

# Human stature in the Near East and Europe in a long term perspective

International workshop at Freie Universität Berlin  
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Adult stature is one of the most prominent physical characteristics of humans and has attracted scholarly attention since antiquity. As it is not only determined by genetic potential, but also modified by environmental influences, human stature is the object of research in various disciplines, including auxology, physical and physiological anthropology, archaeoanthropology, genetics and archaeogenetics, sociology, economics, history and archaeology. Human stature in the past can best be approached in a cross-disciplinary and long-term perspective, and current debate revolves around the following issues:

How can we measure, approximate and compare stature data from living humans, their physical remains and historical sources? What was the mean stature of past populations at a given point in space and time? What are the genetic determinants of stature? How were they distributed in past populations? How and to what extent do factors like environment, subsistence and nutrition influence stature? How did they change over time? Do the Bergmann and Allen rules apply to human populations? Did Neolithisation cause stunted growth? Do we see social screening effects for taller stature? How do we tie new knowledge on prehistoric migrations into our interpretations? Can we transfer anthropometric approaches from economic history to prehistory? Do we see long-term trends of stature and how can we explain them?

This archaeological workshop aims to bring together researchers with various backgrounds to address these questions with a focus on Holocene developments in the Near East and Europe and their possible outcomes until today.

Eva Rosenstock  
Emmy Noether Research Group LIVES  
Institut für Prähistorische Archäologie  
Freie Universität Berlin

contact: [e.rosenstock@fu-berlin.de](mailto:e.rosenstock@fu-berlin.de)  
organisational matters: [jana.anvari@fu-berlin.de](mailto:jana.anvari@fu-berlin.de)

[http://www.geschkult.fu-berlin.de/e/praehist/forschung/Dr\\_Rosenstock/Emmy-Noether-Nachwuchsgruppe/index.html](http://www.geschkult.fu-berlin.de/e/praehist/forschung/Dr_Rosenstock/Emmy-Noether-Nachwuchsgruppe/index.html)

