



Universiteit
Leiden
The Netherlands

A sense of society: enthesal change as an indicator of physical activity in the Post-Medieval Low Countries: potential and limitations

Palmer, J.L.A.

Citation

Palmer, J. L. A. (2019, March 20). *A sense of society: enthesal change as an indicator of physical activity in the Post-Medieval Low Countries: potential and limitations*. Retrieved from <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/69814>

Version: Not Applicable (or Unknown)

License: [Licence agreement concerning inclusion of doctoral thesis in the Institutional Repository of the University of Leiden](#)

Downloaded from: <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/69814>

Note: To cite this publication please use the final published version (if applicable).

Cover Page



Universiteit Leiden



The following handle holds various files of this Leiden University dissertation:

<http://hdl.handle.net/1887/69814>

Author: Palmer, J.L.A.

Title: A sense of society: enthesal change as an indicator of physical activity in the Post-Medieval Low Countries: potential and limitations

Issue Date: 2019-03-20

Curriculum vitae

Jessica Lisbeth Antonia Palmer was born in Ghent (Belgium) on July 16th 1988. She obtained a bachelor in archaeology at the university of Ghent (grote onderscheiding) with a BA thesis on the different levels of information rock art can provide archaeologists, ranging from very direct data to abstracted interpretations. She went on to obtain a master of arts in North-West European prehistory (onderscheiding), with a dissertation on the elite painted ceramics of the iron age hillside of the Kemmelberg. Following this masters', she completed the first year of a bachelor in Journalism at Artevelde Hogeschool.

Jessica then returned to archaeology, and obtained a Master of Science in human osteoarchaeology from the Leiden University (cum laude) with the thesis "Busy bones: osteoarthritis and musculoskeletal markers as evidence of physical activity and social differentiation in the post-medieval Netherlands". After finishing this degree, she returned to Belgium as a field archaeologist for a year.

In the fall of 2013, Jessica started her PhD research at Leiden University. Combining her research first with ongoing field excavations, and later with her simultaneous positions as lab assistant, stable isotope archaeologist, teaching assistant, and freelance copy-editor, she completed her PhD in august 2018. During this five year-period, Jessica was involved in numerous research projects on both light and heavy stable isotopes, including provenance research into the Roman soldier popularly known as 'the man in the well' from Velsen using strontium and oxygen stable isotopes, and the dietary research into the post-medieval skeletal collection of the Louis D'haeseleerstraat from Aalst using stable carbon and nitrogen isotopes which is integrated into this PhD. By completing these projects from start to finish, Jessica developed an interest in chemical processes and experience with laboratory protocols.

During her PhD, Jessica taught a host of guest lectures, and presented at the main conferences in her field on a yearly basis. She co-directed and taught a field school on human remains near Naples in Italy. She was instrumental in the development of the state-of-the-art chemical laboratory and laboratory for human osteology at the faculty of archaeology of Leiden University. Within her research group, Jessica co-supervised several master students, and was involved in the creation of the MOOC 'The truth in our bones', for which she also provided a lecture. For her own research, Jessica instigated collaborations with the Flemish

Heritage Agency, various archaeological companies, and the University of Saskatchewan. Her passion lies in the combination of different osteoarchaeological, biochemical, archaeological, and historical datasets to reconstruct the lives of people in the pasts, and she believes strong collaboration between fields and specialisms form the basis hereof.

Jessica is currently a researcher at the Center for People and Buildings at the University of Delft, focusing on how to integrate different datasets and draw overarching conclusions from diverse data contexts. She is actively investigating how to optimally utilize the remaining data collected during her PhD.