The Tübingen Center for Archaeology (TZA) is an interfaculty scientific center covering the complete temporal range from the Paleolithic to the medieval period and using the full scope of methods based in the natural sciences.

The origin of cultural modernity

Swabian Jura Long-term excavations have produced the earliest examples of figurative art and musical instruments. This work contributes to the question of the origin of cultural modernity and the arrival of anatomically modern humans (AMH) in Europe. Advances include models like the Danube Corridor hypothesis, which views the Danube Valley as a major migration route for early AMH.

Qatna Excavations have uncovered the palace and its associated Royal Tomb. The project examines the dynamic history, cultural relations and environmental setting of this important kingdom in central Syrian. Research addresses the political and economic structures in the ancient Near East and the rise of urban centers of the 3rd, 2nd and 1st millennia BC.

Troy This world renowned site on the Mediterranean coast of northwest Turkey is on the UNESCO World Heritage list. The site plays a crucial role for our understanding of the nature of cultural contacts between the Orient, the Aegean and southwest Europe from the Early Bronze Age until the Classical period. Hundreds of archaeologists, philologists and conservators have contributed to this project since its beginnings in the 1980s. Current research focuses on the excavation and geophysical prospection, restoration, conservation and presentation of the site and its surroundings.

Paleogenetics

Novel techniques of high-throughput DNA sequencing and targeted DNA enrichment are applied to hominin remains in order to obtain insights into the population history and evolution of Neanderthals and anatomically modern humans. Pathogen DNA from historical sources, e.g. medieval plague, provides insights into the rapid evolution of human infectious diseases.

Paleoanthropology

Research foci include Neanderthal paleobiology and modern human origins; functional anatomy, environmental adaptations and the relationship between skeletal morphology and genetics. The team analyzes human skeletal material from all archaeological contexts and operates on the interface of the natural and cultural sciences. Our research emphasizes quantitative analyses using state of the art computer assisted imaging.

The museum displays collections from all the archaeological departments and presents results of current excavations and research projects to the general public. The museum is famous for its Paleolithic artworks from Vogelherd and its vast collections from southwestern Germany and classical antiquity.

Swabian Jura, art and musical instruments.

Qatna, Royal Tomb.

Troy. This world renowned site on the Mediterranean coast of northwest Turkey.