

## **Journey into the Afterlife: The Secrets of an Iron Age Chariot Burial**

by

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at 17:30 on Monday, November 3, 2014

in Gellner Room, CEU, 9 Nádor Street, Budapest.

In the UK, many chariot burials from the Middle Iron Age have been found mostly in East Yorkshire. The form of the spectacularly crafted chariots has remained, however, enigmatic. This is partly due to the complete decay of the timber and other organic remains but also because it was the custom to dismantle the chariots before burial. In 2003, a chariot burial was discovered at Ferry Fryston in West Yorkshire that, remarkably, contained a chariot that had been interred intact. The excavation, conservation and investigation of this burial provided new insights into the shape and construction of these chariots and also into the funeral process itself. This project illustrates the importance of informed, investigative conservation fully integrated with archaeological projects.



**Dr Sonia O'Connor** was trained in archaeological conservation at the Institute of Archaeology, University of London and has held posts in university departments, a major national museum and the York Archaeological Trust. She is now a post-doctoral researcher in Archaeological Sciences at the University of Bradford. Sonia has been the lead conservator on a number of archaeological projects of international importance and has published extensively on a range of conservation, archaeological and related topics. Her specialist knowledge includes the identification of osseous and keratinous material (such as bone, ivory, horn and tortoiseshell) and the radiographic imaging of cultural materials.