

International Conference:

"Prehistoric Networks in the *longue durée*: Palaeolithic Innovations enabling the Neolithic Revolution"

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The conference will focus on the long-term development and diffusion of Prehistoric technology in the late Pleistocene and early Holocene. Two major fields will be tackled:

1. The relevance of Hunter/Gatherer-networks in the Palaeolithic and Mesolithic for the adaption and diffusion of key technologies enabling the Neolithic way of life.
2. The Impact the Neolithic Revolution had on long-distance networks, and whether these changed significantly or continued to exist.

The Neolithic Revolution has been seen as one of the most important shifts in the development of human technical systems. Yet, our understanding of this process is blurred by a lack of data concerning the extent and persistence of communication networks and their relevance for the conjuncture of key technologies.

The conference brings together specialists researching the Late Palaeolithic, Epipalaeolithic, Mesolithic and Early Neolithic periods to discuss the role of networks for the transfer of prehistoric techniques.

We want to focus on the long-term development and functioning of communication networks (gift-giving, raw-material procurement, marriage alliances etc.) in Late Palaeolithic and Neolithic societies. And building thereon, the impact of such networks on the tradition and diffusion of technical *know how* as a precondition for the shift we call Neolithic Revolution.

While we might model localised autochthonous Neolithisation processes, the diffusion of the Neolithic stimulus is difficult to dismiss. On the contrary, we want to suggest a change of perspective and focus on the communication networks and question their relevance for the conjuncture of key technologies which might have triggered the Neolithic Revolution. Fernand Braudel's concept of the *longue durée* will be applied systematically to the evolution of Late Pleistocene and Early Holocene societies, thereby focussing on the long-term development and functioning of communication networks and their impact on social, political and economical structures.

Specifically we are interested in the following key questions:

- Which social mechanisms enabled societies to conserve and trade the knowledge of techniques necessary for the Neolithic way of life?

- What was the role of networks for the diffusion of Neolithic technology? Is it possible to trace these networks back into the Mesolithic and Palaeolithic?
- We would like to discuss the potential of Palaeolithic innovations. Is it possible to pinpoint the origin of the innovations enabling the Neolithic? Can we trace back trajectories that began long before the Neolithic?
- Which networks were able to bridge climatic and environmental boundaries? Is it possible to interpret the exchange of goods and ideas within networks as being set up intentionally or are these an unintended bi-product of the networks?
- How did networks change when more and more societies took over the Neolithic way of life? Were new technologies incorporated into existing networks or responsible for major changes in the long-distance communication?

Date

9.12.2015 – 11.12.2015

Place

Freie Universität Berlin
TOPOI Building Dahlem
Hittorfstraße 18
D-14195 Berlin

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Organisers

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Chairpersons

Hans-Georg K. Gebel (Berlin)
Lee Clare (Berlin)
Jörg Adam Becker (Halle-Wittenberg)

Speakers

Hala Alarashi (Lyon): *Pre-Pottery Neolithic Personal Adornments in the Northern Levant: Between Innovations and Inherited Traditions*

Eleni Asouti (Liverpool): *Woodland management before the Neolithic Revolution*

Michael Baales (Olpe/Bochum): *Palaeolithic networks and their importance for the Diffusion of Technical Know-how*

Anna Belfer-Cohen / Nigel Goring-Morris (Jerusalem): *The role of Networks for the Transfer of Technical Innovations in the Levantine Epi-Palaeolithic*

Marion Benz (Freiburg) / Nicole Reifarth (Tübingen) / Elisabeth Völling (Würzburg): *On the threshold – conflicting innovations and traditions during the early Holocene in northern Mesopotamia*

Çiler Çilingiroğlu (İzmir): *The Neolithic Package re-thought in the context of prehistoric networks*

Sophie De Beaune (Lyon): *A Technical Perspective on the Development of Palaeolithic Art*

Güneş Duru (Istanbul): *Social Innovations and their impact on Networks: The Emergence of Public and Private Spaces*

Bill Finlayson (London/Amman) / Cheryl Makarewicz (Kiel): *Communal, public and ritual: the built environment and the Neolithic transition*

Birgit Gehlen (Köln): *Grand scale Networks of the Mesolithic. The trapezoid blade industry*

Fokke A. Gerritsen (Istanbul): *The Initial Neolithisation of Northwest Anatolia*

Nigel Goring-Morris / Anna Belfer-Cohen (Jerusalem): *The Neolithisation in the Southern Levant*

Gerd Graßhoff (Speaker of the Excellence Cluster TOPOI): *Greetings and Introduction*

Miriam Haidle (Frankfurt/Tübingen): *Capacity building in the Palaeolithic, Performance in the Neolithic*

Svend Hansen (Berlin): *Neolithic figurines in the Near East*

Harald Hauptmann (Heidelberg): *The Sculpture from Nevalı Çori and its wider Context*

Barbara Helwing (Lyon): *Metal objects in the PPN*

Necmi Karul (Istanbul): *Early Neolithic Settlements in the Tigris Region*

Florian Klimscha (Berlin): *Why should Societies become Neolithic?*

Dietmar Kurapkat (Berlin): *Early Neolithic Special Buildings and Networks of Architectural Knowledge in Southwest Asia*

Johannes Krause (Jena): *Cooperation models of Neolithic Societies according to Archaeogenetic Research*

Ryszard F. Mazurowski (Warsaw): *Tell Qaramel within the Networks of the PPN*

Ianir Milevski / Hamudi Khalaily (Jerusalem): *The Plastered Skulls Cult and the Levantine Neolithic Social Fabric*

Yutaka Miyake (Tsukuba): *Innovative Techniques in the Early Neolithic site of Hasankeyf Hoyuk, Upper Tigris*

Bernd Müller-Neuhof (Berlin): *Conflicts as Constituents of the Neolithization*

Mihriban Özbaşaran (Istanbul): *Aşıklı Hüyük and its role in PPN-Networks*

Mehmet Özdoğan (Istanbul): *Early Neolithic Monuments: Göbekli Tepe and Beyond*

Joris Peters (München): *The Domestication of Animals as a long-term process*

Henny Piezonka (Berlin): *Late Palaeolithic Hunter-Gatherer Networks in Eurasia*

Jürgen Renn (Berlin): *The Neolithisation as a longue durée-Niche Construction Process*

Danny Rosenberg (Haifa): *Paved with stones: The evolution of ground stone tools in the late Epi-Palaeolithic and Early Neolithic of south-western Asia*

Daniel Schyle (Köln): *Tradition and Innovation in the Chipped Stone Industries of the Late and Epipaleolithic in Western Asia*

Shinya Shoda (Nara / York): *Different Narratives on Innovation Processes: the innovation of Early Pottery by Late Pleistocene and Early Holocene Societies in East Asia*

Thomas Terberger (Hannover): *Major and Minor Palaeolithic Innovations and their Impact on Hunter/Gatherer-societies*

Trevor Watkins (Edinburgh): *Was the Neolithic New? Extensive Networks of sharing and exchange from the African MSA to Neolithic southwest Asia*