



EINLADUNG

zum

VERA - SEMINAR

von

**Thomas HIGHAM**

Oxford Radiocarbon Accelerator Unit, RLAHA, University of Oxford

## **Radiocarbon Dating the Middle to Upper Palaeolithic Transition in Europe**

The arrival of anatomically modern humans (AMHs) into Europe and the extinction of the Neanderthals is one of the most debated transformations in prehistoric archaeology. Central to it is the issue of chronology. Without a proper chronological framework, the challenge of understanding the nature of the interaction between the two and the extinction pattern becomes very hard to resolve. Work in Oxford over the last 5 years is aimed at improving the situation. In this talk I will outline some of the archaeological and methodological challenges involved in the work and present some exciting initial results.

The work is part of a 3 year funded project concerned with the chronology of the Middle to Upper Palaeolithic transition. We concentrated initially on redating the corpus of British Middle and Upper Palaeolithic material using an ultrafiltration method that allows improved purification of extracted collagen from archaeological bones. We then extended this work to the continent and have been dating further material of Palaeolithic age from over 50 sites in Italy, France, Germany, Spain, Belgium, Greece and Britain. Further developments to our current methods are proposed and will be outlined.

**Donnerstag, 22. Jänner 2009, 16:30 Uhr**

**1090 Wien, Währinger Str. 17, "Kavalierstrakt",  
1. Stock, Seminarraum von VERA**