

# CONTENTS

1. Introduction.....	1
1.1. The archaeological site of Tomils / Sohn Murezi .....	1
1.1.1 Brief history of the excavation.....	1
1.1.2 General results and archaeological documentation of the excavation.....	3
1.1.3 General information about the cemetery.....	4
1.2. Geographical and historical framing of the site.....	5
1.2.1 Topography and climate.....	5
1.2.2 Historical overview based on archaeological and archival sources.....	8
1.2.3 Language.....	15
1.2.4 Early and modern demography – available skeletal series from Graubünden.....	19
2. Study objectives.....	22
3. The graves: characteristics, relative chronology, discussion	24
3.1 Grave structure and morphology.....	24
3.2 Grave orientation.....	25
3.3 Body position.....	27
3.4 Gravegoods.....	29
3.5 Cemetery layout.....	31
3.6 Stratigraphy and chronology.....	31
3.7 Chronology refinement.....	34
3.7.1 anthropological parameters.....	34
3.7.2 topographical parameters.....	35
3.8 final chronological model.....	37
4. The osteological and odontological material of Tomils/Sogn Murezi	
4.1 Preservation – diagenesis.....	38
4.2 Preservation – skeletal and dental completeness.....	38

5. Demography.....	42
5.1. Methods.....	42
5.1.1 Sex determination.....	42
5.1.2 Age determination.....	43
5.1.3 Choice of the Methods.....	44
5.1.4 Data representation.....	44
5.1.5 Life expectancy .....	46
5.2 Results.....	46
5.2.1 Sex and age distribution.....	46
5.2.2 Sex and age distribution by chronology and topography.....	48
5.2.3 Life expectancy .....	48
5.2.4 Life expectancy by chronology and topography.....	48
5.2.5 Reconstruction of the medieval community Tomils.....	49
5.3 Discussion.....	53
6. Stature.....	65
6.1 Material and methods.....	67
6.2 Results.....	68
6.3 Discussion.....	69
7. Dental pathologies.....	74
7.1 Materials and methods.....	75
7.2 Results.....	77
7.2.1 Caries.....	77
7.2.1.1 Permanent teeth – total population.....	77
7.2.1.2 Deciduous teeth.....	78
7.2.1.3 Caries frequencies on permanent teeth by sex and age groups.....	78
7.2.1.4 Caries occurrence by individual.....	79
7.2.1.5 Calculating caries using the Diseased-Missing Index.....	80
7.2.2 Calculus.....	80
7.2.2.1 Permanent teeth - total population, sex and age distribution.....	80
7.2.2.2 Distribution of calculus per individual .....	81
7.2.3 Periodontal disease.....	81
7.2.3.1 Permanent teeth – total population, sex and age distribution.....	81
7.2.3.2 Distribution of alveolar bone resorption per individual.....	82

7.2.4 Dental wear.....	82
7.2.4.1 Permanent teeth – total population, sex and age distribution.....	82
7.2.4.2 Distribution of dental wear per individual.....	83
7.2.5 Cysts, periapical lesions.....	83
7.2.5.1 Permanent teeth – total population, sex and age distribution.....	83
7.2.5.2 Distribution of cysts and periapical lesions per individual.....	83
7.2.6 Linear Enamel Hypoplasia .....	84
7.2.6.1 Permanent teeth – total population, sex and age distribution.....	84
7.2.6.2 Distribution of linear enamel hypoplasia per individual.....	84
7.2.7 Dental pathologies by chronology and topography.....	84
7.3 Discussion.....	85
8. Bone pathologies.....	97
8.1 Methods.....	98
8.1.1 Degenerative joint disease (DJD) .....	98
8.1.2 Trauma - fractures.....	98
8.1.3 Infectious diseases.....	99
8.1.4 Case studies .....	99
8.2 Results and discussion .....	99
8.2.1 Degenerative disc diseases (vertebra) .....	99
8.2.1.1 Results.....	100
8.2.1.1 Discussion.....	103
8.2.2 Degenerative joint diseases - long bones .....	107
8.2.3 Trauma/ fractures.....	110
8.2.4 Periosteal lesions.....	116
8.2.4.1 Results.....	116
8.2.4.2 Discussion.....	117
8.2.5. Harris lines.....	119
8.2.5.1 Methods.....	120
8.2.5.2 Results .....	121
8.2.5.3 Discussion.....	122
9. Paleopathology B: Case studies	125
9.1 Developmental defects of the skeleton.....	125
9.2 Methods.....	126

9.3 Developmental defects of the axial skeleton.....	128
9.3.1 Results.....	129
9.3.1.1 Spina bifida and sacral neural arch defects.....	129
9.3.1.2 Sacral neural arch defects.....	131
9.3.1.3 Posterior arch defects by the other vertebrae groups.....	132
9.3.1.4 Failure of segmentation: block vertebra.....	133
9.3.1.5 Errors in segmentation: ribs.....	133
9.3.1.6 Numerical errors in segmentation.....	133
9.3.1.7 Border shifting in the vertebral column.....	134
9.3.1.8 Developmental delay field defects of the sternal plates.....	135
9.3.1.9 Craniosynostosis (sutural agenesis).....	137
9.3.1.10 Further developmental defects.....	139
9.3.2 Skeletal dysplasias of the extremities.....	139
9.3.2.1 Humerus varus.....	140
9.3.2.2 Femur head deformities .....	141
9.3.2.3 Osteochondritis dissecans.....	143
9.3.2.4 Further developmental problems of the appendicular skeleton.....	145
9.5 Discussion and conclusions of the case studies: Hypothyroidism in medieval Tomils? .....	147
9.5.1 Hypothyroidism.....	147
9.5.2 Congenital hypothyroidism.....	148
9.5.3 Iodine deficiency.....	149
9.5.4 Hypothyroidism and iodine deficiency in Switzerland.....	150
9.5.6.1 Hypothyroidism and iodine deficiency in Tomils.....	153
9.5.6.2 Epidemiology, demographic profile and overall health status of the hypothyroid individuals from Tomils.....	160
9.5.6.3 Hypothyroid individuals within the cemetery of Tomils (interment parameters, chronology and topography).....	162
	164
10. Understanding the biohistory of Tomils: Phenotypic approaches	165
10.1 Material and methods.....	165
10.1.1 Data and data bases .....	167
10.1.2 Statistic packages applied.....	171
10.2 Results.....	171
10.2.1 intra-population variation assumed through cranial variables .....	171

10.2.2 Sexual dimorphism.....	173
11.2.2 Multivariate Analysis.....	178
10.2.3 Principal Components Analysis (PCA) .....	181
11. Synthesis.....	186
11.1 The research plan: background concept and aim.....	186
11.2 High and Late Middle Ages cemeteries: an unresolved chaos or an archaeological challenge? .....	187
11.3 Tomils/Sogn Murezi: living in the Alps during the Medieval Period.....	191
11.4 Diachronic changes.....	201
12. References	203

I Figures

II Tables

III List of figures

IV List of tables

V Appendix 1

VI Appendix 2