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### Metal use in the Borderlands

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## MULTIMETALITY BEYOND THE IRON AGE CENTRAL-PLACE CRAFT MILIEUS – METAL USE IN THE BORDERLANDS

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Complex metalworking, i.e. metalworking utilizing several metals within object manufacture, has traditionally been seen as intimately linked to the centralized crafts milieus in a Scandinavian Iron Age setting, as well as in many other prehistoric and historic societies. The notion of the exclusively central character of complex metalworking goes as far as to encompass all aspects of metal use involving both ferrous and non-ferrous metals – multimetallicity.

However, one of the case studies within the project 'From the Crucible and at the Anvil' has clearly shown that the spatiality of complex metal use stretched far beyond the central places and their areas of immediate control. Following this, hypotheses can be forwarded concerning both the reach of multimetallicity emanating from the central metalworking milieus, as well as the utilization of borderlands or peripheral resource areas within the networks of metal production, trade and use.

The results from the project 'From the Crucible and at the Anvil' have in this sense revised previous general interpretative models concerning the spatial dynamics of both ferrous and non-ferrous metal use and their overarching socio-economic frameworks. In order to facilitate an in-depth understanding of these aspects of metal use, the dichotomy between iron production placed in the periphery and non-ferrous metalworking connected to the central milieus needs to be thoroughly scrutinized.

This paper aims to critically discuss and evaluate the spatial dynamics of metal production, trade and networks, highlighting differences and similarities between ferrous and non-ferrous metal use as well as the utilization of both central and peripheral areas. Results from the project 'From the Crucible and at the Anvil' will be used to drive this critical discussion, specifically elucidating metal use and multimetallicity in the borderlands.

### Keywords

Multimetallicity, Centrality, Spatial analysis, Metalworking, Metal use, South-East Scandinavia

Note/comment