware and Bell Beaker funerary practices

1. Despite the existence of seemingly rigid grave sets, people were *not* buried conform fully standardized and prescribed rituals. Within set cultural boundaries, expression was given to individual status, identity and/or personality.
2. The Dutch Late Neolithic graves were not about *standing out*, but instead about *blending in*.
3. A Late Neolithic grave is a context for selective deposition that was part of a much wider sacrificial landscape.
4. The Dutch Late Neolithic A battle axes were not weapons.
5. The interpretation of prehistoric burials is greatly hindered by our own notions and preconceptions of what is, a 'grave'.
6. While functional analysis is only rarely performed, making claims based on the presumed function of artefacts is unfortunately rather commonplace.
7. In the Late Neolithic B, metal objects were far more common than their relative scarcity in the archaeological record leads us to believe. This can be inferred from the existence of standardized metal signatures, their inclusion in practices of selective deposition and the standardization of types and decoration.
8. Although flint and metal are used by archaeologists to distinguish between periods in time, it should be stressed that many of the stone and metal tools were actually used to work a far more important raw material in prehistory that was used in all spheres of both ritual and domestic life: wood.
9. In the 3rd millennium BCE several 'new' technologies converged and amplified each other to cause a major socio-technological revolution that laid the basis for what would become the Bronze Age, and what ultimately became modern Europe.
10. Where horses, carts and social fronts were the innovations that propelled prehistoric Europe from the Stone Age into the Bronze Age, we are currently in the middle of a similar revolution, central to which are new disruptive technologies in the fields of communication, mobility and the decentralization of electricity and cryptographic currencies.
11. The current climate crisis cannot – and will not – be solved by government regulations, instead the answer must and will come from technological innovations that are adopted based on pull, rather than push factors.
12. For most of the world's population a book that is not freely accessible online can be regarded as unpublished.
13. The opening scene to Monty Python's 'Holy grail' – "He must be a King" – is a perfect example of the concept of a *negative definition*.