



BIWEEKLY COLLOQUIUM
Monday, October 12th, 4:15 p.m.

**CHRONOLOGY, HISTORY AND CLIMATE IN THE BRONZE AGE
EAST MEDITERRANEAN - POTENTIALS AND CHALLENGES**

Sturt Manning
Cornell University

The talk investigates how well we can establish a timeframe (dates) for various periods and episodes in the Bronze Age East Mediterranean (ca. 3000-1000 BC) and asks how successfully we can relate this archaeological and historical record to questions of climate and climate change? Can we address whether and how climate change affected the societies of the Bronze Age East Mediterranean? It will be argued that bringing together the techniques of dendrochronology and radiocarbon and employing Bayesian chronological modeling it is becoming possible to quantify and define the chronology of various periods of the Bronze Age in the east Mediterranean with much greater precision and accuracy than was possible in previous work up to around AD2000. In particular, the talk will consider how successfully we can date some previously problematic periods: (i) the late Early Bronze Age and the period around 2200 BC; (ii) the Old Babylonian period in the early 2nd millennium BC and whether we can resolve the ambiguity of the alternative High, Middle and Low and Ultra-Low chronologies; (iii) the Thera/Santorini eruption in the mid-2nd millennium mBC; and (iv) the end of the Late Bronze Age. The talk will then assess how successfully we can, or cannot, integrate such archaeological chronology and information against evidence for changes in contemporary climate, and will ask the question whether we can in any case regard climate as a significant forcing factor in this period in the East Mediterranean.



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Venue: Leibnizstraße 1, Seminar Room 204