

Archäologisches Kolloquium



Digitale Vortragsveranstaltung des Instituts für Ur- und Frühgeschichte

Montag, 5. Juli // 18.30 – 20.30 Uhr

Das Institut für Ur- und Frühgeschichte, Kiel, lädt im Rahmen des Archäologischen Kolloquiums im Sommersemester 2021 zu folgendem Online-Vortrag mit anschließender Diskussion **ein:**

Dr. Maikel H. G. Kuijpers, Leiden

spricht zum Thema:

What does a craft approach to Bronze Age metalworking look like, and what does it do?

Practice reached far beyond theory during most of our history. Any reconstruction of technical knowledge in the past requires that we first define what we mean when we talk about knowledge, and how we can access this knowledge through material remains.

In this presentation I intend to explore the connections between craft, science, and technology through the notion of skill. To address skill, I introduce the methodology of perceptive categories with which to update the well-known *chaîne opératoire* approach. Through this update, an empirical analysis of skill is achievable. I demonstrate this taking European Bronze Age metalworking as a case study. Based on scientific data provided by the material sciences (in this case compositional and metallographic analyses of Early Bronze Age axes) the thresholds to categorise and interpret these data, and organise them in a *chaîne opératoire*, are centred on the human senses – and thus on metalworking as a craft. The subsequent detailed study of Early Bronze Age axes shows a remarkable variation of skill, forcing us to reconsider particular entrenched views on the Bronze Age economy and the role of metalworkers therein.

A similar approach is used in the second case study on rings, ribs, and axe hoards in Central Europe. I test the possibility that these are the earliest occurrences of commodity money in Europe using a novel methodology based in psychophysics to calculate perceived similarity based on weight and dimension. In this manner, I again take on board the senses but in a quantitative manner.

I conclude the presentation with a few thoughts on the relevance of this kind of research. Why would we want to understand and appreciate skill? And why does it matter?

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Die genauen Zugangsdaten für den Online-Vortrag werden wir Ihnen – rechtzeitig vor der Veranstaltung auf unserer Homepage www.ufg.uni-kiel.de – zur Verfügung stellen.

**Kontakt und Informationen zu den Onlineveranstaltungen:
E-Mail: sekretariat@ufg.uni-kiel.de; Telefon: 0431/880-2334**