Professor Philipp W. Stockhammer
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Philipp Stockhammer is Professor for Prehistoric Archaeology with a focus on the Eastern Mediterranean at the Ludwig-Maximilians-University and co-director of the Max Planck-Harvard Research Center for the Archaeoscience of the Ancient Mediterranean at the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Leipzig. Professor Stockhammer is a proponent of archaeological sciences in humanities-based research. Specifically, his research focuses on the transformative power of intercultural encounters, social practices and the integration of archaeological and scientific data concerning social belonging, mobility, food and health. His regional emphasis spans central and southeastern Europe, the Aegean, and the eastern Mediterranean.

Public Lecture - The University of Sydney: ‘Family and Migration in Bronze Age Greece: New archaeogenetic insights’
Thursday August 22: 6.00pm
Centenary Theatre, The University of Tasmania

Since the famous excavations of Heinrich Schliemann in Mycenae and of Arthur Evans in Knossos, we have been trying to understand Mycenaean and Minoan societies of the second millennium BCE. Outstanding palaces, literary sources and rich burials have inspired our fascination with the Aegean Bronze Age. However, many basic questions have remained unanswered: How were families structured? What about individual mobility in the Aegean? Did people move from Anatolia to the Aegean or from Mainland Greece to Crete? Now, new archaeogenetic studies enable us to trace biological families and migration in Bronze Age Greece in a completely new dimension. In my talk, I will show how specific marital rules shaped Mainland Greece, Crete and the other islands, as we found astonishing evidence that cousin-cousin marriage was a most important social practice, especially on Crete and the Aegean islands, during the Bronze Age. I will discuss possible reasons for this practice and what a Bronze Age household community possibly looked like. I will demonstrate how genetic analyses enable us to trace non-local individuals and migrant groups while also considering their impact on Bronze Age societies.

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