



Kristina Penezić, Sofija Stefanović, Ursula Wittwer-Backofen, Petra Urban, Jelena Jovanović. 2016. *Female stress during the Neolithic Demographic Transition in the Balkans: evidences from tooth cementum*. 8 th World Archaeological Congress, August 26t- September 2nd 2016. Kyoto, Japan.

**Abstract:** It is generally accepted that the first fertility increase occurred in the Neolithic, during the process of the so-called Neolithic Demographic Transition. But this hypothesis is not based on biological skeletal evidence of fertility, but rather derived from indirect evidence. In order to provide direct evidences about female fertility ERC BIRTH project investigates "crisis lines" which correspond to stressful life events and are visible in tooth cementum. We compare number of "crisis lines" in Mesolithic and Neolithic females from the Balkans (10000-5000 BC) in order to investigate whether the number of stressful events increased with Neolithic as a possible consequence of increase of fertility.