



**BIWEEKLY COLLOQUIUM**  
Monday, June 30<sup>th</sup>, 4:15 p.m.

**STONEHENGE: EXPLORING MULTIPLE LANDSCAPES  
OF THE BRITISH NEOLITHIC**

**Michael Parker Pearson**  
University College London

Stonehenge is one of the world's most enigmatic prehistoric monuments. Attempts to understand this mysterious stone circle have resulted in a multitude of different theories about who built it, how, when and why. A long-term archaeological project, led by Mike Parker Pearson, has been running since 2003 to answer these questions by excavating at Stonehenge and within its surrounding landscape. The second part of this project has investigated the resourcing of Stonehenge (the Feeding Stonehenge Project) and the third part is investigating the landscapes where its megalithic stones came from (the Stones of Stonehenge Project).

Stonehenge took an estimated 30 million hours to build and required resources from landscapes often far away from Salisbury Plain. The Feeding Stonehenge Project has revealed that Stonehenge's 'catchment' extended across much of Britain from as far away as Wales and Scotland, paradoxically at a time when Neolithic Britain was relatively isolated from mainland Europe and from innovations such as the wheel and metallurgy.

The most dramatic 'imports' to the Stonehenge landscape are the 'bluestones' – diverse rock types that include dolerite, rhyolite and sandstone – from the west of Wales 220km away. Geological analysis has pinpointed three of the outcrops that are sources of these megaliths, one of which is currently being excavated. The new results hint at long-term activity at this rock outcrop back to the early Mesolithic, closely comparable to new evidence for the long-term utilization of the Stonehenge landscape; together they point to the significance of certain natural places in the British Mesolithic and Neolithic.

**Venue: Leibnizstraße 1, Seminar Room 204**