LEIBNIZ-ZENTRUM
FÜR ARCHÄOLOGIE

Leibniz-Zentrum für Archäologie
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Picture credits

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Cold without consequences?

Short-term climate fluctuations appear to have had less impact on the subsistence practices of early farmers than previously thought



The laser-based method developed by the SEAFRONT research group together with collaborators from Greece uses more than 100 high-resolution limpet shell records to detect short-term environmental changes at an archaeological site and compare them with archaeological evidence of human activity.

photo: © LEIZA / Sabine Steidl



SEAFRONT research at the Greek archaeological site of Franchthi combines large amounts of climate data with archaeological evidence from the same site, periods and layers. This makes it possible, for the first time, to investigate at sub-annual resolution whether short-term climatic conditions were actually associated with changes in human behaviour.

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Leibniz-Zentrum für Archäologie (LEIZA)

As a Leibniz Research Institute and Museum for Archaeology, LEIZA studies humans and their development based on material remains that span three million years across time and space. The fundamental insights we gain improve our understanding of human behaviour, actions and the development of societies. In this way, LEIZA enriches our knowledge of humans from an archaeological perspective and creates essential foundations for reflecting on the present and shaping the future. With archaeology, LEIZA views human beings in context and shares the knowledge gained in international dialogue. LEIZA is active worldwide and has successfully and comprehensively conducted research in various regions of Africa, Asia and Europe. The unique concentration of archaeological, scientific, restoration and information technology expertise, combined with important workshops, laboratories and archives, makes it possible to conduct object-oriented research into the archaeology of the ancient world (Asia, Africa, Europe) from the beginnings of human history to modern times. As one of eight research museums in the Leibniz Association, LEIZA combines excellent science with exhibitions and, with its educational mission, is also a place for dialogue with the public.

Until its renaming on 1 January 2023, LEIZA was known internationally as the Römisch-Germanisches Zentralmuseum (RGZM), which was founded in Mainz in 1852 by resolution of the German Historical and Antiquities Societies. Since 2024, LEIZA is represented at four locations in Germany: Mainz, Neuwied, Mayen, and Schleswig. www.leiza.de

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