



BIWEEKLY COLLOQUIUM
Monday, January 25th, 4:15 p.m.

FIELDS OF RESEARCH:
UNRAVELLING THE RIDDLES OF DUTCH CELTIC FIELDS

Stijn Arnoldussen
Groningen University

Celtic fields are later prehistoric field systems of small (sub)rectangular field plots enclosed by low earthen banks that are found in large parts of the southern Scandinavian, northwest German and Dutch landscape. Whereas functionally they tie-in with the wider, European group of co-axial field systems known from the Bronze Age, they are traditionally set apart by their different morphology, bank composition and presumed Iron Age date.

Notwithstanding ample evocative artist's reconstructions of what such a Celtic field system (Dutch: *raatakke*) looked like, we are actually very poorly informed on the details of the agricultural regime involved. Simple questions such as 'what crops were cultivated?', 'how old is this system?' or how exactly *did* the typical banks develop?' are very difficult to answer.

To provide some answers, Dr. Stijn Arnoldussen of Groningen University has started a long-term research project in which as yet 8 different Celtic fields have been investigated. From these excavations, novel hypotheses on the nature and use-histories of the Celtic fields can be formulated. In this presentation, a fresh narrative of Celtic field usage is presented, based on the results of the (ongoing) excavations.

Venue: Leibnizstraße 1, Seminar Room 204