

## Imagining the human world. Psychological approaches to the archaeological record

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Humans, whether ancient or modern, are adept at creating a cultural web around themselves, expressed by language, symbol, and material culture. Archaeologists are adept classifiers and quantifiers of the remains of ancient civilizations. Over the last three decades, attempts have been made to understand the cognition and psychological underpinning of ancient societies through the physical remains of their art, architecture, material culture and other evidence for their quotidian and symbolic lives. How best to approach such an ambitious subject? Can we achieve this objectively, or is it just another narrative in a postmodern engagement with an otherwise mute archaeological record? In this seminar we will explore attempts made under the name of 'cognitive archaeology', the use of psychological concepts by cognitive archaeologists, what psychologists think of past societies, and how we may engage scientifically with our datasets, whatever their age and context. All interests and archaeological subject matters welcome.

<b>Datum</b>	<b>Uhrzeit</b>	<b>Thema</b>
16.02.22	10–12	1. What is/was 'cognitive archaeology'?
17.02.22	10–12	2. What psychologists think cognitive archaeology is.
23.02.22	10–12	3. Human developmental psychology and human evolution
24.02.22	10–12	4. Ritual(ised) behaviour
02.03.22	10–12	5. The psychological basis of visual culture.
03.03.22	10–12	6. Psychological perspectives on visual culture 1: Visual dominance, saliency and scale
09.03.22	10–12	7. Psychological perspectives on visual culture 2: Faces, features and installation
10.03.22	10–12	8. Psychological perspectives on visual culture 3: Reading scenes and narratives
16.03.22	10–12	9. Death: evolutionary thanatology from chemistry to culture
17.03.22	10–12	10. Death: the cultural ecology of fear