

BIWEEKLY COLLOQUIUM

Semester topic "Human and natural resources in prehistory:
qualitative and quantitative analyses"

Monday, January 14th, 4:15 p.m.

**Textile Revolution? New insights into the origin and spread of
wool production between SW Asia and Central Europe**

Wolfram Schier (Free University of Berlin)

The origin and spread of the wool-bearing sheep has remained one of the most puzzling open research questions both for SW Asia and Europe. The lecture will present some major results of the TOPOI Research Group „Textile Revolution“ and its multi-proxy approach. Inspired by Andrew Sherratt’s concept of a Secondary Products Revolution, but based on actualized and modified dating, we present the hypothesis of a “pastoral turn” in SE and Central Europe. We suggest a complex and regionally varied process of increasing concern for animal husbandry, leading to large-scale cattle herding in the 4th millennium. This economic shift from dominant agriculture (6th to mid 5th mill.) to a more diversified economy in the later 5th and 4th mill. is considered to set the scene for the spread of specialized sheep husbandry and wool production. This process seems to start in eastern Central Europe in the 2nd half of the 4th millennium BC and eventually leads to an exploitation of economically marginal zones in the later 4th and the 3rd millennium cal BC.

Venue: Leibnizstraße 1, Seminar Room 204