Little Voices: Recent Advances in Child Bioarchaeology

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Children are the most vulnerable members of any society, yet, despite this, in 1968 Johnson lamented the almost complete neglect of children in archaeology. Fifty years on, how far have we come? Children and adolescents represent a unique subset of past populations. Their transitional status - physiologically, psychologically and culturally - make them particularly vulnerable to trauma and disease. We are developing a deeper theoretical understanding of the child’s life course from the womb to full maturity, providing insights into their birth, development, activity and environment. The value of child remains for providing a more nuanced understanding of early life on adult health through the generations is beginning to be realized. This colloquium discusses the unique features of non-adult skeletal remains, recent advances in their analysis, and the potential for future research. It ends with a consideration of the palaeopathology of adolescents and the particular story they have to tell.

EVERYONE WELCOME.