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Stellingen

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Life in Transition. An osteoarchaeological perspective of the consequences of medieval socioeconomic developments in Holland and Zeeland (AD 1000-1600).

1. The traditional dichotomy between town and country does not apply to medieval Holland and Zeeland. Instead there is a clear dialectic relationship between the two environments, one that is based on exchange and interdependence.

2. The combination of palaeopathology, in this case carious lesions, with stable isotope research has great potential for the assessment of dietary patterns and this avenue of research should be pursued more often.

3. Urbanisation is a key development in human history responsible for many changes to lifeways, often characterised as negative. For example, Woods states (2003:30) “cities were graveyards, demographic sinks”. However, this does not apply to towns of the scale of Alkmaar.

4. Health is unobservable in osteoarchaeology.

5. Macroscopic analyses of skeletal collections are fundamental to osteoarchaeological research and can never be completely replaced by biochemical or biomolecular methods.

6. The absence of significant results is not necessarily negative. All research results have great scientific importance and should therefore be valued as such.

7. A solid archaeological and historical context, preferably with detailed excavation documentation, is essential when comparing different skeletal collections. Otherwise, it is like comparing apples and oranges.

8. Scientists are obligated to educate the general public about their research.

9. A PhD is a learning process. If you would not do it differently if you had the opportunity to start over, you have not learned enough.

10. Like medieval scholars, I firmly believe cheese is beneficial for your health and overall sanity.