



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Put a Pin in It: An Analysis of Ornamentation as Weapons from Female Burials in the Iron Age

MARTIN E. ¹*

¹ Durham University, Durham, United Kingdom

*Corresponding author

Abstract

Work on the Iron Age site of Hasanlu in present day Iran suggests that dress pins found in female burials served as both stylistic and defensive objects. These pins were excessively long and likely uncomfortable to wear and appeared in a time of heightened warfare with neighboring people. Therefore, several researchers have argued that the pins were a way for women to defend themselves during life. This paper expands on this idea and examines the ornamentation found in other female burials around Iron Age Anatolia as self-defense weapons as well as aesthetic choices. It studies ornamentation found in burials that have been reliably sexed as female as well as examines the socio-political context of the different settlements to understand what outside factors might have influenced the women's need to defend themselves. It also includes a GIS analysis of geospatial trends of the weaponized ornaments found at each site to understand how location affected their prominence. This paper explores why women felt the need or desire to be armed without carrying formal weapons as well as the social acceptability for women to associate with martial pursuits, either in their daily activities or fighting in battle.

Keywords

gender, women, burials, ornamentation, weapons

Session

6. Life and death: Human behaviour and practices

Type of paper

Poster session