

# Einladung zum Vortrag

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## **Mediterranean perspective of Sicilian archaeology**

Institut für Urgeschichte und Historische Archäologie, Franz-Kleingasse 1, 1190 Wien

**3. Stock, Hörsaal 7**

**Donnerstag, 20. März 2014, 18.00 c.t.**

Since the beginning of human presence in Sicily, scholars debated about the origin of the various migrations that could have occupied the Island since Palaeolithic onward. It was clear since the beginning of such studies that, due to its position at the centre of Mediterranean, Sicily was deeply influenced by neighbouring countries. The island was in different periods of its history a borderland between the various cultural traditions that were developing in Mediterranean during pre- and protohistory. During bronze age, on one side we encountered the European influence brought by Megalithism and Bell Beaker tradition that occupied western Sicily. On the other side we registered the Aegean tradition that was frequently present in Eastern Sicily

During the colonization period western Sicily was occupied by Phoenicians and Eastern Sicily by the Greeks. After the Roman Empire collapse western part of the island was deeply influenced by Arab Berbers coming from North Africa whereas Eastern Sicily showed a deep Byzantine tradition.

Those and other peculiar aspect of Sicilian history show that a correct perspective to understand the cultural development of the largest island of Mediterranean must be based on the relationship with neighbouring countries. A correct balancing between external influences and local development is the best way to understand the history of Sicily.

