

## BIWEEKLY COLLOQUIUM

Semester topic "Settlement Patterns and Settlement Agglomeration"

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

### Lineages, Labour and Exotica: Discussing Elites within Southern Iberian Copper Age Societies (c. 3200-2200 cal BC)

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Social complexity is one of the most widely debated themes in Iberian Late Prehistory, especially in what concerns the Copper Age (c. 3200-2200 cal BC). Throughout the 20th century the advancement of this field of research was severely hampered by the lack of good quality burial and bioarchaeological data for the two most important sites known at the time: Zambujal and Los Millares. In the last 20 years, however, research has experienced a remarkable upheaval, notably after the investigation of previously unknown (or poorly known) major ditched sites, such as Valencina, Marroquíes Bajos, Camino de las Yeseras and Perdigões. In this seminar I will discuss how the newly available evidence contributes to a better understanding of Iberian Copper Age elites, focusing on the discoveries and scientific studies that are taking place at the mega-site of Valencina de la Concepción (Seville), with a particular emphasis on the megalithic tombs of Montelirio and Structure 10.042-10.049. I will argue that 3rd millennium elites based their (largely unstable) power on parameters of lineage ranking, deployment of labour for the construction of monuments and exhibition of sophisticated material culture manufactured on exotic raw materials, very especially ivory.

Venue: Leibnizstraße 1, Seminar Room 204