

## Acknowledgements

It would not have been possible to complete this doctoral thesis without the help and support of a number of people.

Foremost, I am exceptionally grateful to my supervisors Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Wolfram Schier, Dr. Volker Heyd and Dr. Alistair Pike for advice, assistance and encouragement. I also thank Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. mult. Hermann Parzinger for his assistance regarding the samples of the Scythian period. Furthermore, I would like to thank Dr. Elke Kaiser, Ivo Popov and Manfred Woidich of the Research Group A II of the Excellence Cluster 264 *Topoi* for fruitful discussions and sample acquisition. The award of a three years' doctoral grant by the Excellence Cluster *Topoi* facilitated excellent working conditions and extensive stays abroad.

I would like to give warm thanks to our cooperation partners from Bulgaria, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Russia and Ukraine for providing access to the samples and to their reports from the site and also for providing additional information:

- Dr. Daniela Agre, Dr. Stefan Aleksandrov (National Archaeological Institute with Museum, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences), Dr. Nadezhda Atanassova-Timeva, Borislava Galabova, Dr. Yordan Yordanov (Department of Anthropology and Human Anatomy, Institute of Experimental Morphology, Pathology and Anthropology with Museum, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences), Dr. Iliya Iliev (Museum of History Yambol), Dr. Plamen Karailiev (Archaeological Museum *Maritsa-Iztok*, Radnevo), Dr. Stefan Chohadzhiev (University of Veliko Tarnovo),
- Prof. Dr. Eszter Bánffy, Dr. Kitti Köhler, Dr. Gabriella Kulcsár (Institute of Archaeology, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Budapest), Dr. János Dani (Déri Múzeum, Debrecen), Vajk Szeverényi (Móra Ferenc Múzeum, Szeged), whom I also thank for the close and excellent cooperation in writing two papers,
- Dr. Galiya Bazarbaeva, Dr. Zainolla Samashev (Academy of Science in Kazakhstan, Institute of Archaeology, Almaty),
- Dr. Aleksandr Gei (Russian Academy of Sciences), Dr. Aleksandr Khokhlov (Samarski State Pedagogical University, Samara), Dr. Natalya Shishlina (State Historical Museum Moscow) and her team at the excavation in Remontnoe,
- Dr. Marina Daragan, Dr. Aleksandra Kozak, Dr. Alla Nikolova, Dr. Inna Potekhina, Dr. Sergei Polin, Dr. Yuri Rassamakin (Institute of Archaeology, National Academy of Science in Ukraine, Kiev), Dr. Dimitrii Teslenko (University Dnepropetrovsk), Dr. Sergei Sanzharov (East Ukrainian Volodymyr Dahl National University Lugansk).

Sincere thanks are given to Dr. Elke Kaiser who travelled with me through the Ukrainian steppes in summer 2009 to collect reference sample material. The samples from one sites of the Globular Amphora Culture, located in Central Germany, were accessed with the help of Dr. Stefanie Bergemann, Norman Döhlert-Albani, Dr. Uwe Reuter, Thomas Reuter, Dr. Harald Stäuble, and Manfred Woidich.

I am extremely grateful to the group of researchers at Bristol University, the Bristol Isotope Group, especially to Dr. Christopher Coath and Prof. Dr. Tim Elliott, who gave me access to and assistance in their laboratories in the Department of Earth Sciences. Invaluable in the laboratories was the assistance and support of Dr. Riccardo Avanzinelli, Dr. Alistair Pike, Dr. Christopher Standish, Carolyn Taylor,

Hege Usborne and Dr. Jacqueline Wilson. Measurements of oxygen isotopes were done by Dr. Peter Ditchfield, of nitrogen and carbon by Prof. Dr. Robert Hedges and Dr. Erika Nitsch (RLAHA Oxford), who provided helpful additional advice. Generously, Dr. Annsofie Witkin identified the human teeth and Dr. Cornelia Becker and Prof. Dr. Norbert Benecke the faunal samples. Access to unpublished material was given by Dr. Robin Bendrey, Dr. Volker Heyd, Dr. Elke Kaiser, and Dr. Karen Privat.

Helpful discussions and comments came from Maik Blättermann, Prof. Dr. Jane Evans, Anton Gass, Dr. Andrea Gerling, Leon van Hoof, Dr. Hylke de Jong, Dr. Corina Knipper, Dr. Janet Montgomery, Prof. Dr. T. Douglas Price, Dr. Emily Schalk, Marlen Schöffel, Rolf Seegelken, Barbara Sühs, Kai Sulkowski, Carolyn Taylor, János Tóth, Rouven Turck, and Ulrich Willenberg. For proofreading I am much obliged to Dr. Lucy Cramp, Nadine Freude, Dr. Elke Kaiser, Anne Kellner, Dr. Jessica Siller, Dr. Jenny di Leo, Tobias Nestmann, Dr. Erika Nitsch, Christine Schuh, Dr. Jane Seiter, Dr. Christopher Standish, Manfred Woidich, but most of all to Hege Usborne, who also did language corrections. Nataliia Chub translated the summary into Russian. Warm thanks are given to the editorial teams of *Topoi* and *De Gruyter*.

Finally, my gratitude goes to my family for their priceless support throughout my studies.

Berlin, August 2013

Postscript: This manuscript is a subtly revised version of my PhD thesis entitled ‘Prehistoric mobility and palaeodiet in Western Eurasia. Stable isotope analysis of human populations and domesticated animals between 3500 and 300 BC’, which was submitted in March 2012 and defended in July 2012. Relevant literature, which was published after this date, was added only exceptionally.