

BIWEEKLY COLLOQUIUM

Semester topic "Settlement Patterns and Settlement Agglomeration"

Monday, June 11th, 4:15 p.m.

Stepping out of The Shadow of Mycenae The Remarkable Case of Late 13th and 12th cent. BCE Tiryns (Argolid, Greece)

Joseph Maran (University of Heidelberg)

The lecture will focus on the roughly one and a half centuries of the history of Mycenaean Tiryns between the final palatial period (ca. 1250-1200 BCE) and the re-emergence of the site following the palatial destruction as the perhaps most important 12th cent. BCE Argive center. During the final decades of the palace an unprecedented number of large-scale building activities were carried out that have shaped the appearance of the site until this day. The most important work of architecture and engineering was the redirection of a stream that, during the 13th cent. BCE, had caused a series of flooding events in the northern Lower Town. The decision to redirect the stream was probably not primarily a protective measure, but part of a final palatial "master plan" to develop this part of the Lower Town and to create a new access to the citadel from the north.

After the destruction of the palace began the most astonishing period of the history of Tiryns, during which the site developed in a different way than all other former palatial centers. This special position is reflected not only in the attempts to reclaim the most important architectural symbols of palatial power in the area of the former palace on the Upper Citadel, but also in the systematic development of the northern Lower Town. New excavation results from the Northwestern Lower Town will be presented that shed new light on the sequence of building measures in this part of the site in the decades before and after 1200 BCE. It seems that the large-scale development of the Northern Lower Town immediately after the destruction of the palace was meant to implement the unfinished portion of the final palatial "master plan". It was based on well conceived ideas on how to structure the new neighborhoods and aimed at accommodating groups of people, many of whom had

probably arrived only recently at the site. After only about 60 years of occupation the densely organized settlement in this part of the Lower Town was abandoned which brought a definitive end to the course towards urbanization that had been initiated a few decades prior.

Venue: Leibnizstraße 1, Seminar Room 204