



human development in landscapes
GRADUATE SCHOOL AT THE UNIVERSITY OF KIEL

BIWEEKLY COLLOQUIUM
Monday, 10th of December, 05.00 pm

FROM BRITTANY TO THE VOLGA VIA VARNA: LONG-DISTANCE EXCHANGE
IN PREHISTORIC EUROPE

John Chapman (Durham University, UK)

Mary Helms' books on 'Ulysses' Sail' and 'Crafts and the Kingly Ideal' have had a huge impact on exchange studies in prehistory – reversing a trend against exchange studies established by Ian Hodder in 1984. Together with the artifact biographical approach, better understanding of materiality and cumulative advances in sourcing raw materials, the archaeologist of the 2010s is in a better position to understand the exotic than for several decades.

In this paper, I use the mortuary domain of the Balkan Chalcolithic (5000 – 4000 cal BC) to illustrate the inter-connections across the whole of Europe as characterized by raw materials such as Mediterranean *Spondylus / Glycymeris* shells, Ai Bunar copper and Alpine jadeite, as well as objects such as the Omurtag pumice-stone, the Renozar pendant and the Kerhuen 2 vessel. The evidence points to a widespread aesthetic of colour, brilliance (?light) and exoticity, in which presenting remote people and places becomes a standard part of the cultural repertoire of local societies.

Venue: Seminar Room 204 Leibnizstraße 1, CAU Kiel