

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE 12 DOCTORAL MEETING OF THE EUROPEAN  
SCHOOL OF PROTOHISTORY OF BIBRACTE

**Archaeology of violence and expressions of force in Protohistory:  
questioning its approaches, forms and markers**

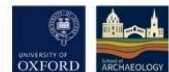


**CALL FOR PAPERS**

FROM MARCH 12<sup>TH</sup> TO 15<sup>TH</sup> 2026

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## **12<sup>th</sup> DOCTORAL MEETING OF THE EUROPEAN SCHOOL OF PROTOHISTORY IN BIBRACTE**

The 12th Doctoral Meeting of the European School of Protohistory of Bibracte (EEPb) will take place from **March 12 to 15, 2026**, at the **European Archaeological Centre of Bibracte** (Burgundy, France). Since 2015, these meetings have brought together PhD students and early-career researchers working on common issues related to Protohistory across Europe.

We invite PhD students and early-career researchers to propose a contribution on the following theme:

**ARCHAEOLOGY OF VIOLENCE AND EXPRESSIONS OF FORCE IN PROTOHISTORY:  
QUESTIONING ITS APPROACHES, FORMS AND MARKERS**

Archaeologists tend to focus on the study of armed conflicts, the figure of the warrior, and fortifications. However, whether defined as “a force exerted by an individual or group to subdue, constrain someone, or obtain something”<sup>1</sup>, violence manifests in many forms (economic, social, iconographic, architectural, etc.) and in various contexts (domestic, funerary, ritual, territorial...).

During this doctoral meeting, we aim to question the forms and markers of violence as a social phenomenon, as well as its causes, in order to understand “what [...] constitutes the essence” of violence in Protohistory<sup>2</sup>.

The perception and analysis of violence in Protohistory require an interdisciplinary approach involving not only archaeology but also physical anthropology, archaeozoology, iconography, ethnology, sociology, and more.

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<sup>1</sup> Centre National des Ressources Textuelles et Lexicales - article “violence”.

<sup>2</sup> CLÉMENT, DEMONQUE, HANSEN-LØVE et KAHN 2000, p. 465.

These meetings thus aim to explore both the various manifestations of violence throughout the Metal Ages—in its social, collective, interpersonal, and even non-human dimensions.

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In accordance with this principle, these meetings will focus on the following areas:

***1)      ARCHAEOLOGY OF CONFLICTS***

Armed conflict represents a specific form of violence, linked to power and politics, and is institutionalized.

During the Metal Ages, **the warrior figure** emerged with the introduction of artifacts specifically intended for military use. The warrior's social status can be interpreted through iconographic representations or grave goods, particularly in funerary contexts. Their role, identity, and place within protohistoric societies are promising lines of inquiry.

Alongside the development of violence, the introduction of **offensive and defensive weaponry** marks Protohistory. These artifacts, common across European sites, provide insights into craftsmanship and manufacturing techniques.

**Architecture**, especially fortifications, reflects the expression of violence and war in protohistoric landscapes. These military structures shaped the landscape and characterized protohistoric settlements. Their defensive, symbolic, or spatial roles are all significant.

**Human remains** are direct witnesses of armed conflict. In recent years, archaeological research on military installations and infrastructures has progressed significantly, with growing interest in identifying battlefields and siege sites.

Signs of violence linked to warfare raise important social questions. Archaeological research frames armed violence within cultural clashes, the rise or fall of political entities, or periods of crisis leading to social transformations. These inter-societal relations may also involve other types of conflict (economic, cultural), or even a notable absence of violence. Post-war periods are another area of study, revealing the aftermath of experienced violence. Abandonment or sacralization of

certain sites, reduction in trade, population displacement, or social changes are all markers of violence.

## **II) CHARACTERIZING VIOLENCE WITH THE TOOLS OF THE ARCHAEOLOGIST**

Understanding the essence of violence from an archaeological perspective means examining its wide range of forms and multiple contexts.

Violence, understood as a **power relationship and domination** over an “Other” seen as different, can manifest through economic means (e.g., collapse of trade, introduction of currency), political actions (e.g., armed conflicts), or social dynamics (e.g., acculturation, presence of exogenous ceramics), serving to maintain or reinforce the privileged status of certain groups over others.

This theme can also be explored through its **effects on animals**—particularly in practices such as ritual killing—as well as **on the environment** (e.g., ecological pressure, degradation). Violence plays a role in shaping both geographical and social space. It can be used to create or mark territories, especially in conflict contexts (through war or occupation), serving group interests. At the same time, such violence may enforce power dynamics: it excludes, displaces, or controls other populations by marginalizing or confining them to specific areas. This is a strategic spatialization, where space becomes a tool of power and social control.

The study of force and violence also invites us to consider **warrior and equid representations**, conveyed through codified imagery, and the **presence of weapons, military equipment, and human remains** (burials, ritual exposure, etc.) found in sanctuaries and funerary spaces. These elements bear witness to the construction of social and political identity. Their presence can have multiple explanations—ritual reasons (e.g., hoarding prestige goods, items linked to athletic competitions, cult objects, offerings or votive deposits) or practical ones (e.g., weapon stockpiles for future conflicts, traces of hostile events).

Violence also influences the construction and **representation of gender** by reinforcing or challenging social norms, as evidenced by funerary practices and bodily traces. It shapes gender roles and social dynamics within communities.

Thus, the archaeological study of violence in Protohistory is continually evolving as new discoveries are made and encompasses a wide range of themes and issues. This meeting will offer an overview and discussion through the doctoral research presented on this topic. It will also provide an opportunity to reflect on how violence manifests in contemporary societies.

**Keywords:** Violence, Warrior, Conflict, Fortification, Environment, Gender, Crises, Markers of Violence, Ideology, Expressions, Weaponry, Impacts of Violence.

**References :**

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LEHOËRFF A. (2018) – *Par les armes. Le jour où l'homme inventa la guerre*, Paris, éditions Belin, p. 243-264.

Site : <https://www.cnrtl.fr/definition/violence>

## **ORGANIZING COMMITTEE**

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## **Guidelines for oral presentations and posters:**

Contributions may take the form of an **oral presentation** (20 minutes) or a **scientific poster** (with a 5-minute oral presentation). All oral presentations must be accompanied by a slideshow presentation.

In order to facilitate exchanges, oral presentations should be presented in English (preferably) or in French. In this case, the slideshow should be in English.

Proposals must be submitted by **15<sup>th</sup> December 2025** to the following address : [eepb2026@gmail.com](mailto:eepb2026@gmail.com).

Accommodation and meals will be provided free of charge for the duration of your stay.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

### **LOCATION**

The Doctoral Meeting of the EEPB will take place at the European Archaeological Center of Bibracte, Glux-en-Glenne (France) from 12th – 15th March 2026 with a Workshop on Science Communication on March 18th. On Sunday, March 17th we are planning an excursion to the Archaeological Site and Museum of Bibracte.

### **ARRIVAL AND ACCOMMODATION**

You can stay in Bibracte from Wednesday 12th to Sunday 16th March 2026. During this week, the Research Center covers food and accommodation expenses for the participants. Throughout their stay, participants may use and work in the Centers' library, which is open 24 hours a day. Travel fees have to be covered by the participants.

Participants are advised to arrive on Wednesday 12th (especially if they travel by public transport). Participants will be picked up at the train station Le Creusot Montceau TGV. The number of participants is limited by the capacity of the Research Center.

Doctoral and postdoctoral students who wish to present a lecture or a poster have priority, but everyone is welcome to attend the Meeting depending on the accommodation capacity of the Center. Non-participants have to pay an accommodation fee according to the Centers' price list or use their five days free if they are students.

## CONTACTS

If you have any questions about the accommodation, you can contact: The Organizing Committee: [eepb2026@gmail.com](mailto:eepb2026@gmail.com)

OR:

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The information about the organization of the 10th Doctoral Meeting is regularly updated on the blog at this address: <https://eepb.hypotheses.org>