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Early Farmers of the European Alpine: the Archaeology of Lake Shore Settlements and Relations to Climatic Changes of the Holocene

Prehistoric settlements in lakes and bogs from the period 5000-1000 BCE have been one of the most important archaeological sources on the early history of European agrarian societies since their discovery in the mid-19th century. The special preservation conditions under water provide aerobic conditions permitting the preservation of organic material such as wood, textiles and others that are usually missing in other contexts. Large quantities of wood samples allow year-precise dendrochronological dating that has been systematically applied for several decades. The fine-scale chronology provided by dendrochronology allows decipherment of the architectural structure of settlements as well as their building history.

The presentation will provide an overview of underwater archaeological research in lakes of the alpine region of Switzerland. A short survey of a high alpine site in the Bernese Alps will be presented to further explore the impact of climatic influences. The presentation concludes with a reflection on an ongoing research project in lakes of the southern Balkans.

ANTHROPOLOGY COLLOQUIUM

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 1ST, 2022

11:30 AM - 1 PM

BUNN 302 & ZOOM

FOR ZOOM ACCESS INQUIRIES,
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