

GEORGE BODI, LOREDANA SOLCAN, and LUMINIȚA BEJENARU, Arguments for an Alternative Approach to the Interpretation of the Human Remains from the Cucuteni Culture

Abstract: The paper will briefly present the currently known findings of human remains from the Cucuteni culture. We will critically examine the contexts of discovery and their current interpretations: deposition of entire body - burial; deposition of body parts - ritual deposition; scattered bones/bone fragments - ritual anthropophagy or just indifference.

We will then present the theoretical basis, which could allow for an alternate interpretation. When tackling the difficult problem of understanding the attitude towards death of the Cucuteni population, the major problem that the archaeologist faces is self-decontextualization. Paradoxically enough, such an attempt to strip down ones intellectual mindset requires plenty of “intellectual prosthetics”.

After placing the Cucuteni funerary finds into a wider contemporary context, we will try to offer an alternative theoretical path to the understanding of the rituals accompanying the moment of death enrolling the help of concepts borrowed from philosophy, analytical psychology, sociobiology and anthropology.

Keywords: Cucuteni culture, funerary rite, relational ontology, sociobiology, psychology.

George BODI is Senior Scientific Researcher PhD, at Institute of Archaeology, Romanian Academy, Iași Branch; e-mail: georgebodi@gmail.com

Loredana SOLCAN is Senior Curator PhD, at Moldavia's History Museum, “Moldova” National Museum Complex of Iași; e-mail: loredana_solcan@yahoo.com

Luminița BEJENARU is Associated Professor PhD, at Faculty of Biology, “Al. I. Cuza” University of Iași; e-mail: lumib@uaic.ro