

Round Table with the speaker in the Bi-weekly colloquium on Monday, May 9th, Marco Porčić, Belgrade

Venue: Monday, 9th of May, 14:00-16:00, Leibnizstr. 3, 1st floor, 24118 Kiel 3, Room 123

With Marco Porčić from Belgrade University, we invited a proven expert for research on modelling of population dynamics, modelling of cultural transmission, questions of social inequality and Neolithic archaeology of the Central Balkan region as speaker for the bi-weekly colloquium on next Monday.

Before his talk, I would like to invite you to an informal meeting in order to give him a better idea of the profile and the people of our Graduate School and our Institute and to give you the chance to meet him. This meeting will take place on Monday at 14:00 o'clock in room 123, Leibnitzstr. 3, 1st floor.

Best regards

Robert Hofmann

Selected works of Marco Porčić:

Porčić, M., 2010. House Floor Area as a Correlate of Marital Residence Pattern: A Logistic Regression Approach, *Cross-Cultural Research* 44, 405–424.

Porčić, M., 2011. An exercise in archaeological demography: estimating the population size of Late Neolithic settlements in the Central Balkans, *Documenta Praehistorica* 38, 323–332.

Porčić, M., 2012. Contextual analysis of fragmentation of the anthropomorphic figurines from the Late Neolithic site of Selevac, *Issues in Ethnology and Anthropology* 7, 809–827.

Porčić, M., 2012. Social complexity and inequality in the Late Neolithic of the Central Balkans: reviewing the evidence. *Documenta Praehistorica* 39, 167–183.

Porčić, M. 2012. De facto refuse or structured deposition? House inventories of the Late Neolithic Vinča Culture. *Starinar* 62, 19–43.

Porčić, M. 2012. Effects of Residential Mobility on the Ratio of Average House Floor Area to Average Household Size: Implications for Demographic Reconstructions in Archaeology. *Cross-Cultural Research* 46, 72–86.

Porčić, M., Nikolić, M., 2015. The Approximate Bayesian Computation approach to reconstructing population dynamics and size from settlement data: demography of the Mesolithic-Neolithic transition at Lepenski Vir, *Archaeol Anthropol Science*, 1–18.

Abstract of the Lecture:

Paleodemography of the Mesolithic and Neolithic in Central Balkans: a review of methods and results

Demographic reconstructions (paleodemography) have become increasingly important in the archaeology of the European Neolithic as it has been hypothesized that transition to farming and sedentism resulted in an unprecedented population growth – a full scale demographic transition with profound and long-term consequences for society, culture and biology. These changes cannot be understood without the knowledge of demographic factors which played a dual role as both causes and consequences of various socio-cultural and biological processes. In this lecture I present methods and empirical results of the latest paleodemographic research of the Central Balkan Mesolithic and Neolithic populations. During the 6th millennium BCE Central Balkans was the corridor for the spread of the Neolithic from Greece to Central Europe and beyond. There is evidence of contact and interaction between the first farmers and the local Mesolithic communities in the Danube Gorges area that provides a rare opportunity to study the Mesolithic-Neolithic transition in great detail. After the establishment of the Neolithic way of life, the Central Balkans witnessed a rise of the Late Neolithic communities during the first half of the 5th millennium with more complex society, economy and technology. Given the theoretical relevance of demography for understanding the particularities of the historical process, paleodemographic research has been undertaken in order to address these important questions: 1. How can archaeologists reconstruct population dynamics in the Central Balkan Mesolithic and Neolithic at various spatial and chronological scales? 2. Is there a population increase corresponding to the hypothesized Neolithic Demographic Transition in Central Balkans on the macroregional and microregional scales? 3. Is there a correlation between climate, demography and culture in the period between 9000 and 4500 years BCE?