

BIWEEKLY COLLOQUIUM
Monday, January 8th, 4:15 p.m.

FLUX CAPACITY: MODELLING THE IMPETUS BEHIND HUMAN MOVEMENT

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Recent methodological, technological and theoretical advances in the discipline of archaeology are such that we are able to pull apart the intersection of the mobilities ascribed to persons, objects and ideas (a concept here referred to as 'flux capacity') in a hitherto-unprecedented degree of exactitude. This paper is founded on the evolution of prehistoric archaeology's investigations, analyses and interpretations of past human movement. As such, it begins with discussion of the discipline's engagements with ancient mobility, identity and culture change and will therefore range over discussions of *Kulturkreise* (Frobenius 1898; 1899. Jacob-Friesen 1928; Childe 1929) and processualist dots-on-maps approaches through to new theoretical concepts, such as Kaufmann et al's "motility" (2004). Including examples from throughout European prehistory, this paper then presents a model for the interpretation of the impetus behind ancient human movements with specific reference to high-resolution mobility timelines. It will, therefore, examine some of the same questions archaeology has been asking for centuries (who was moving and where?), but will take them a step further, giving some of the first indications of *why* those individual movement patterns were formulated in the ways that they were.



References:

- Childe, V. G. 1929. *The Danube in Prehistory*. Clarendon Press, Oxford.
- Frobenius, L. 1898. *Der Ursprung der Kultur*. Gebr. Bornträger, Berlin.
- Frobenius, L. 1899. *Die Naturwissenschaftliche Kulturlehre*. Naturwissen. Wochensehr. 14, Berlin
- Jacob-Friesen, K. H. 1928. *Grundfragen der Urgeschichtsforschung*. Helwing, Hannover.
- Kaufmann, V., Bergman, M. and Joye, D. 2004. "Motility: Mobility as Capital" *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 28(4): 745-765.

Venue: Leibnizstraße 1, Seminar Room 204