

P5a

Week 2 - Monday

WORKSHOP: Sleeping like an Egyptian

HPAR4005

Pharaohs, Phoenicians and Peoples of the
Sea

Dr. Katharina Zinn



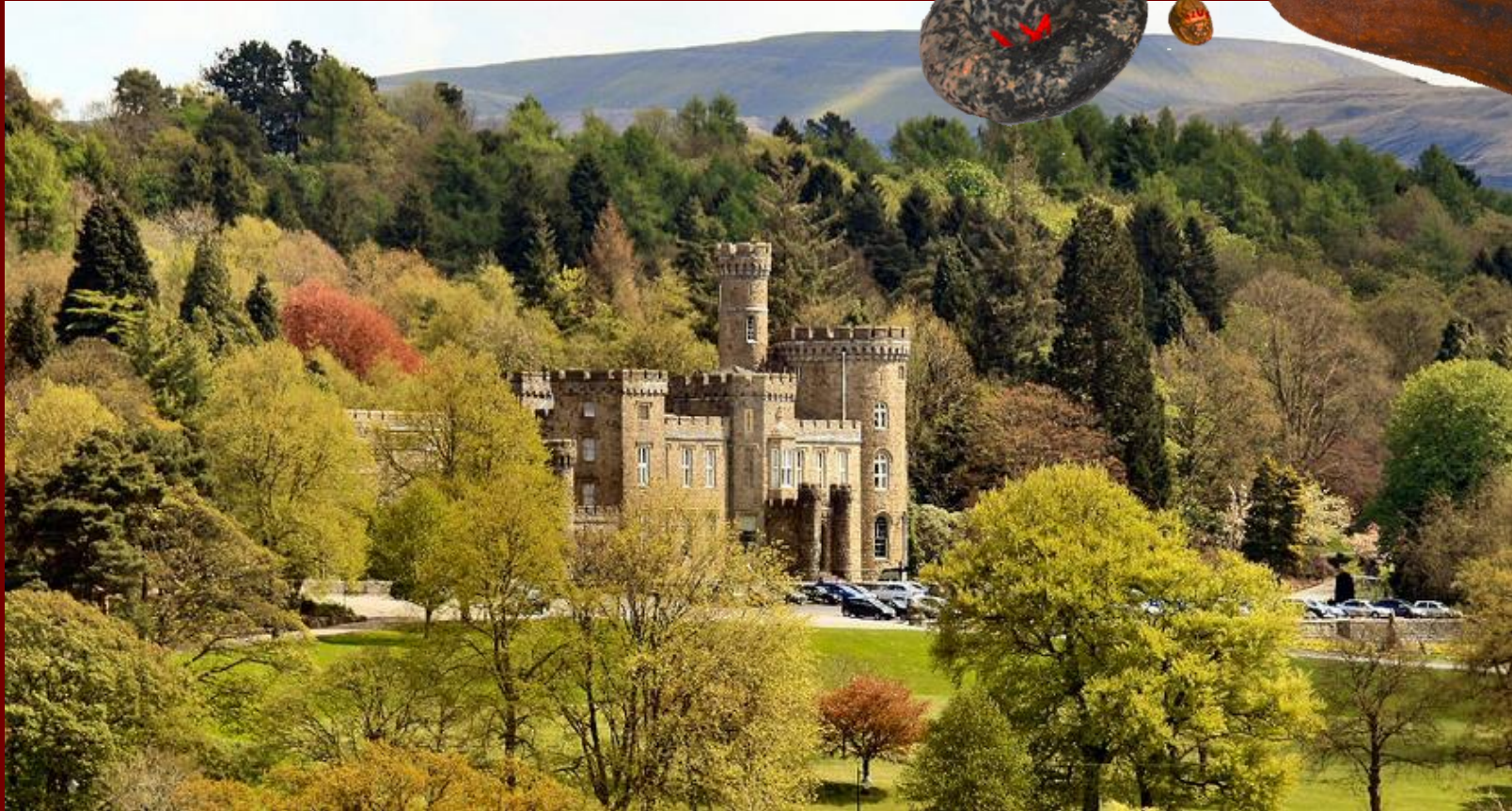
□ CCM 190.996



□ CCM 189.996

THE MATERIALITY OF THE ANCIENT EGYPTIAN AFTERLIFE

Cyfarthfa Castle Museums and
Art Gallery Merthyr Tydfil



ANCIENT EGYPT COMES TO LAMPETER

EXHIBITION OF
ARTEFACTS FROM CYFARTHFA CASTLE
MUSEUM, MERTHYR TYDFIL

"I HAVE FLOWN UP IN PRIMEVAL TIME"

ANCIENT EGYPTIAN FUNERARY BELIEFS

ENTRY FREE

WHERE

Roderic Bowen Library and Archives,
University of Wales Trinity Saint David

WHEN

24th May—2nd June 2018
Open Mon-Fri 10am - 4pm



Prifysgol Cymru
Y Drindod Dewi Sant
University of Wales
Trinity Saint David



EVENTS:

THU 24TH MAY 2018 @ 3PM – ALL WELCOME,
ENTRY FREE

PUBLIC OPENING - WITH
PRESENTATIONS GIVEN BY THE
INVOLVED STUDENTS AND RECEPTION,
ALL WELCOME

FRI, 25TH MAY

WORKSHOP DAY WITH YSGOL BRO PEDR
ANCIENT EGYPTIAN AFTERLIFE
BELIEFS

TUES, 29TH MAY

PUBLIC TALK (DR. KATHARINA ZINN) –
ALL WELCOME, ENTRY FREE

DID YOU SLEEP WELL? – THE BODY,
THE SENSES AND ANCIENT
EGYPTIAN HEADRESTS FROM
CYFARTHFA CASTLE MUSEUM,
MERTHYR TYDFIL

THU, 31ST MAY

WORKSHOP FOR HOME-SCHOOLED
CHILDREN (AGE 10-16) – ENTRY FREE
BUT RESERVATION REQUIRED (RVSP
K.ZINN@UWTS.D.AC.UK)

Sleep like an ancient Egyptian – hear
about sleep in death, try to lie down on an
Egyptian headrest and make a headrest
amulet



Headrests CCM 190.996 and **CCM 189.996**





Headrest CCM 190.996



Egyptology

- *wrs* (*rs* – dream?), *wts*
- Discussions in Egyptology about headrest
 - Kasia Szpakowska, *Behind Closed Eyes: Dreams and Nightmares in Ancient Egypt* (Swansea: The Classical Press of Wales, 2003)
 - Milena Perraud, “Appuis-tête à inscription magique et apotropaïa,” BIFAO 102(2002), 309-326.
 - unpublished PhD thesis by Milena Perraud (Appuis-tete de l'egypte pharaonique: typologie et significations), submitted at the University of Strasbourg
- unusual part of furniture (Peck) as Egyptians had pillows (used to cushion balustrades, chairs, ...)
- Made of wood, travertine, limestone, ivory, glass, ...
- Could be decorated, inlaid

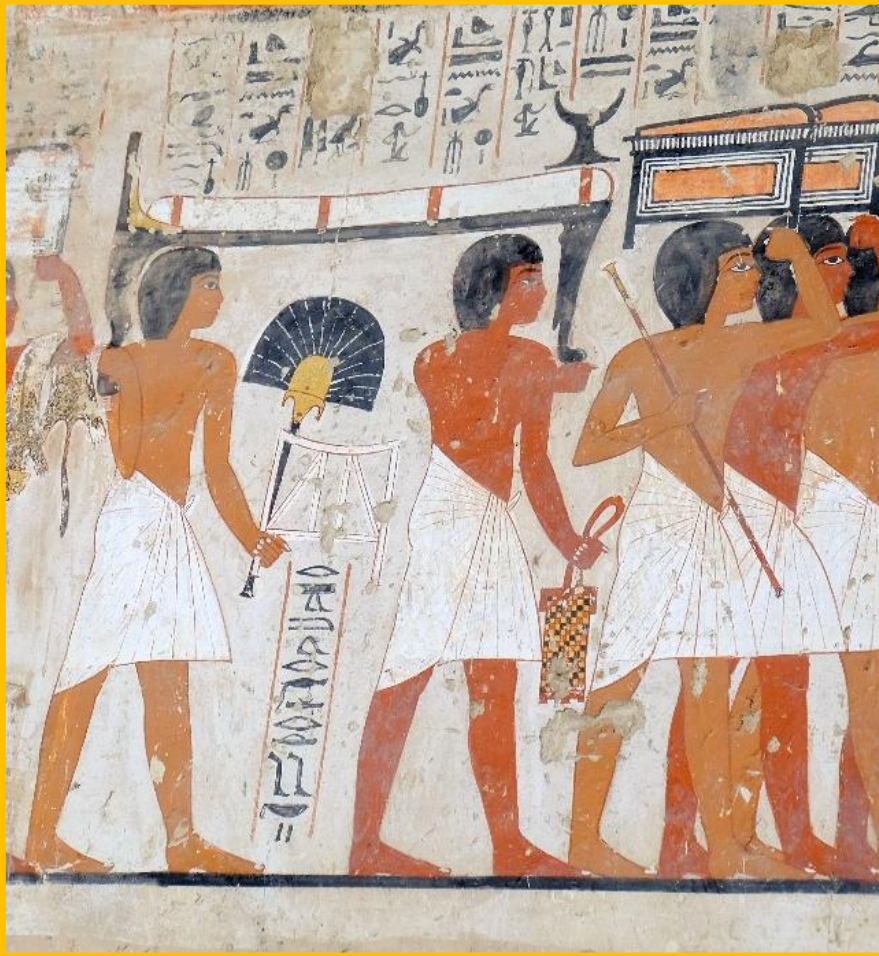
MMA 12.181.308 (18th dyn.) – front; Albany Institute ??? (MK); MMA 19.3.152 (MK), Tomb of Tutankhamun (KV 62, 18th dyn.)



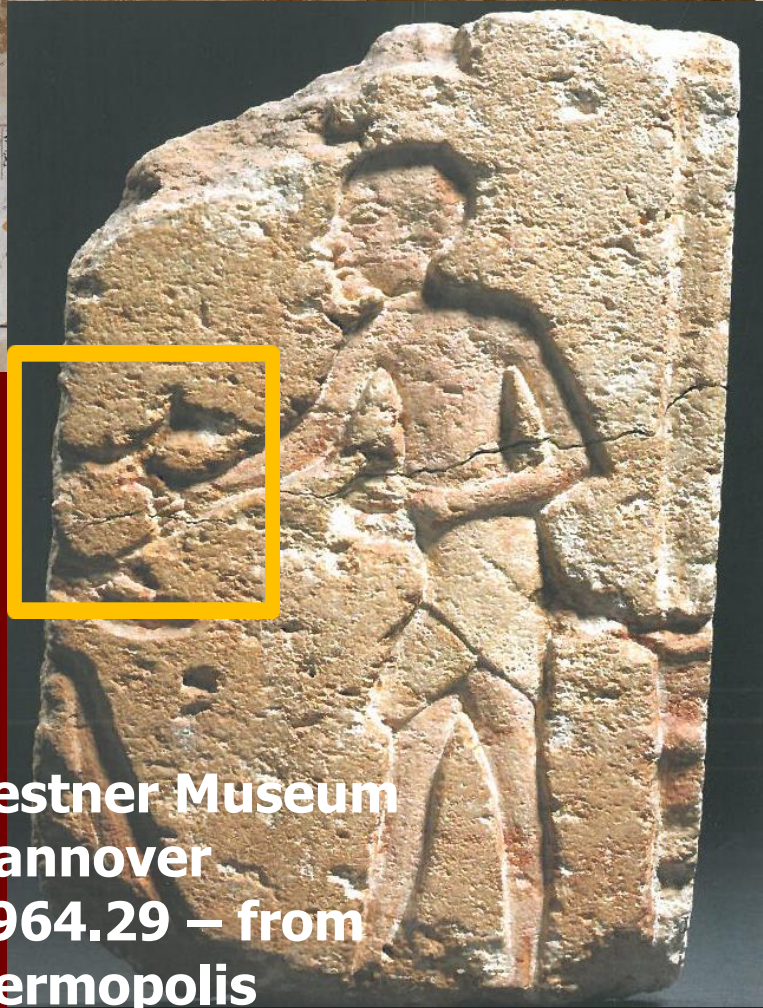
Egyptology

- ❑ *wrs* (*rs* – dream?), *wṯs*
- ❑ unusual part of furniture (Peck) as Egyptians had pillows (used to cushion balustrades, chairs, ...)
- ❑ Made of wood, travertine, limestone, ivory, glas, ...
- ❑ Could be decorated, inlaid
- ❑ Predynastic: stones in tombs under heads – precursor? (Petrie)
- ❑ Usual equipment of households (part of furniture), therefore also in tombs: found examples show use or were produced for tomb
- ❑ Appear in religious texts: CT 232; BoD 166
- ❑ Since 3rd dyn. – depicted on tomb walls, coffins, stelae

Tomb of Ramose (TT55)

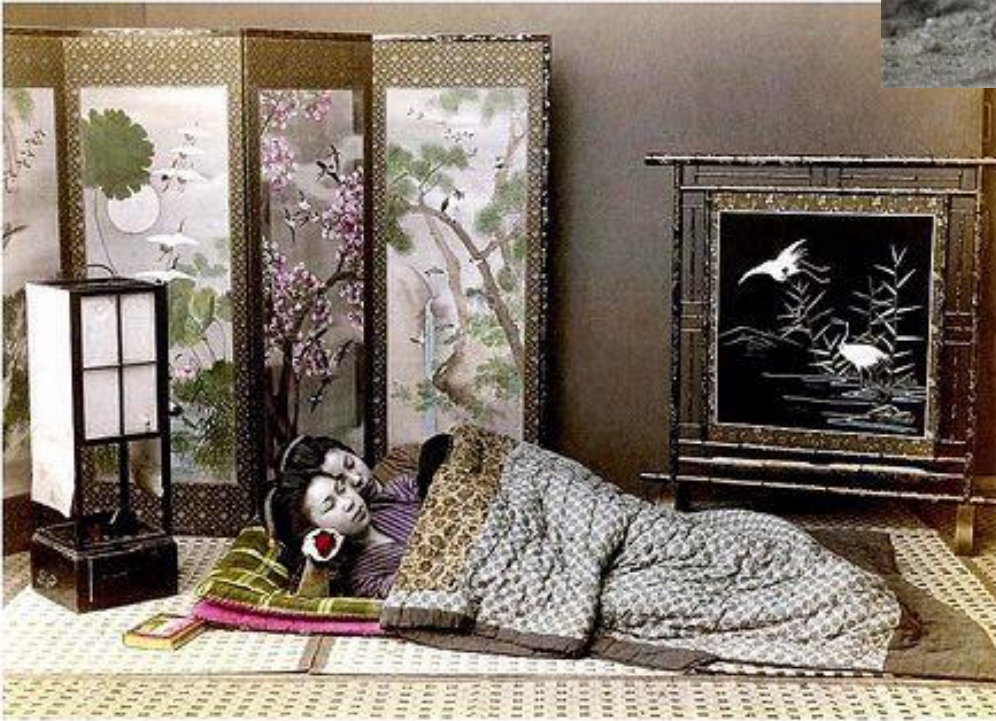


Tomb of Ramose (TT55)



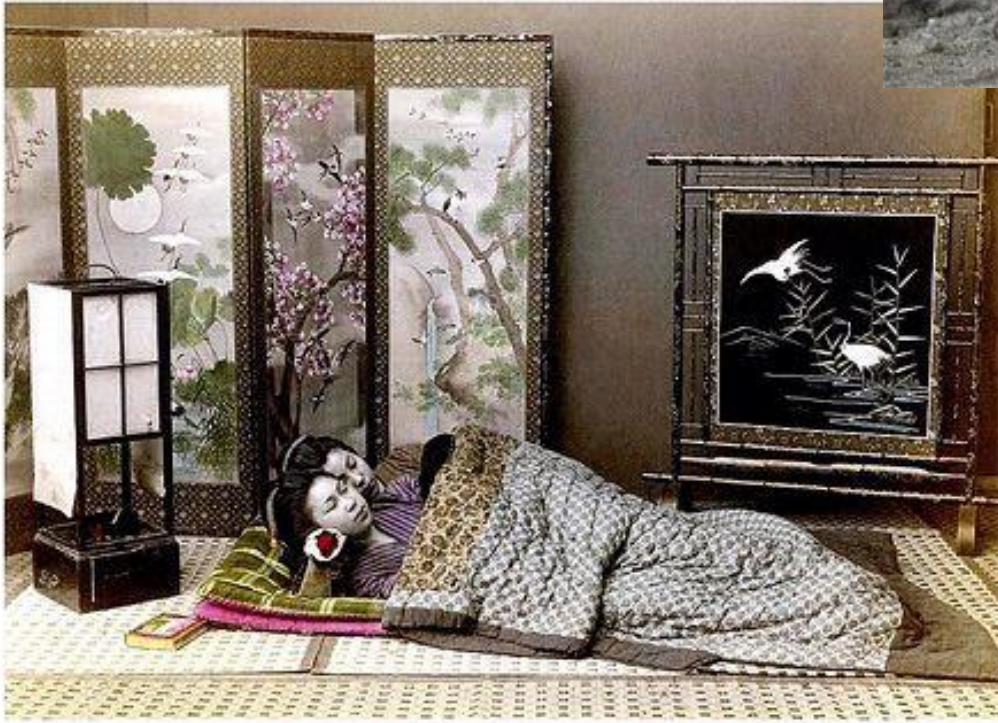
Kestner Museum
Hannover
1964.29 — from
Hermopolis

Sleeping on a headrest



The
material
evidence

Sleeping on a headrest



Sleeping on a headrest



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Sleeping on a headrest



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Sensual archaeology – New Materialism

- ❑ Much done: sensescapes, mnemoscapes, sensorial and affective experience
- ❑ But: Less regarding the body itself – interaction of body with matter, the body as matter by re-interpretation of corporeality
- ❑ New Age spiritualism “Getting in touch with our senses”
- ❑ extend to ancient civilisations as *anthropology of the past* “Getting in touch with their senses”, the matter of past bodies as part of the matter of this world
- ❑ In other words: let’s catch the intangible experiences of the otherwise predominantly tangible / material past

Sleeping on a headrest



Sleeping on a headrest



What was the linen for?

□ “Dust sheet”



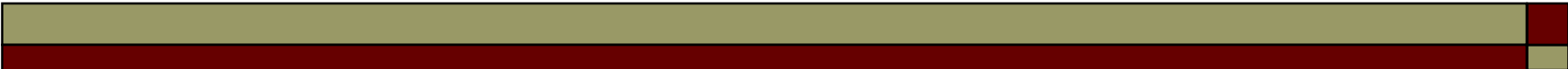
□ Padding?



TT8 Kha and Merit – Merit's bed with headrest

wooden headrest encased in two layers of cloth





Shall we ask?

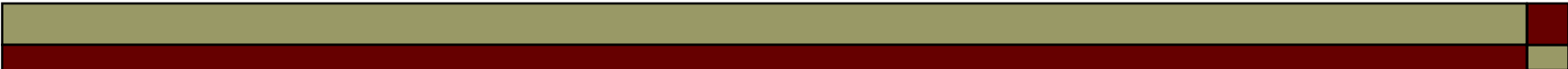
- Anthropological fieldwork
 - Observation, survey, questionnaire
 - Experiencing to sleep on a headrest: perceptions, sensual involvement, changed knowledge / understanding

BM EA46631:
wrapped in fine cloth,
wooden headrest
placed at the side of
the head



Would he
answer?





Shall we ask?

- Anthropological fieldwork
 - Observation, survey, questionnaire
 - Experiencing to sleep on a headrest: perceptions, sensual involvement, changed knowledge / understanding

Making – experimental and experiential archaeology



Sleeping on a headrest



Sleeping on a headrest



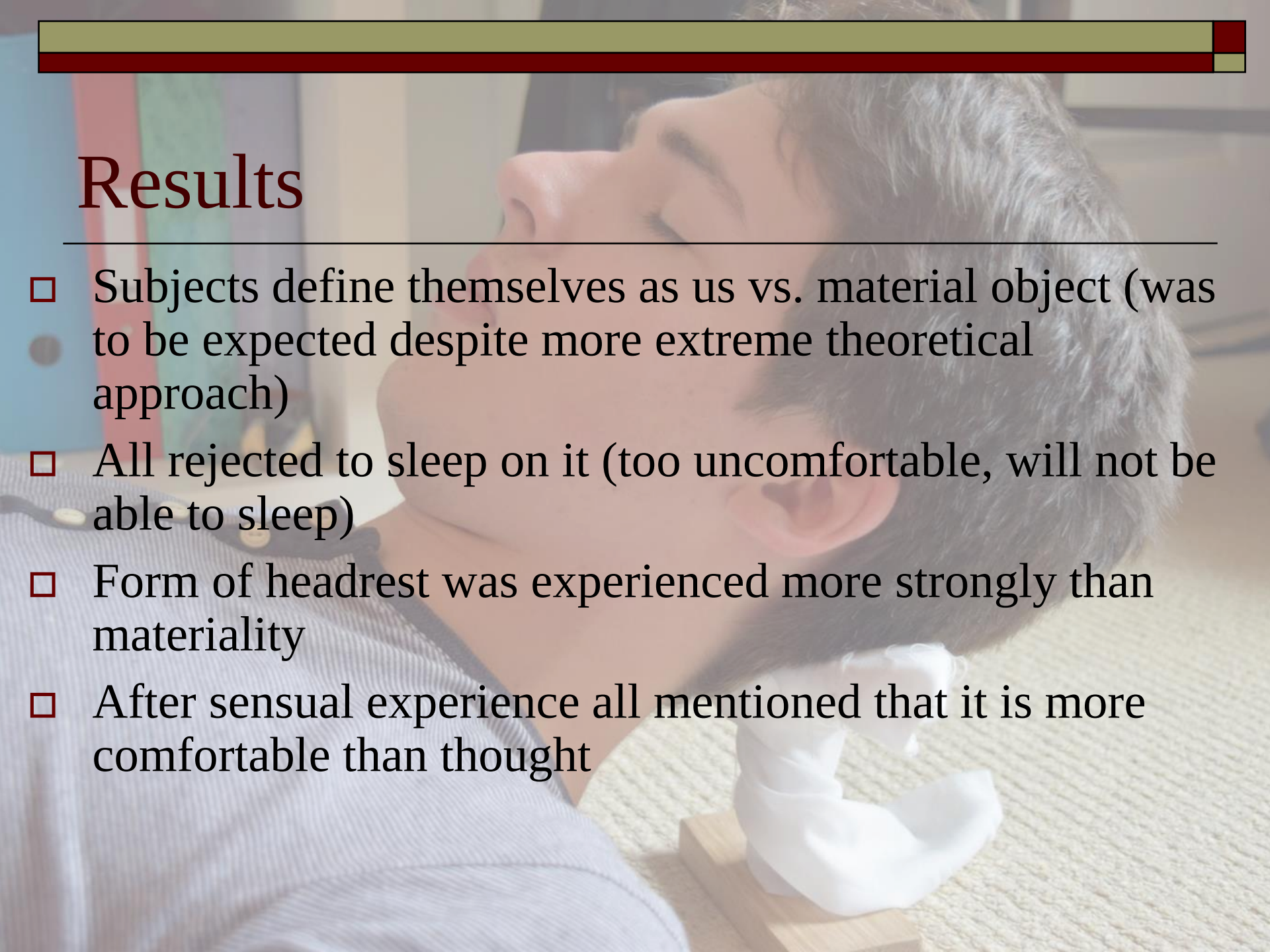
Your task now



-
- Get a pillow
 - Lie down on it (no, do not fall asleep!)
 - What do you feel – be very aware of that
 - Now get a box, little bench or similar
 - Again lie down
 - What do you feel, could you sleep on that – why? Why not?
 - Does the experience really match your expectation (I assume you think, you could not sleep on it)

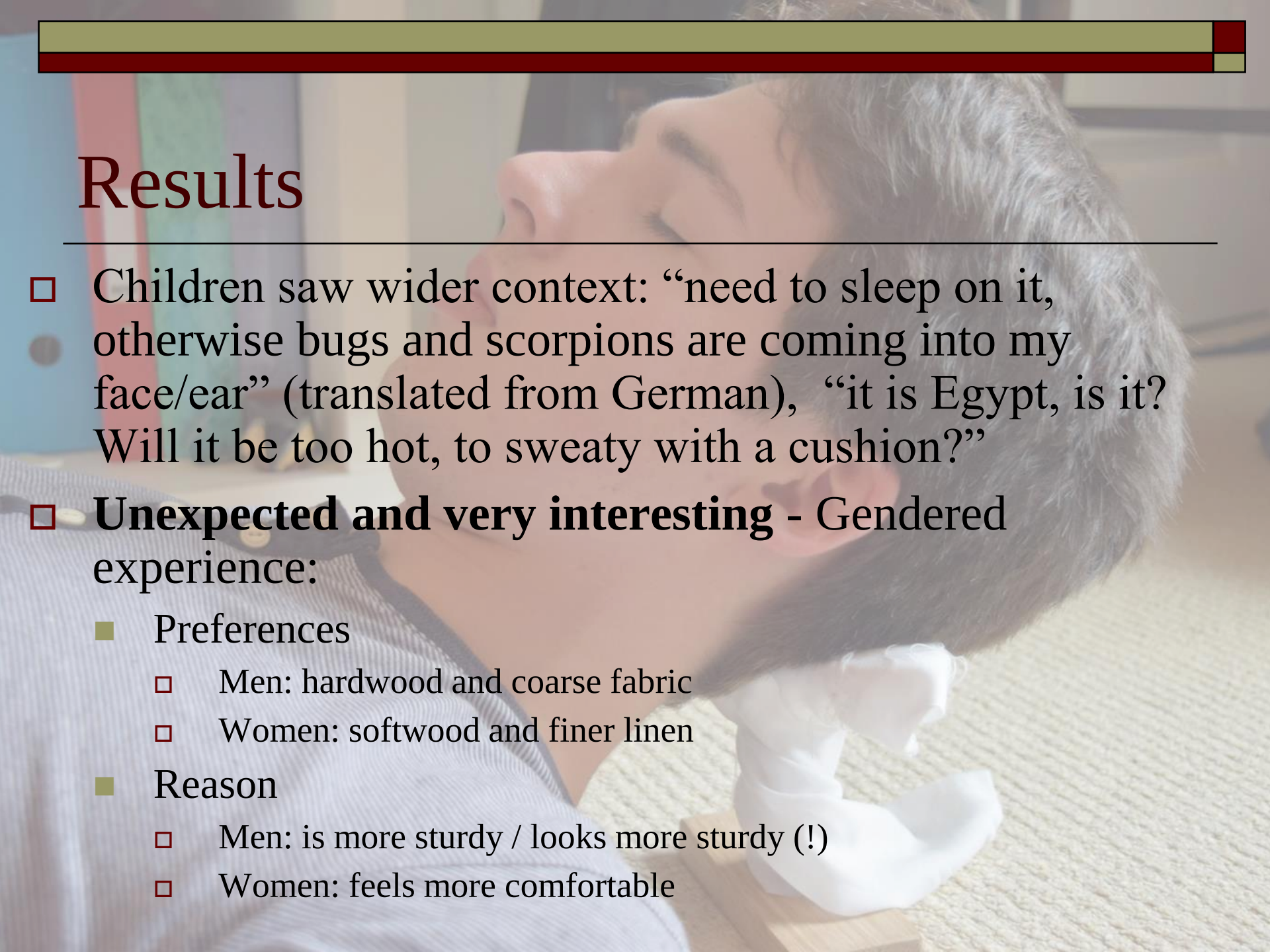
Anthropological fieldwork

- ❑ Observation, survey, questionnaire
- ❑ Experiencing to sleep on a headrest: perceptions, sensual involvement, changed knowledge / understanding
- ❑ Up to now: 21 subjects
 - Non-Egyptologists and Egyptologists!
 - male, female, children (8,10) – age, gender, size specifics
 - British, German, Chinese – differences in cultural background

A photograph of a person with dark hair lying down, their head resting on a white, sculptural headrest. The headrest is placed on a wooden base. The background is slightly blurred, showing what appears to be a bookshelf. The overall tone is soft and focused on the subject's experience with the headrest.

Results

- ❑ Subjects define themselves as us vs. material object (was to be expected despite more extreme theoretical approach)
- ❑ All rejected to sleep on it (too uncomfortable, will not be able to sleep)
- ❑ Form of headrest was experienced more strongly than materiality
- ❑ After sensual experience all mentioned that it is more comfortable than thought



Results

- ❑ Children saw wider context: “need to sleep on it, otherwise bugs and scorpions are coming into my face/ear” (translated from German), “it is Egypt, is it? Will it be too hot, too sweaty with a cushion?”
- ❑ **Unexpected and very interesting** - Gendered experience:
 - Preferences
 - ❑ Men: hardwood and coarse fabric
 - ❑ Women: softwood and finer linen
 - Reason
 - ❑ Men: is more sturdy / looks more sturdy (!)
 - ❑ Women: feels more comfortable