

BIWEEKLY COLLOQUIUM
Monday, May 22nd, 4:15 p.m.

**SOCIAL HIERARCHY, PRESTIGE GOODS, WARFARE...
CONCERNING COMMON NARRATIVES ASSOCIATED WITH FORTI-
FIED SETTLEMENTS ON THE EXAMPLE OF BRONZE AGE POLAND**
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Fortified settlements are among the key phenomena of the Bronze Age. As such they were widely distributed across well-developed areas of Europe in the first half of the second millennium BC. The spectacular character of the finds associated with them made them recognised as central locations of trade, exchange and craftsmanship. They are perceived as evidence of dynamically increasing hierarchy of the Early Bronze Age communities. Last but not least, their function and meaning is often explained in terms of military-defensive purpose. Not always is this supported by firm evidence with the interpretation based on generally accepted assumptions which are rarely applicable for particular sites.

Fortified settlements in present-day Poland are a limited, yet interesting group of sites. A critical evaluation of the available information will allow to position such sites in the general narratives regarding their possible roles.