



Joint Colloquium of Evolutionary Biology and Archaeology

„Lethal Outbreaks of Plague at Lake Baikal 5500 years ago“

by

Dr. Ruairidh Macleod

Ruairidh Macleod is currently a postdoctoral research associate at University College London, working in the lab of Mark Thomas as part of the ERC-funded **COREX** project (*Connected Past: Multidisciplinary Approaches to the Emergence of Regional Identities in Prehistoric Europe*). The project explores how genetic, cultural, and environmental factors shaped population interactions and regional identities during the Neolithic and Bronze Age. He completed his PhD at the University of Cambridge in December 2024, supervised by Eske Willerslev and Matthew Collins. Ruairidh first became involved in ancient proteomics during his undergraduate studies, and quickly transitioned into ancient genomics for his postgraduate work. His doctoral research focused on large-scale genomic studies of prehistoric hunter-gatherer communities in northern Eurasia—particularly around Lake Baikal—combined with ancient environmental DNA to track long-term ecosystem changes.

His current work investigates the causes of social and demographic change in Neolithic and Bronze Age Europe, with a focus on developing new ways to integrate genomic and archaeological data. In October 2025, he will begin a five-year independent research fellowship at All Souls College, University of Oxford.

On Thursday 15. May 2025 um 16:00 ct.

In the Seminar Room within the Anthropology Building

Anselm-Franz-von-Bentzel-Weg 7

followed by an academic reception

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