



**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE**

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

**9.12. – 11.12.2015**

**Digital  
Atlas of  
Innovation**



**MAX PLANCK INSTITUTE  
FOR THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE**



**EURASIEN-ABTEILUNG  
Deutsches Archäologisches Institut**

**EXCELLENCE  
CLUSTER**



**TOPOI**

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

**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 adaptation 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 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?

■ 8:30 h

**Greetings and Introduction**

**Gerd Graßhoff** (Berlin)

Speaker of the Excellence Cluster TOPOI

■ 9:00 h

**Thomas Terberger** (Hannover)

*Major and Minor Palaeolithic Innovations and their Impact on Hunter/Gatherer-societies*

■ 9:30 h

**Miriam Haidle** (Frankfurt/Tübingen)

*Capacity building in the Palaeolithic, Performance in the Neolithic*

■ 10:00 h

**Michael Baales** (Olpe/Bochum)

*Palaeolithic networks and their importance for the Diffusion of Technical Know-how*

■ 10:30 h Coffee Break

■ 11:00 h

**Henny Piezonka** (Berlin)

*Late Palaeolithic Hunter-Gatherer Networks in Eurasia*

■ 11:30 h

**Birgit Gehlen** (Köln)

*Grand scale Networks of the Mesolithic. The trapezoid blade industry*

■ 12:00 h

**Sophie De Beaune** (Lyon)

*A Technical Perspective on the Development of Palaeolithic Art*

■ 14:30 h **Discussion of morning session**

■ 13:00 h Lunch Break

■ 14:30 h

**Eleni Asouti** (Liverpool)

*Woodland management before the Neolithic Revolution*



■ 15:00 h

**Danny Rosenberg** (Haifa)

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

■ 15:30 h

**Daniel Schyle** (Köln)

*Tradition and Innovation in the Chipped Stone Industries of the Late and Epipaleolithic in Western Asia*

■ 16:00 h Coffee Break

■ 16:30 h

**Jürgen Renn** (Berlin)

*The Neolithisation as a longue durée-Niche Construction Process*

■ 17:00 h

**Trevor Watkins** (Edinburgh)

*Was the Neolithic New? Extensive Networks of sharing and exchange from the African MSA to Neolithic southwest Asia*

■ 17:30 h **Discussion of afternoon session**

■ 19:30 h Conference Dinner

■ 9:00 h

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

■ 9:30 h

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

■ 10:00 h

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

■ 10:30 h Coffee Break

■ 11:00 h

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

■ 11:30 h

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

■ 12:00 h

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

■ 12:30 h **Discussion of morning session**

■ 13:00 h Lunch Break

■ 14:30 h

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

■ 15:00 h

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

■ 15:30 h

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

■ 16:00 h Coffee Break

■ 16:30 h

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

■ 17:00 h

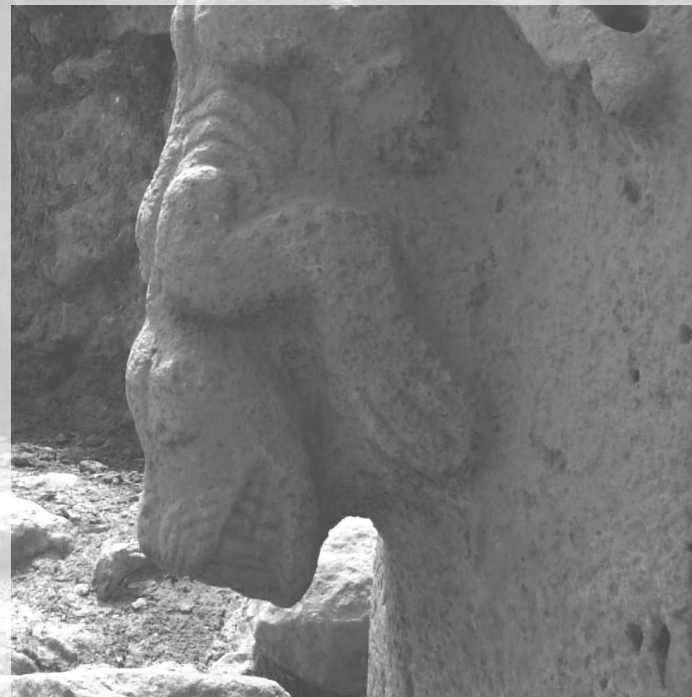
**Johannes Krause** (Jena)  
*Cooperation models of Neolithic Societies according  
to Archaeo-genetic Research*

■ 17:30 h

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

■ 18:00 h **Discussion of afternoon session**

■ 20:00 h Conference Dinner



■ 9:00 h

**Güneş Duru** (Istanbul)

*Social Innovations and their impact on Networks:  
The Emergence of Public and Private Spaces*

■ 9:30 h

**Yutaka Miyake** (Tsukuba)

*Innovative Techniques in the Early Neolithic site  
of Hasankeyf Hoyuk, Upper Tigris*

■ 10:00 h

**Necmi Karul** (Istanbul)

*Early Neolithic Settlements in the Tigris Region*

■ 10:30 h Coffee Break

■ 11:00 h

**Mihriban Özbaşaran** (Istanbul)

*Aşıklı Hüyük and its role in PPN-Networks*

■ 11:30 h

**Çiler Çilingiroğlu** (İzmir)

*The Neolithic Package re-thought in the context  
of prehistoric networks*

■ 12:00 h

**Fokke A. Gerritsen** (Istanbul)

*The Initial Neolithisation of Northwest Anatolia*

■ 12:30 h **Discussion of morning session**

■ 13:00 h Lunch Break

■ 14:30 h

**Dietmar Kurapkat** (Berlin)

*Early Neolithic Special Buildings and Networks  
of Architectural Knowledge in Southwest Asia*

■ 15:00 h

**Bernd Müller-Neuhof** (Berlin)

*Conflicts as Constituents of the Neolithization*

■ 15:30 h

**Bill Finlayson** (London/Amman)

**Cheryl Makarewicz** (Kiel)

*Communal, public and ritual: the built environment  
and the Neolithic transition*

■ 16:00 h Coffee Break

■ 16:30 h

**Marion Benz** (Freiburg), **Nicole Reifarth** (Tübingen)

**Elisabeth Völling** (Würzburg)

*On the threshold – conflicting innovations and  
traditions during the early Holocene in northern Mesopotamia*

■ 17:00 h

**Barbara Helwing** (Lyon)

*Metal objects in the PPN*

■ 17:30 h **Final discussion; end of the conference**





## Organisers



Excellence Cluster TOPOI  
Research Group D-6  
<https://www.topoi.org/group/d-6/>



MAX PLANCK INSTITUTE  
FOR THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE

### **Svend Hansen**

(German Archaeological Institute –  
Eurasia Department)

### **Florian Klimscha**

(Excellence Cluster TOPOI)

### **Jürgen Renn**

(Max Planck Institute for the History of Science)

### **Chairpersons**

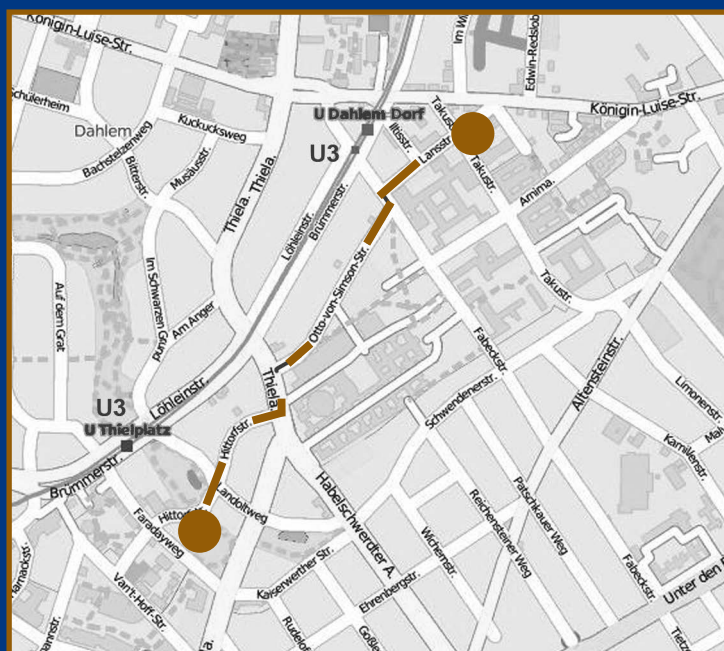
- Hans-Georg K. Gebel (Berlin)
- Lee Clare (Berlin)
- Jörg Adam Becker (Halle-Wittenberg)

**Guest are welcome, but we would kindly ask  
you to register at the the conference office.**

**Contact:** [elzbieta.rybkowska@dainst.de](mailto:elzbieta.rybkowska@dainst.de)

### **Picture credits**

S. Hansen, P. Johannes, M. Morsch, N. Becker



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