

## DEATH AND THE BODY IN BRONZE AGE EUROPE

This volume offers new insights into the radical shift in attitudes towards death and the dead body that occurred in temperate Bronze Age Europe. Exploring the introduction and eventual dominance of cremation, Marie Louise Stig Sørensen and Katharina Rebay-Salisbury apply a case-study approach to investigate how this transformation unfolded within local communities located throughout central to northern Europe. They demonstrate the deep link between the living and the dead body and propose that the introduction of cremation was a significant ontological challenge to traditional ideas about death. In tracing the responses to this challenge, the authors focus on three fields of action: the treatment of the dead body, the construction of a burial place, and ongoing relationships with the dead body after burial. Interrogating cultural change at its most fundamental level, the authors elucidate the fundamental tension between openness towards the ‘new’ and the conservative pull of the familiar and traditional.

**Marie Louise Stig Sørensen** is Professor in the Department of Archaeology at the University of Cambridge. She has made important contributions to the scholarship on the European Bronze Age in a range of topics, including dress, creativity, the construction of identities, and the role of ‘things’.

**Katharina Rebay-Salisbury** is Research Group Leader at the Austrian Archaeological Institute, Austrian Academy of Sciences. She specializes in the interdisciplinary analysis of Bronze and Iron Age burials. She was awarded a European Research Council Starting Grant for her project ‘The value of mothers to society’ and teaches at the University of Vienna.

# DEATH AND THE BODY IN BRONZE AGE EUROPE

## FROM INHUMATION TO CREMATION

MARIE LOUISE STIG SØRENSEN

University of Cambridge

KATHARINA REBAY-SALISBURY

Austrian Academy of Sciences



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