

Conceptualising (More-Than-) Human Communities in Archaeology

Workshop | 9 January 2023, 13.15–14.45 | Institute of Classical Archaeology

A text-based discussion with Dr Oliver J.T. Harris (University of Leicester) on concepts of community, posthumanist approaches and the place of theory in archaeology.



Once you've built one monument, you can build others. Once you have started work on a monument, the architecture can always be added to and altered. We can think here of how architecture helps to produce more-than-human communities. Rather than the product of a solely human design, a monument [...] is the outcome of stones, soil, bones, charcoal, humans and more. In turn it does not merely reflect those different elements; it brings them into conjunction and it forges them as a community. Building architecture brings bodies, human and non-human, together in new ways. It changes what it is that bodies can do as they gain new capacities through relations that emerge in the making of architecture. These acts of making, these acts of gathering, these acts of relating – these are new communities.

Harris, O.J.T. (2021). Assembling Past Worlds: Materials, Bodies and Architecture in Neolithic Britain. Routledge. pp. 156–157

If you want to register, please email Matthias Hoernes (matthias.hoernes@univie.ac.at) by 5 January.

