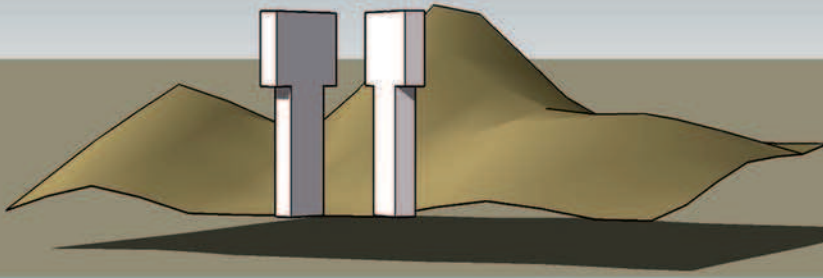


Göbekli Tepe *Newsletter 2014*



Scientific Reports
Visiting Göbekli Tepe
Exhibition Projects
Inspired by Göbekli Tepe
Events 2012-2013
Forthcoming Events
References and New Publications
Our Team





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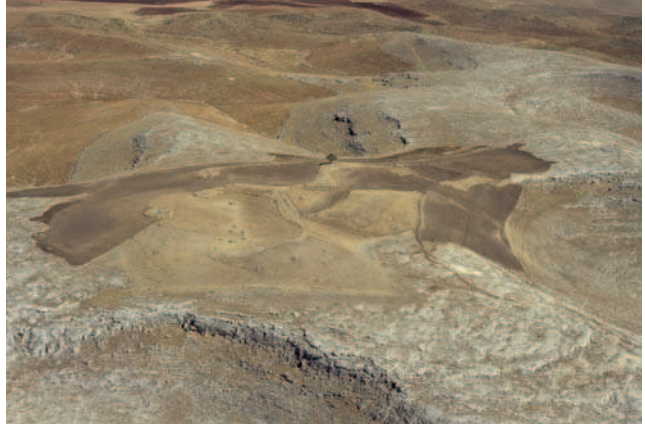
Göbekli Tepe: The first 20 years

This year (2014) marks the 20th anniversary of archaeological research at Göbekli Tepe. Looking back over the past two decades, it is safe to say that Göbekli Tepe has not only provided us with new and unexpected insights, forcing us to reconsider many previous assumptions with respect to the early Neolithic period (the transition from mobile hunter-gatherers to sedentary food-producing lifeways), further the site has seen itself catapulted by the world media into the consciousness of many, fuelling the imagination and giving rise to some very diverse lines of serious (and less serious) enquiry and speculation.

If anyone had suggested just twenty years ago that post-Ice Age hunter-gatherers were capable of erecting monumental architecture they would have been told in no uncertain terms that this was highly unlikely. Meanwhile, of course, we know from Göbekli Tepe that this was indeed the case, a shift in paradigm already hinted at by joint excavations at the site of Nevalı Çori by the University of Heidelberg and the Şanlıurfa Museum which commenced in 1983. Following on from work at Nevalı Çori, excavations at Göbekli Tepe commenced in 1995. The discovery of the large stone circles with their eminent T-shaped pillars heralded the beginning of a completely new chapter in our understanding of this important period in human history.



Aerial View of Göbekli Tepe in 2011 (Photo: EK).



Göbekli Tepe in 1995 before the beginning excavations (Photo: MM).

Over the years, Göbekli Tepe has moved increasingly into the centre of public interest. Meanwhile, in addition to a series of popular science films and publications, there is a large and steadily growing number of people who wish to experience this unique site at first hand; remarkably, on busy days our excavations attract up to 1.000 visitors. This has opened up a challenging new field of activity for the project team: the mediation of our knowledge to the interested public. This is achieved, for example, through regular publications and lectures, as well as by frequent photo exhibitions and visits to local schools in Urfa. The incorporation of the site into the tourist trail also requires that considerable attention is paid to measures designed to protect the excavated early Neolithic architecture. In this respect, we are extremely

happy to have found a strong partner in the Global Heritage Fund, and thanks to generous grants from the European Union two membrane shelter structures with integrated visitor pathways will be erected by the local authorities in Şanlıurfa. Finally, visitor facilities have been designed and realised by the Turkish government.

It is a time of big decisions and great developments at Göbekli Tepe which we hope will pave the way for the conservation of the site and for many more years of fruitful research.

The Göbekli Tepe Project Team

The 2012 and 2013 excavation seasons at Göbekli Tepe

Excavations and activities at Göbekli Tepe in 2012 and 2013 have focused primarily on preparations for construction work that is soon to begin on a permanent shelter for Enclosures A-D in the main excavation area. This work has entailed the construction of a preliminary wooden shelter, which not only addresses the urgent need for the protection of the architecture in this area but which will also serve as a platform for the construction of the permanent membrane shelter expected to start next year. Another similar shelter will be created at Göbekli Tepe's northwestern depression, where new excavation areas were opened in 2011.

A secondary objective of our recent activities has been the completion of documentation (e.g. of selected sections through architectural structures) required for our planned monograph dedicated to the archaeological features from the younger (Layer II) PPNB-phase of the site. This was achieved in the 2012 seasons, which also saw the parallel excavation of the deep soundings for the strut foundations of the permanent shelter in the main excavation area.

A positive effect of the soundings – which in some cases exceeded depths of five metres as far as the natural bedrock – has been the unprecedented insights that these have provided with respect to the structure of the site. Three soundings situated immediately adjacent to



Entrance situation of Enclosure C. Stairs leading to a U-shaped doorstone (Photo: NB).

Enclosures C and D also produced significant quantities of charred botanical remains, a first at Göbekli Tepe, these at last providing sufficient organic material for the generation of an extended series of radiocarbon ages (Dietrich *et al.* 2013).

Additional work in area L9-85 – at the southern edge of the main excavation area – has helped clarify the entrance situation of Enclosure C (Schmidt 2012, 138-157). Long-

known is an early, and later blocked, entrance comprising a narrow passage between two parallel, narrowly-set walls which branch off southwards from the centre of the enclosure; these walls are made of massive stone slabs worked on all sides. A further large stone slab protrudes into this passage way. Although not completely preserved, it is likely that this would have once been furnished with a central opening (or portal). At some point, this portal stone was *walled up*, as testified by the two lowermost courses of a blocking wall found preserved *in-situ*. On the southern side of the porthole-stone, just below the opening (and accosting



The wooden shelter during construction (Photo: NB).



Sondage in area K10-36. Bedrock with a carved channel covered with stone slabs (Photo: NB).

visitors entering the enclosure via this passage) there is the low-relief of a boar lying on its back. To the south of the portal-stone a large U-shaped monolith was discovered, the left-hand column of which is crowned by the carved sculpture of a predator; unfortunately, the top of the right-hand column of this monolith is not preserved, though it too may also have featured a similar *guardian* figure. Together with the portal slab it formed the entrance to Enclosure C. A new element of this entrance was discovered in 2012. A stairway with (so far) eight steps was found bridging a dip in the bedrock leading up to the U-stone, albeit that further excavations will be needed before the implications of this particular feature can be fully understood.

The building history of Enclosure C has recently been investigated by Katja Piesker in the frame of a research scholarship awarded by the German Archaeological Institute. Results from the study will be published in the near future (Piesker forthcoming).

Work in 2013 also focused on preparations for the construction of a permanent shelter structure in the new excavation areas in the northwestern depression of the tell, as well as on the excavation of Enclosure H, another monumental stone circle assigned to the 10th millenium BC (PPNA).

Seven deep soundings were undertaken to test suitable locations for the supporting struts of the planned shelter. Bedrock was reached in four of these soundings; intriguingly, in two soundings the bedrock appears to have been artificially worked. Partially utilising and expanding natural faults, channels had been worked into the bedrock which were then covered and protected by stone slabs. Large-scale excavations will be required to reveal the extent of these modifications and to show if and how these structures were connected to the cisterns located on the plateaus (Herrmann and Schmidt 2012).

In area K10-53 a complex situation with an agglomeration of several oval shaped rooms appeared, some containing (multi-layered) terrazzo floors. Due to the complexity of the situation encountered here, it was decided that the whole area, measuring 9x9 m, should be excavated. Next to - or rather among - the building structures, a large stationary limestone vessel of the type previously associated with production and consumption of beer was discovered (Dietrich *et al.* 2012). It has a capacity of about 240 l and as such is the largest of this vessel type so far discovered at Göbekli



Area K10-53 (Photo: NB).

Tepe.

Already in 2011, one of the central pillars and four pillars of the surrounding ring of Enclosure H were discovered. The central pillar was disturbed in antiquity, when it was dug out, toppled and broken, similar to the situation observed in Enclosure C. In the autumn season of 2013, the ring-wall of the enclosure was partially excavated in area K10-24. The large *robber pit* that had been dug to locate and damage the carved pillars is clearly visible in the northern section of this trench. A newly discovered large pillar fragment found in this pit probably belongs to the second of the two central T-pillars.

Excavations of Pillars 55 and 57 belonging to the circle surrounding the central area of the enclosure could also be continued. On the front of P57, a new relief was discovered. It comprises two antithetic snakes with a round object between them. So far, excavated parts of P55 are lacking reliefs. The amount of destruction work following the end of the use-life of Enclosure H is further exemplified by the destruction of a pillar that was originally located between P57 and P 55; all that remains of this pillar is a plain fragment of its shaft. The highly



Enclosure H: Central Pillar (P 51) (Photo: NB).

disturbed wall situation is reminiscent of better preserved niche and bank constructions in other enclosures in the main excavation area. Large worked limestone fragments scattered in this area may originally stem from these installations



Enclosure H. The pit is visible as an area of dark discolouration in the left-hand section (Photo: NB).



Enclosure H: External pillar (P 57) (Photo: NB).

and further testify to the destruction carried out in prehistoric times.

In the course of geo-radar survey a diffuse area showing a possible overlap of the southern part of Enclosure H with another (much larger) enclosure appeared. Excavations revealed a small

part of a wall, apparently running parallel to the circle-wall of Enclosure H. Between these walls a staircase-like structure was discovered. Further work in this and adjacent areas will be needed to clarify this situation.

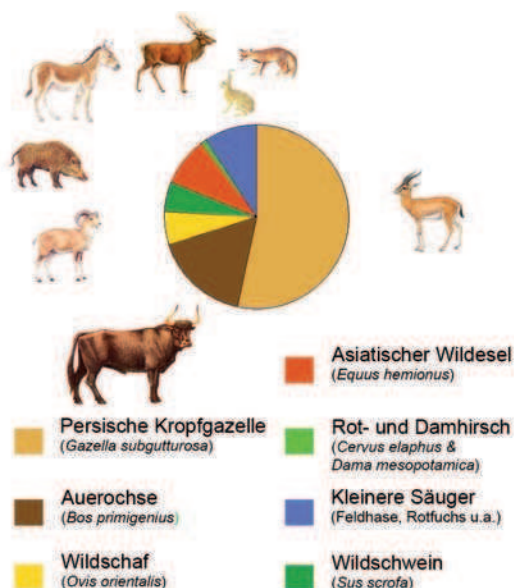
Bioarchaeological Research at Göbekli Tepe

In 2013, our team of zooarchaeologists, members of the DFG funded project *The early Neolithic society of Upper Mesopotamia and its subsistence* based at the Ludwig Maximilian University Munich, participated in both the spring and autumn field seasons at Göbekli Tepe. Between 1st and 10th May, Nadja Pöllath and Michaela Zimmermann studied material from Layer II, their aim being to extend the database for the later phase of the site. In addition to recording these basic data Nadja Pöllath conducted photographic documentation of postcranial bones, which will form the basis of her ongoing geometric morphometric analyses. In the context of the Göbekli Tepe material, the geometric morphometric technique is applied to detect micromorphological differences associated with the transition from wild to domestic animals.

Michaela Zimmermann initiated her PhD project on the micropathologies found in postcranial skeletal elements of Ovis and Gazella by surveying first bone assemblages. The rationale behind the micropathology study is that domestication affects the health status of animals, domesticates showing a higher prevalence of pathological conditions. In this respect, sheep bones from Göbekli Tepe, Level III are considered wild. Bone samples of early PPN domestic sheep come from Gürcütepe and Aşıklı Höyük. However, in order to avoid circular reasoning, the large sample of Gazelle bones from Göbekli Tepe will serve as a baseline since the status of gazelle as a non-domesticate is beyond doubt.

Joris Peters and Ursula Mutze began the autumn campaign on 20th September when they resumed their analysis of faunal material excavated from Layer II and from the thick, densely packed stratum of ash, bones and burnt

loam found in areas L9-78 and L9-97. While the bone fragments from inside the enclosures of Layer III and from the structures of Layer II are rather large, the faunal remains recovered from L9-78 and L9-97 are extremely small. One reason for this is that the sediment from the latter was sieved so that even very small and tiny fragments were picked up. However, it also seems that these layers contain more remains of small animals (rodents and birds) than they do the remnants of Neolithic meals. Apart from this, the bones from these contexts are in general more heavily fragmented (mean weight per fragment for cattle bones from Enclosure D: 26.6g; mean weight per fragment for cattle bones from the compact ash layers mentioned above: 16.8g (hand picked units) and 6.3



Archaeofauna attested at Göbekli Tepe.

From the very beginning of the project, archaeozoological finds have been processed by Angela von den Driesch(†) and Joris Peters from the LMU Munich. At Göbekli Tepe only wild animals are known, domesticates are missing. The hunted species were, in the order of importance, gazelle, aurochs, wild ass, and other herbivores.

(sieved units)).

Michaela Zimmermann and Nadja Pöllath returned to Göbekli Tepe on 29th September. While Nadja Pöllath also undertook the analysis of osseous remains, Michaela Zimmermann spent her time separating the skeletal elements of Ovis and Gazella from the original bone bags to enhance the sample size for her research

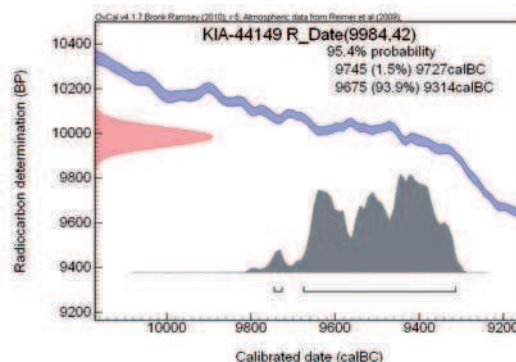
project.

The primary data gained during field seasons is entered into OssoBook, the zooarchaeological database financed, developed and maintained by the ArchaeoBioCenter LMU. After the completion of our analyses, these data will be made available to all researchers.

Göbekli Tepe ¹⁴C-ages now available online

We are pleased to announce that radiocarbon (¹⁴C) ages made on samples from Göbekli Tepe are now included in an online database organised and maintained by Marion Benz, in collaboration with *ex Oriente* (http://www.exoriente.org/associated_projects/ppnd.php). Currently, this database includes some 17 measurements from the site. As collagen preservation at Göbekli Tepe is particularly poor, and plant remains were seldom encountered, the majority of these ages were made on samples from sinter layers found hafting to excavated elements of the (stone) architecture. Sinter develops under quite particular conditions, in this case only after burial with sediment. As such, resulting ages can only be understood as *termini ante quem* for the enclosures at the site. However, in an attempt to improve this situation, we have undertaken first radiocarbon measurements on small residues of charcoal recovered from the loam mortar in the ringwalls of Enclosure D (Dietrich and Schmidt 2010), as well as on animal teeth (in the hope that collagen would be better preserved).

In the autumn of 2011 – in the course of excavating foundation trenches for the permanent shelter (see above) – we were fortunate to discover for the first time sediment deposits containing rich botanical remains. First results of radiocarbon measurements made on samples from these deposits confirm that the large enclosures were constructed in the 10th millennium calBC (Dietrich *et al.* 2013). It is hoped that further measurements, in combination with previous ages made on the loam from the ringwall and animal bones,



Calibrated radiocarbon age (calBC) made on charcoal from loam mortar extracted from a ringwall of Enclosure D. This result has provided first indisputable evidence for the construction of the large enclosures in the PPNA (after Dietrich and Schmidt 2010, fig. 1).

will help clarify and provide greater detail with respect to the construction sequence of the large enclosures at Göbekli Tepe.



The clay plaster in front of Pillar 42 from Enclosure D (Photo: NB).

Preparation of a Management Plan for Göbekli Tepe

The close involvement of the German Archaeological Institute (DAI) with excavations and related research at Göbekli Tepe (Turkey) meanwhile looks back on a history of 20 years. In 2011 – shortly after the inclusion of this exceptional site on the UNESCO World Heritage Tentative List – the Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism (*Kültür ve Turizm Bakanlığı*) together with the DAI initiated the process of developing a Management Plan for the site. In turn, the DAI approached the Brandenburg University of Technology (BTU) Cottbus–Senftenberg to lead the compilation of this important document which will provide the basis for the development of a nomination dossier for the potential inclusion of Göbekli Tepe on the prestigious UNESCO World Heritage List.

BTU Cottbus–Senftenberg is an internationally recognised centre in the field of cultural heritage management, in part due to its reputed international Master (M.A.) programme *World Heritage Studies* which is now in its fifteenth year. Notably, the curriculum of this programme is designed to address the multiple facets of the *UNESCO Convention*

Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972).

The team from BTU Cottbus–Senftenberg responsible for the management plan of Göbekli Tepe is jointly led by Klaus Rheidt, Head of Department of History of Architecture, and Leo Schmidt FSA, Head of Department of Architectural Conservation. Further, it comprises Anja Merbach and Smriti Pant – alumni of the *World Heritage Studies* programme – from the Department of Architectural Conservation.

The project received funding from the DAI until the beginning of the last quarter of 2013 and is currently financed by the German Research Foundation (DFG). The work is due to be completed in spring 2014. This working document will serve as a road map for the future site manager at Göbekli Tepe towards establishing a sustainable management system. Not only is such a system essential for a long-term conservation and sustainable development of the site, it is also a basic requirement for the site's incorporation in the World Heritage List.

Last but not least, in addition to the DAI, the BTU is also collaborating with other institutions on this project, including the Global Heritage Fund (GHF) [USA], the Ludwig-Maximilian University Munich [Germany] and the Şanlıurfa Museum [Turkey].

Site Conservation supported by the Global Heritage Fund (GHF)

The interest in Göbekli Tepe by the public, tourists, the media and funding institutions has been unbroken and even intensified in 2013. Göbekli Tepe has become a major factor in the development of the Urfa region. This rising public interest is reflected in a growing stream of visitors on-site. For this reason, adequate facilities need to be provided for the visiting public, and sufficient measures must be taken to ensure the protection and preservation of the ancient structures. In order to fulfil these objectives, over the last several years plans have been drawn up to cover large parts of the Göbekli Tepe with protective shelters, which will



Test walls made at the Campus of Harran University in autumn 2013 (Photo: CKS).

also feature so-called walking floors designed to provide visitors with unprecedented (contact-free) access to the archaeological site. Further a new perimeter fence surrounding the entire



A group of the excavation workmen erecting the perimeter fence in winter 2012/2013 (Photo: MG).

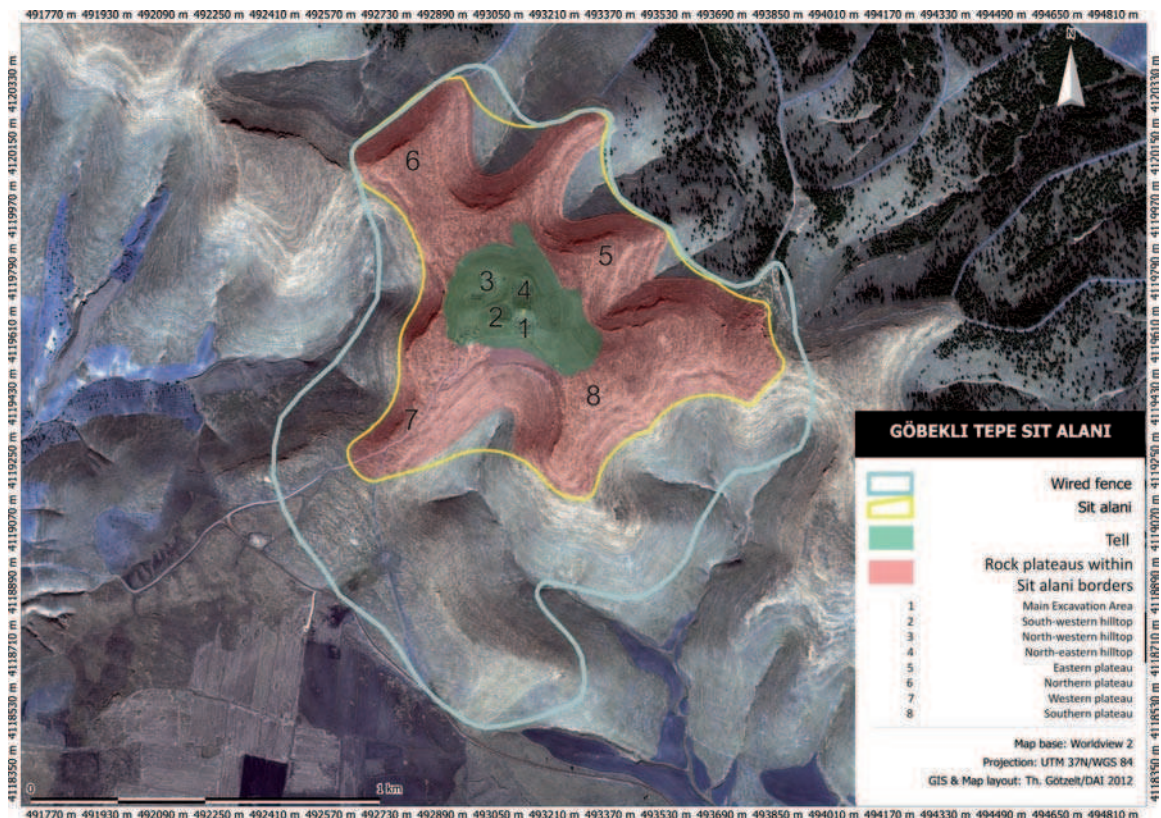
site has been installed. We are most grateful that the Global Heritage Fund is supporting this conservation project.

In the frame of the plans for soft material conservation at Göbekli Tepe it is essential that the properties of clay materials available at the site and its surroundings are known. Material

tests are already underway and were commenced at Harran University in 2012. Test walls using clay from the area, but outside the archaeological protection zone, were erected by the excavation workmen in the Osman Bey Campus of the Harran University, some kilometres southeast of Göbekli Tepe, on the northern fringes of the Harran plain.



New fences, surrounding the excavation areas were built as well (Photo: NB).



The fence (blue) around the Neolithic quarries (red) and the mound of Göbekli Tepe (green, map: TG).

3D - Documentation (Laser-Scanning) of T-Pillars

For many years now we have been successfully collaborating with the chair for geodesy at the University of Applied Sciences in Karlsruhe, with whom we have been working on 3D-laser scanning of the monumental architecture at Göbekli Tepe. Under the direction of Tilman Müller, this cooperation has seen visits to the site by students with state-of-the-art 3D-laser scanning technology. A most recent and impressive result of their work has been

3D-laser scan of Pillar 18 from Enclosure D (TH Karlsruhe).

the generation of a complete 3D-scan of Pillar 18 from the centre of Enclosure D. The prime advantage of such scans is that they allow for a much more detailed evaluation of the surface of these monoliths, and this independent of prevailing (mostly unfavourable) lighting conditions and, in the case of Pillar 18, of the now installed support structure.



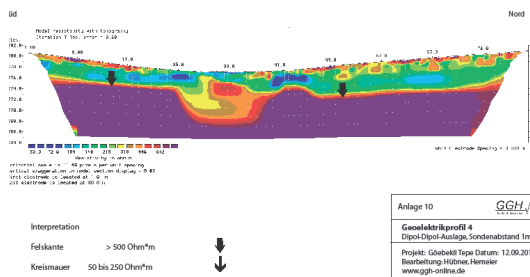
Students from Karlsruhe University scanning Pillar 51 (Photo: NB).

Results from geoelectrical survey



Ground penetrating radar map (timeslice 14ns) with the position of the geoelectrical sections indicated (orange lines, map: GGH).

Geophysical prospection was commenced at Göbekli Tepe in 2003. The Ground Penetrating Radar survey was completed in the southwestern part of the mound in 2012. In the same year a Geoelectric Resistivity Survey was conducted for the first time at Göbekli Tepe. Geo-electrical sections reflect changes in specific electrical resistivity below the ground, visualising it by use of different colour codes. The results are significant in that they show the depth and partly anthropogenic altered layout of the natural bedrock, as well as the thickness of the archaeological sediments. The section through the large so-called *dromos* in the north-western depression known from earlier GPR surveys is especially impressive. It shows a nearly 8 m deep and ca. 15 m wide (most probably artificial) pit in the bedrock.



Geoelectrical section 4, the 'dromos' in the bedrock is clearly visible (graphics: GGH).

The role of cult and feasting in the emergence of Neolithic communities. New evidence from Göbekli Tepe, south-eastern Turkey

**Antiquity Prize 2012 winning paper by
O. Dietrich, M. Heun, J. Notroff, K.
Schmidt, and M. Zarnkow**

Since the so called *Braidwood Symposium* in 1953 (Braidwood *et al.* 1953), there has been near constant debate as to whether beer – and not bread – was the first product made from domesticated crops (e.g. Katz and Voigt 1986). Based on the discovery of grain at the site of Qalat Jarmo, and at the suggestion of the archaeo-botanist Sauer, Braidwood inquired whether or not the discovery of *fermentation* could have been the spark that triggered the targeted selection, and ultimately domestication, of certain crops. Fermented grain, which sees its starch transformed into sugars, is well known for its beneficial properties, including an increase in nutritional value, also making it easier to digest. Indeed, the participants at the aforementioned symposium eventually came to the consensus that early grain crops would have been far better suited to the production of gruel or beer than bread, especially considering that the glumes of primitive domesticated plants would have adhered to the grain.

Even though this idea (fermentation) was raised frequently in subsequent years (Katz and Voigt 1986), particularly in the context of the previously noted advantages (higher nutritional value) afforded by this process, it was considered improbable that beer was actually produced. More recently, however, the discussion was revisited in a contribution by P. McGovern (2009) who presented preliminary results from chemical studies made on two stone vessels from the PPN necropolis at Körtik Tepe which yielded traces of tartaric acid that accrues during the wine production process (McGovern 2009: 81).

Recently, further chemical analyses were conducted by M. Zarnkow (Technical University of Munich, Weihenstephan) on six

large limestone vessels from Göbekli Tepe. These (barrel/trough-like) vessels, with capacities of up to 160 litres, were found *in-situ* in PPNB contexts at the site.

Already during excavations it was noted that some vessels carried grey-black adhesions. A first set of analyses made on these substances returned partly positive for calcium oxalate, which develops in the course of the soaking, mashing and fermenting of grain. Although these intriguing results are only preliminary, they provide initial indications for the brewing of beer at Göbekli Tepe, thus provoking renewed discussions relating to the production and consumption of alcoholic beverages at this early time. Further, they are particularly significant in light of results from genetic analyses, undertaken by a team from the Norwegian University of Life Sciences in Oslo, which have suggested that the earliest domestication of grain occurred in the vicinity of the Karacadağ, i.e. very near to Göbekli Tepe (Heun *et al.* 1997). Once again, we must ask



Six vessels with capacities of up to 160 litres have so far been discovered in-situ at Göbekli Tepe (Photo: NB).

whether the production of alcohol and the domestication of grain are interrelated. Finally, the aforementioned insights also provoke new questions relating to the use and consumption of alcohol at Göbekli Tepe, which may have been in the context of religiously motivated feasts and celebrations. Not surprisingly, such events are well attested in the ethnographic literature as a means of attracting and motivating large groups of people to undertake communal work and projects (Dietler and Herbich 1995).

Results from analyses and considerations

relating to the construction and social repercussions of the enclosures at Göbekli Tepe were recently presented in a comprehensive article published in *Antiquity* which was awarded the Antiquity Prize 2012 and is now available in open access (<http://journal.antiquity.ac.uk/>):

Dietrich, O., Heun, M., Notroff, J., Schmidt, K., Zarnkow, M. (2012) The role of cult and feasting in the emergence of Neolithic communities. New evidence from Göbekli Tepe, south-eastern Turkey. *Antiquity* 86, 333: 674-695.

12th May 2012

President Abdullah Gül pays a visit to Göbekli Tepe

On 12th May 2012 the Turkish state president Abdullah Gül visited Göbekli Tepe. Klaus Schmidt gave him a tour of the site and explained some of the most important results of our ongoing excavations. Subsequently, Klaus Schmidt was invited to attend the annual festive reception on the occasion of the cultural prize awards at Çankaya Köşk in Ankara in November 2012.



President Abdullah Gül and Klaus Schmidt on the visitors pathway at Göbekli Tepe (Photo: ACK).

A monument at the crossroads to Göbekli Tepe ...



Up to 1000 guests visit Göbekli Tepe every day (Photos, left: CKS, right: NB).

11th-27th April 2012

Göbekli Tepe exhibition in Cottbus



The exhibition in the foyer of the library of BTU Cottbus (Photo: NB).

In the frame of our cooperation with the Brandenburg University of Technology in Cottbus focusing on the formulation of a site management plan for Göbekli Tepe, a photographic exhibition was organised from 11th-27th April 2012. The exhibition – *Göbekli Tepe. A Stone Age Hill Sanctuary* – was opened by way of a public lecture held by Klaus Schmidt on 10th April 2012.

25th April – 14th September 2012

Exhibition at the German Research Foundation (DFG)

Under the title *Vom Feld übers Labor an die Öffentlichkeit* (From the Field via the Laboratory to the Public) an exhibition on the archaeology of the Near East was presented at the Head Office of the German Research Foundation (DFG) in Bonn. The DFG is a research funding organization supporting scientists with grant programmes, prizes and by funding infrastructure in science, engineering, and the humanities. The Göbekli Tepe research project is one of a number of its long-term projects from the humanities and social sciences. Together with nine other long-term

12th March - 12th April 2013

The River Flowing westward

„The River Flowing Westward“ is a project headed by Prof. Dr. Bekir Karlığa, a scholar who has made valuable contributions to developing the so called *Alliance of Civilizations Philosophy*. Göbekli Tepe featured in a recent documentary



initiated by Bekir Karlığa and broadcast by TRT, BBC World and Channel 4. An exhibition focusing on the project, including a poster on Göbekli Tepe, was displayed in 2013 at the International Atatürk Airport in Istanbul.

„The River Flowing Westward“ at the International Atatürk Airport Istanbul (Photo: CKS).



Bildunterschrift: Project Coordinators of DFG long-term projects gathered at the exhibition in Bonn (Photo: DFG).

projects the variety of archaeological research funded by the foundation was illustrated in the exhibition and accompanying lectures.

Göbekli Tepe: Commemorative 50 Lira Coin

On the 23rd October 2012, the Republic of Turkey announced the mintage of a silver 50 Lira Göbekli Tepe commemorative coin. While its face shows a reconstruction of the monumental enclosures in the main excavation area, its reverse side features a view of Enclosure D, after a photo taken by Berthold Steinhilber.



http://www.darphane.gov.tr/tr/products.php?parent_id=197&content_id=198#content.php?parent_id=197&content_id=198

Stamp showing Göbekli Tepe

A special issue stamp showing enclosure B, edited by the government of Şanlıurfa.



Göbekli Tepe on TV

As in previous years, the spring and autumn seasons 2013 saw visits to Göbekli Tepe from several film teams from Turkey, Western Europe, Japan, the United States and Brazil. These teams spent time on-site as well as at our excavation house in Şanlıurfa.



WDR-Team from Germany filming find-processing in the courtyard of the excavation house in Şanlıurfa (Photo: CKS).

Great Göbekli Tepe Panorama

Artist Abdullrahman Birden working on a reconstruction of Stone Age life at Göbekli Tepe to be displayed in the new Archaeological Museum in Şanlıurfa. (Photo: ACK)



Urban sketchers at Göbekli Tepe

A group of Urban Sketchers from Istanbul visited Göbekli Tepe in May 2013. A series of appealing watercolors was the result.



<http://harikasazaza.blogspot.de/2013/05/gobeklitepe-sketched.html>



Watercolour of pillars from Göbekli Tepe by Samantha Zaza.

March 2012 and 2013
ITB
(International Tourism Fair)
in Berlin



Impression from the International Tourism Exchange 2013 in Berlin (Photo: CKS).

From the 7th-11th March 2012 the ITB (International Tourism Fair) was held in Berlin. By invitation of the city of Şanlıurfa, the Göbekli Tepe project team was integrated into the running of the exhibition stand, which was dedicated to the archaeological site of Göbekli Tepe. For this purpose the stand was appropriately adorned with wooden replicas of the T-pillars and carried large format prints of the site. At the main stand of the Republic of Turkey, the promotional potential of Göbekli

Tepe was also apparent through the presentation of pictures and a film of the excavations. Not only did we speak with several tour operators, we were also fortunate in that we could greet at the stand E. Günay, the Turkish Minister for Culture, and M. Süzlü, General Director of the Turkish Administration of Antiquities. The success of this first presentation at the ITB led to a repetition from the 6th-10th March 2013, when we were visited by Ö. Çelik, the new Minister of Culture of the Republic of Turkey.



Visitors to the Göbekli Tepe Pavilion at the ITB 2013, from left to right: Uğur Büyükhatoğlu, chairman of the provincial administration of Şanlıurfa, Gözde Şahin, cultural attaché in Berlin, Klaus Schmidt, Celalettin Güvenç, governor of Şanlıurfa province, Ömer Çelik, minister of culture and tourism, Bülent Arınç, Deputy Prime Minister, and Emin Önen, parliamentarian of Şanlıurfa (Photo: CKS).

30th April to 4th May 2012
8th ICAANE *(International Congress on the Archaeology of the Ancient Near East)* in *Warsaw, Poland*



The 8th ICAANE was held in Warsaw from 30th April to 4th May 2012. This congress, which takes place every two years, is one of the most important meetings for archaeologists working in the Near East. The 8th ICAANE attracted more than 1000 participants, with some 450 presentations held

in numerous workshops. The Göbekli Tepe project was represented by Oliver Dietrich who spoke at the workshop “*Defining the Sacred: Approaches to the Archaeology of Religion in the Near East*”. His paper, entitled “*The First Temples of Mankind. Defining the Sacred at Göbekli Tepe*”, focused on the traceability of ritual practices in archaeological features at Göbekli Tepe.

The contribution by the project team will be published as:

O. Dietrich, J. Notroff (in preparation): A sanctuary, or so fair a house? In defense of an archaeology of cult at Pre-Pottery Neolithic Göbekli Tepe. In: N. Laneri (ed.), *Defining the sacred: Approaches to the Archaeology of Religion in the Near East*, Oxford: Oxbow.

11th-14th April 2012

**Symposium:
'Death Shall Have No
Dominion'
Cambridge, UK**

Death Shall Have No Dominion: The Archaeology of Mortality and Immortality – A Worldwide Perspective was a symposium held at the McDonald Institute for Archaeological research, University of Cambridge, in April 2012, organised by Sir Colin Renfrew, Dr. Michael Boyd and Dr. Iain Morley. Scientists from a broad number of disciplines were invited to this meeting, all of whom had quite different understandings and conceptualisations of death in human societies. The aim of this meeting was to discuss the role of death in belief systems diachronically and supra-regionally. The spectrum of contributions ranged from evolutionary biological descriptions of how different mammals deal with death, through various archaeological and historical examples of mortuary practices and associated rituals, to results from recent ethnological field studies. The Urfa Project was represented by Jens Notroff who presented a report on results from excavations at Göbekli Tepe as well as their potential for interpretation in the frame of Pre-Pottery Neolithic mortuary practices.

The contribution by the project Team will be published as:

Jens Notroff, Oliver Dietrich, Klaus Schmidt (in preparation): Gathering of the Dead? The Early Neolithic sanctuaries of Göbekli Tepe, Southeastern Turkey, in: C. Renfrew, M. Boyd and Iain Morley (ed.), *Death shall have no Dominion: The Archaeology of Mortality and Immortality – A Worldwide Perspective*, Cambridge.

May 2012 and 2013

**34th and 35th international
symposium of excavations and
Surveys in Çorum 2012 and
Muğla 2013**

As in previous years the results of excavations at Göbekli Tepe were presented at the yearly archaeological symposium, organised by the Ministry of Culture. It was held in 2012 in Çorum and in 2013 in Muğla. The reports are published in Turkish language and are available online:

www.kulturvarliklari.gov.tr/



The mayor of Şanlıurfa Dr. Ahmed E. Fakıbaba introduces one of the lectures on Göbekli Tepe (Photo: CKS).



Group photo of participants at the symposium „Death shall Have No Dominion“ in Cambridge (11th-14th April 2012) (Photo: PD)

Initial Workshop (held in October 2012 in Istanbul and Şanlıurfa)

Our Place: Our Place in the World

A new approach to Early Neolithic society and symbolism

Any explanation which seeks to assign the wide variety of reciprocal links and diverse interactions contributing to Neolithisation to changed ecological conditions is far too simple. Indeed, as early as the 1960s, Robert J. Braidwood asked why the *Neolithic Revolution* only began at the close of the last ice age and not at the onset of an earlier interstadial. This point was later picked up on by J. Cauvin (1994), who for the first time sought an explanation for Neolithisation as a psycho-cultural phenomenon, though at this time he was still unable to answer Braidwood's question concerning the timing of this development (cf. Watkins 2010: 621-622).

Since the 1990s (so-called *decade of the brain*) an increased number of studies in neuroscience, cognitive, developmental and evolutionary psychology, and philosophy of consciousness have focused on the development of the human mind and psyche. It is these studies which may yet provide an explanation for the timing of Neolithisation. Accordingly, it is posited that at least until the end of the Palaeolithic, human cognitive skills were not adequately evolved and that they also lacked the essential intellectual foundation for coping with Neolithisation processes (cf. Donald 1991; Mithen 1996; Boyer 2001; Dunbar / Gamble / Gowlett 2010;

see also Watkins 2010).

It is in the context of this broad intellectual discussion that Klaus Schmidt (German Archaeological Institute, Berlin) and Trevor Watkins (University of Edinburgh) recently initiated a three-year research project "*Our Place: Our Place in the World*", financed by the John Templeton Foundation. Focus of this multi-disciplinary research project is the investigation of how first large, permanently co-residential communities functioned, and how and why they networked. It is held that a better understanding of Early Neolithic worldviews is one way that this goal may be achieved. For this reason, *Our Place: Our Place in the World* brings together selected scientists from several different disciplines, including psychologists, philosophers, cultural historians, in addition to archaeologists.

An initial workshop for invited members of the *Our Place: Our Place in the World* group was held in Istanbul and Şanlıurfa in October 2012 (for a complete list of participants, see Watkins and Schmidt 2012). This meeting provided a stage for presentations, talks and first intense discussions, as well as the opportunity to visit Göbekli Tepe itself.



Fig. 16: Workshop participants at Göbekli Tepe, 2nd October 2012 (Photo: JN).

7th October 2012

***International workshop
Palaeoenvironment
and the Development of
Early Societies in
Şanlıurfa, Turkey***

On 7th October 2012, a workshop organised by members of Research Cluster 1 (*From Sedentism to Complex Societies*) of the German Archaeological Institute was held in Şanlıurfa, Turkey. In papers by invited scientists the role played by the environment in the development of early complex societies in the Holocene was illuminated and discussed. Notably, presentations were not limited to studies of Upper Mesopotamian and Near Eastern data, but more importantly set out to highlight a global perspective on the relationship between environment and the emergence of more complex (first and foremost Neolithic) systems and lifeways. Accordingly, contributions included case studies from dispersed geographical regions, from the Eastern Mediterranean, through Central Europe and Northwest and West Africa, to South America. A major focus of the meeting was an appraisal of the influence of climate change on cultural processes in these diverse regions, a topic still of relevance today, especially for human societies living in marginal (e.g. semi-arid) parts of the world. It could be shown that there are indeed significant correlations between environmental change and cultural transitions in the Holocene, albeit that prevailing sociocultural factors should not be ignored as equally important driving mechanisms in these processes.



On the two days prior to the workshop (5th-6th October 2012) participants visited the excavations at Göbekli Tepe, the Neolithic site of Çayönü, the museum at Şanlıurfa, as well as the fortress at Diyarbakır (Photo: MR).

2nd to 3rd November 2012

***Network meeting of the
Istanbul Department, German
Archaeological Department
(DAI):***

***Architecture as indicator for
economic development (Architektur
als Gradmesser für wirtschaftliche
Entwicklung)***

In addition to its general involvement in the DAI Research Clusters, the Göbekli Tepe Project is also committed to the project *Scientific Network: Economy as Power Base – Pre-Modern Forms of Economy in Anatolia* based at the DAI in Istanbul. The second network meeting focused on *Architecture as indicator for economic development*. With their presentation, entitled “*Monumentality in hunter-gatherer cultures and new possibilities of interpretation*”, Klaus Schmidt and Oliver Dietrich discussed whether the monumental architecture discovered in Pre-Pottery Neolithic contexts in the Near East, evidence for which has been increasing constantly over the last 30 years, should be interpreted as a trigger for the radical change documented at this time, i.e. the transition to sedentary and food-producing lifeways.

13th – 15th of March in 2013

Lectures on Göbekli Tepe in Şanlıurfa, Ankara and Istanbul



*Lecture in the Anadolu Medeniyetleri Müzesi
(Photo: AA).*

Regular lectures are an important medium by which new insights from Göbekli Tepe can be presented to the interested public. In March, three lectures in English and Turkish language were presented in one week alone: on 13th March at the Harran University in Şanlıurfa, on 14th March at the Anadolu Medeniyetleri Müzesi in Ankara, and on the 15th March at the Boğazici University in Istanbul. Further lectures have been given in the course of the year in Munich, Tübingen, Münster, Bochum, London, Palo Alto and San Francisco.

10th of June 2013

EU supports Şanlıurfa and Göbekli Tepe



*The Nevali Hotel in
Şanlıurfa, named
after the Turkish-
German excavations
at the Early Neolithic
site of Nevalı Çori
(Photo: KS).*

A signing ceremony between the EU Delegation to Turkey and the Turkish Ministry of Industry for funding of tourist infrastructure in Şanlıurfa took place in June 2013. The protection measures at Göbekli Tepe, most importantly the shelters for the main excavation areas on the southern slope of the mound and



1st June 2013

Göbekli Tepe invited to the „Circle of the Restless“

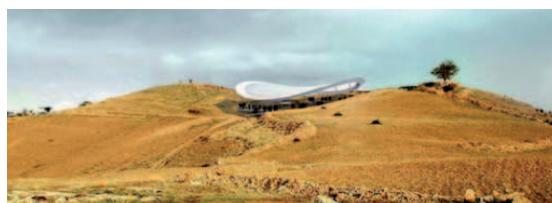
In 2013, Göbekli Tepe featured in the program of the annual *Circolo degli Inquieti* festival in Finale Ligure, Italy. On 1st June Klaus Schmidt gave a lecture at the auditorium of Chiostri di Santa Caterina, entitled *Göbekli Tepe. 7000 anni prima delle piramidi*. The lecture was presented in English and translated into Italian by Roberto Maggi.

www.circoloinquieti.it



*Discussions at the Circolo del Inquieti in Finale
Ligure in June 2013 (Photo: CKS).*

on the northwest hillock, are an integral part of this program. The Nevali Hotel was selected as the appropriate location for the ceremony. The hotel takes its name from the excavations at Nevalı Çori, a site contemporaneous with Göbekli Tepe and belonging to its cultural sphere. The team working in the Nevalı Çori project (fieldwork 1983-1991) was the same team which started work at Göbekli Tepe in 1995.



*The canopy planned to be erected at the main
excavation area on the southern slope of the artificial
mound of Göbekli Tepe (Photo montage: KKF).*

22nd to 27th August 2013



Under the auspices of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and the Shanghai Municipal Government, the first Shanghai Archaeology Forum (SAF) was held from 22nd to 27th August 2013 at the Fine Art Museum Shanghai, formerly Expo Shanghai China Pavilion. The primary theme of the inaugural forum was the comparative archaeology of ancient civilizations. Göbekli Tepe was officially recognised as one of the most important archaeological discoveries of the last years. Klaus Schmidt was invited to Shanghai to present a keynote lecture.

www.shanghaiarchaeologyforum.org



The Göbekli Tepe Project was one of the award-winning excavation projects at the Shanghai Archaeology Forum 2013 (Photo: IL).

Forthcoming Events

Forthcoming

Events in the frame of the „German-Turkish Year of Research, Education and Innovation“



Deutsch-Türkisches Jahr der
Forschung, Bildung und Innovation 2014

Türk-Alman Araştırma,
Eğitim ve İnovasyon Yılı 2014

Under the motto „Science Bridging Nations“ Germany and Turkey will be highlighting successive cooperations in the *International Year of Science* (2014). The Göbekli Tepe project team will contribute to this effort at three different events.

ITB 2014

At the beginning of this year's International Tourism Fair (ITB) in Berlin, an introductory event will be organized in cooperation with the Turkish Embassy. The director of the Göbekli Tepe excavations, Klaus Schmidt, will sum up results from long-term archaeological research in the Şanlıurfa region under the title *A successful German-Turkish cooperation: From Nevalı Çori to Göbekli Tepe*.

DFG Conferences

Later this year two workshops will be held in cooperation with the German Research Foundation in Bonn (2nd - 5th June 2014) *Anatolien - Brücke der Kulturen: Aktuelle Forschungen und Perspektiven in den deutsch-türkischen Altertumswissenschaften* and Şanlıurfa (21st - 24th September 2014) under the general title *Bridging Continents – Earliest Village Farming communities in Anatolia: Recent Research Perspectives and Future Challenges*.

ICAANE Workshop

A workshop is currently being organised by Trevor Watkins (University of Edinburgh), Marion Benz (University of Freiburg i. Br.) and Hans Georg K. Gebel (Free-University Berlin) in the frame of the 9th International Congress on the Archaeology of the Ancient Near East (ICAANE), to be held in Basel, Switzerland from 9th–13th June 2014:

The Construction of Neolithic Corporate Identities (abstract)

One of the most momentous thresholds in the longer-term evolution of human sociality was neolithisation – the transition from more flexible mobile foraging communities to sedentary and complex corporate societies. For too long Neolithic research has concentrated on the economic side of this transition, while the formation and maintenance of these early large-scale communities could not have developed without unprecedented cognitive and social capacities. More than ever before, in these sedentary milieus the human ability to perceive selectively, to memorize associatively, and to act in a collaborative way, evolved by steadily valorizing, symbolically charging and communicating practices, discourses, spaces and things, including building “traditions”. Corporate identities in the Near Eastern Late Epipalaeolithic and Neolithic were not only formed and sustained by commonly accepted tangible things (images, paraphernalia, practices etc.), they were also promoted and transformed by intangible modes, codes and ideological concepts.

The workshop aims to identify and translate the empirical evidence of the different intangibles that helped to form Epipalaeolithic and Neolithic group identities. One of the approaches might be the concept of (inter-) medality by which cognitive competences behind corporate strategies can be identified. In addition to prehistoric archaeologists, the workshop invites contributions from specialists in evolutionary and cognitive sciences.

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Akyürek Holding

an important Sponsor for the infrastructure of the archaeological park at Göbekli Tepe

A visitors' centre erected by the Turkish authorities in winter 2012/13 is situated at the entrance to the archaeological area. Its doors are expected to open in spring 2014. The visitors' centre includes a cafeteria, several shops and lavatories. A shuttle service will also be installed to transfer visitors from the parking areas at the visitors' centre to the excavation area located about 800 metres away. *Akyürek Holding* plans to sponsor these logistics.

Göbekli Tepe in Ankara

Copies of pillars from Göbekli Tepe are currently being prepared by artists from Atölye Demirtaş in Istanbul. These copies will be displayed at the exhibition of the Anadolu Medeniyetleri Müzesi, the National Museum in Ankara.

<http://www.demirtasatolyesi.com>



Copy of Pillar 12 is ready for display (Photo: DA).

The new Şanlıurfa Archaeological Museum



Construction work at the new museum in winter 2013 (Photo, top: NB, bottom: MA).

Upon completion the new Archaeological Museum in Şanlıurfa will be one of the biggest museums in Turkey. The Palaeolithic, Neolithic and Chalcolithic periods will take prominent place in the new exhibition. A life-size copy of Enclosure D from Göbekli Tepe will be on display in the Neolithic section. Another attraction will be the so-called “Terrazzo building” from Nevalı Çori, which was dismantled in 1991 before the site was flooded by the rising waters of the Atatürk Dam on the Euphrates; re-construction commenced in one of the museum exhibition halls in winter 2013.



The re-construction of the Nevalı Çori “Temple” (Photo: MA).

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Autumn 2013 (Photo: NB).

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ArchaeNova e.V.

ArchaeNova e.V. is a society founded in 1995 by researchers of the Institute of Prehistoric Archaeology at the University of Heidelberg. It is an independent organization supporting the archaeological research at Göbekli Tepe in southeastern Turkey.

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**Klaus
Schmidt:**

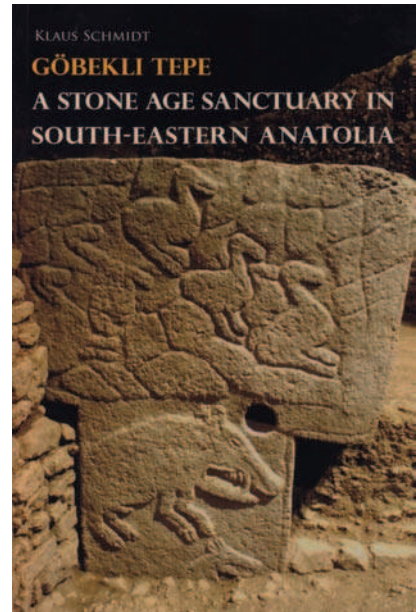
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Tempel**

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Göbekli Tepe. A Stone Age Sanctuary in South-Eastern Anatolia can be purchased from the publisher *ex Oriente e. V.*

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Studia Euphratica

Ludwig D. Morenz

**Medienevolution
und die
Gewinnung
neuer Denkräume**

Ludwig Morenz, *Medienevolution und die Gewinnung neuer Denkräume. Das frühneolithische Zeichensystem (10./9. Jt. v. Chr.) und seine Folgen*, in: H. Hauptmann, L. Morenz und K. Schmidt (Hrsg.): *Studia Euphratica* Band 1 EB-Verlag Dr. Brandt, Berlin, to be published in early 2014 – ISBN 978-3-86893-105-1



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