Sciences of the Origin, conference keynote

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**Weaving together interdisciplinary strands of evidence. A pathway to understand ritual in the deep past.**

When approaching human experience in the prehistoric past, archaeologists rely on the study of material culture and the traces of past human action. This is especially challenging when looking at aspects such as ritual, emotion, and belief. In the absence of written and oral history, we must draw on a range of different disciplines to access these elusive yet important dimensions of the past. This paper presents a case study of burials from the Mesolithic that draws on methods and theory from the natural sciences, the social sciences and the humanities. Though a combination of archaeothanatology, ritual theory, body theory and practice theory, this study exemplifies how different epistemologies can be successfully combined to bring us closer to lived experience in the deep past.