

**UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO
ANTHROPOLOGY DEPARTMENT**

GRADUATE THESIS DEFENCE

MARYA D'ALESSIO

**Together in Death: A Study of Late Bronze Age Double Burials
in Mycenaean Chamber Tombs**

**FRIDAY, December 12th,
1:30-3:30 P.M.
PAS 2030**

The Mycenaean burial practices of the late Bronze Age (ca. 1550-1050 BCE) are well documented, and it is not unusual to discover multiple burials within chamber tombs. In analyzing these tombs, there is often an assumption that double burials were interred at the same time, and yet the evidence for simultaneous burial is rarely examined explicitly. This analysis is hampered by the fact that stratigraphic data and plans of tomb contents were frequently not reported in early excavations. This study presents a retrospective analysis of published data, including photographs, plans, and stratigraphy, where available, to examine whether double or multiple burials are likely to have occurred simultaneously within a tomb. By looking at the body positioning in situ, where drawings can illustrate a better image than text can describe, the relationship of the bodies to the stromion (doorway) of the tomb and the stratigraphy of the dromos (entranceway) of the tomb, it is possible to evaluate the evidence for sequential or simultaneous burials. This contributes to our knowledge of Mycenaean burial practices, and may have implications for the organization and structure of Mycenaean society.

ALL WELCOME!

(ANTH MAJORS STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND)