

BIWEEKLY COLLOQUIUM

Semester topic "Human and natural resources in prehistory:
qualitative and quantitative analyses"

Monday, December 17th, 4:15 p.m.

Quantitative approaches to understand the importance of cattle in
neolithic societies

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Animal bones are one of the most frequent archaeological finds in excavations. Both wild and domestic animals were important resources in prehistoric societies, not only for nutrition, but also traction and raw materials like hides, bone and antler were important. Nevertheless, quantifying the importance of animals in comparison to plant resources is not a simple task. In my presentation I will discuss methods to quantify the importance of cattle in neolithic societies with exemplary case studies from Swiss and German wetland sites. Due to the high resolution dating possibilities in those sites, diachronic developments of cattle breeding techniques, diversification and specialisation can be observed. The importance of cattle within different agricultural systems and their impact on landscape changes will also briefly be mentioned.

Venue: Leibnizstraße 1, Seminar Room 204