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Wild West Frisia : the role of domestic and wild resource exploitation in Bronze Age subsistence

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Propositions

1. All possible proxies, including biotic/abiotic and botanical/zoological data, should be used to more accurately reconstruct past landscapes (*This thesis, Chapter 2*)
2. For the reconstruction of regional landscapes based on pollen, samples from locations within and outside a settlement should be used and compared before conclusions are drawn on the amount of forest cover present in the environment (*This thesis, Chapter 2*)
3. A low frequency of remains of wild plants and animals found at a settlement should not directly be interpreted as an unimportance of hunting and wild plant gathering to subsistence (*This thesis, Chapter 4, 7*)
4. Raw zoological data should not be directly interpreted and related to human livestock practices without apt consideration and, where possible, correction of both internal and external biases (*This thesis, Chapter 5*)
5. Crop residue/stubble burning may have formed an alternative practice to ploughing in West Frisia, for example in areas where the soil had a high clay content (*This thesis, Chapter 6*)
6. The collection of wild plants was vital to life in the Bronze Age, forming an essential addition to the diet to remain healthy (*This thesis, Chapter 7, 8*)
7. Ethnographic parallels should only be used in archaeology to create an understanding of basic subsistence practices when the parallels are entirely comparable to the type of subsistence researched; not in a pick-and-mix fashion of parallels of different subsistence types
8. Subsistence should only be researched in a holistic manner which includes integration of every aspect related to it (i.e. food, water, shelter, clothing, fire) in order to truly start understanding this complex and balanced system of survival
9. Without creating an expectation of what should be present, the bigger picture will never be achieved since missing aspects are never missed
10. Dutch methodological practices regarding the recovery of (organic) remains at sites dating to the Bronze Age should be standardised towards those used at excavations of sites dating to the Neolithic (i.e. systematic sieving) in order to create a more detailed dataset with which to research the past and more accurately compare time periods
11. Employing researchers with different scientific backgrounds within one research project forces out-of-the-box thinking and therefore encourages the production of new ideas and methodologies
12. A lack of insight during sampling, by simply sampling every context without having underlying research questions, results in a lot of extra work but often no extra knowledge yield
13. When something is not (yet) found archaeologically it does not dismiss scientists of thinking about it
14. Playing adventure games, through repeatedly trying to answer seemingly impossible questions, contributes to the continuous challenge and enhancement of one's problem solving abilities, and therefore also one's scientific research skills