



GRADUATE SCHOOL AT KIEL UNIVERSITY  
**human development in landscapes**

BIWEEKLY COLLOQUIUM

Monday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, 4:15 p.m.

**MANUFACTURING AND USE OF STONE TOOLS IN THE CONTEXT  
OF IBERIAN PREHISTORIC METALLURGY: SOME SOCIAL AND  
ECONOMIC REMARKS.**

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The western part of the Mediterranean experienced deep social and political changes at the dawn of the 2<sup>nd</sup> millennium BCE. The emergence of important economic asymmetries inside communities was based to a great extent on the control of metal production. This fact has been traditionally defined on the basis of metal objects concentrated by individuals as grave goods. However research focused on the study of funerary contexts, on the one hand, and metal objects, on the other, has led to an “invisibility” of many aspects of production processes of crucial importance for the Iberian Recent Prehistory.

Since a few decades, those socio-economic changes are being studied through the scope of a group of archaeological remains which so far has been widely neglected in the history of research: ground stone assemblages. Some thousands of ground stone tools coming from the Iberian South-East have proved to be related to different production processes, among them, some stages of the metallurgical *chaîne-opératoire* (i.e., exploitation of metallic minerals, casting and forging of metal objects, etc.). This study can be outlined through the following aspects:

- a) It shows the importance of ground stone tools for palaeoeconomic approaches.
- b) It highlights that socio-economic changes took place in different production spheres, and especially in the configuration of the metallurgic process.
- c) Besides funerary contexts, it also allows to study the production contexts themselves, where metallurgical work processes took place.

In short, technological and spatial analysis developed on ground stone tools has contributed to better define the metallurgical work processes and the social organization around them during the III and II millennia BC, as well as the role played by metallurgy in the establishment of significant social and economic differentiation. The social value devoted to each stage of metal production is one of the main aspects to consider in this assessment. Metallurgy was not only one of the productive spheres in which the development of deep inequalities between communities and individuals were reflected; moreover it becomes clear that economic organization of metallurgy and political structure of society were closely related.

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