



Einladung

zum

Vortrag

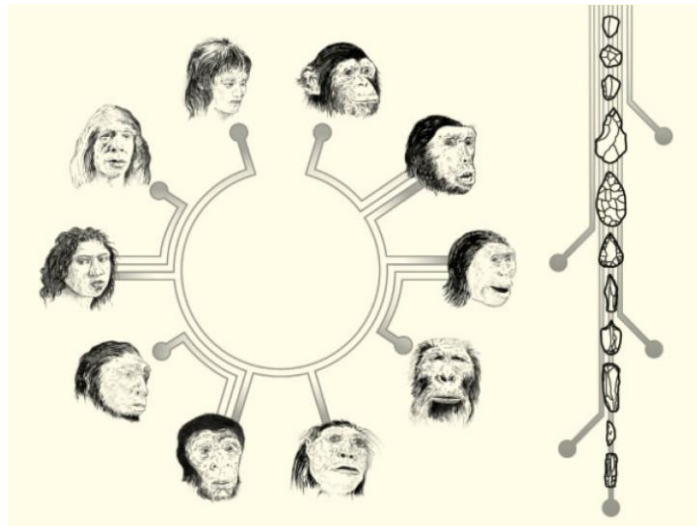
von

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The scope of prehistory

As the editor of the *Journal of World Prehistory* I am supposed to know what the spatio-temporal boundaries of my publication are. Spatially it is easy: the world. Temporally it is not easy: the archaeologically-studied cultural phenomena of the world include not only the Oldowan, the Lengyel and the Hohokam (random examples), but also the Tasmanians, the Moriori and the urban residents of Tucson, Arizona. The last are, obviously, a modern, urban and 'historical' community; nevertheless the data from Rathje's Tucson Garbage Project surprised sociologists and historians by measuring what people actually did with objects



rather than what they believed they did: archaeology here uncovered a sort of 'prehistory of the present'. But what is the history-prehistory distinction? Does it appear as a complex chronocline that we must apply like a map of barometric pressure over the globe, with tight circles covering late fourth millennium BC Egypt and third millennium Mesopotamia, and a series of ever widening concentric rings, finally reaching the furthest corners of Australasia, Polynesia and Amazonia at the present time? As the saying goes: 'that's all very well in practice, but it won't work in theory'. This paper will examine the various meanings of prehistory (and Urgeschichte) and makes some tentative proposals for a servicable working definition for 21st-century transdisciplinary scholarship.

Mittwoch, 28. Mai 2014, 17:30 Uhr

OREA, Seminarraum Abteilung Ägypten & Levante

Postgasse 7/1/10, 1010 Wien, Eingang beim Stahlgittertor, 2. Stock

Im Anschluss an den Vortrag bitten wir zu einem Glas Wein.

Dr. Barbara Horejs
(Direktorin)

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