

ROOTS – Cluster of Excellence presents:

# Public Lecture Series by JMA-Chairs\*

at Kiel University / Room 204 / Leibnizstraße 1 / 24118 Kiel

\*This Lecture Series provides novel research perspectives to unveil interwoven past social, environmental, and cultural phenomena, shedding light on the 'roots' of current socio-environmental challenges and crises. Leading international experts joining the Cluster of Excellence as guest chairs (Johanna-Mestorf-Academy-Chairs) give insight into their research, enhancing ROOTS large interdisciplinary initiative.

David García González takes photographs of the Menga dolmen water well upon finishing the excavation of its infill, in November 2005 (photo: Francisco Carrión Méndez).



**8 MAY 2023**  
starting 04:15 p.m.

## » **Nature, environment and monumentality in Neolithic Iberia: The case of Antequera** «

Almost a quarter of a century ago, in his book *An Archaeology of Natural Places* (London, Routledge, 2000) Richard Bradley examined the cultural and social significance of natural places for European prehistoric societies. Since then, numerous studies have looked at the relationship between natural elements (rocky formations, water, cavities, etc.), ritual practice and monumentality. In this lecture, I will draw on Bradley's seminal work to analyse the connection between nature and human made-monuments in Neolithic Iberia. The case study I will use is Antequera, in Málaga (southern Spain). Here, starting in the 5<sup>th</sup> millennium BC, Neolithic societies start-

ed to transform certain natural elements present in their environment in a process that, over two thousand years, would gradually lead to the creation of a remarkable landscape involving rocky formations, water elements, skylapes, megaliths, rock art and natural cavities.



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