The question of how to conceptualize the role of techno-
logical innovations is of crucial importance for understanding
the mechanisms and rhythms of long-term cultural change
in prehistoric and early historic societies. For a long time,
the changes that have come about have often been modelled
as gradual and linear, innovations have been considered
positively as a progress in the development of human-
kind and the focus was on the localization of the origin of
innovations and the routes of their spread.

Our conference wants to go beyond the current discussion
by shedding light on the conditions facilitating the quick
spreading of technological innovation and on the process of
the integration of new technologies into the life world of the
appropriating societies. In particular, we want to concen-
trate on two key innovations, namely the transmission of the
various components of the so-called “Secondary Products
Revolution” in parts of the Near East and Europe during
the 4th millennium BCE and the appropriation of early
bronze casting technology, which spread from the Near
East to Europe and China in the late 3rd and early 2nd
millennium BCE.

We are especially interested in non-technological knowledge
that is transmitted together with the technological know-
ledge, as technological knowledge is always deeply intercon-
ected with the communication of social practices, ideas
and myths. The acceptance of new technologies, therefore,
requires the willingness to change existing world views and
modify them due to the potentials and problems which are
connected with the new technology.

Contributions should, therefore, concentrate on the
conditions facilitating or hindering the spread of innovations
and the transformative power of these innovations in the
appropriating society. They should analyse how the
introduction of novel technologies and the associated
non-technological knowledge led to a transformation of
existing economic systems and the underlying social orders
in Late Neolithic, Chalcolithic and Early Bronze Age Eurasia
by integrating innovative methodological approaches and
contextual studies.

Joseph Maran & Philipp W. Stockhammer
Cluster of Excellence “Asia and Europe in a Global
Context” & Institute of Prehistory and Early History
and Near Eastern Archaeology
Heidelberg University
Marstallhof 4
69117 Heidelberg
Phone: +49 (0) 6221 / 54 2540
stockhammer@asia-europe.uni-heidelberg.de
Web:
www.asia-europe.uni-heidelberg.de/en/appropriating-innovations
Thursday, January 15, 2015

09.00-09.30 Welcome & Introduction to the Topic

09.30-10.00 Cornelius Schubert (Siegen): Unruly Innovations. Evolutionary Perspectives on the Relations of Technology and Society

10.00-10.30 Augusta McMahon (Cambridge): The Spread of Productive and Technological Innovations in the Old World. An Integrated Zooarchaeological Perspective on Secondary Animal Products and Bronze Utilitarian Metallurgy

10.30-11.00 Coffee

11.00-11.30 Kristina Sauer (Heidelberg): In the Light of Innovations. Tracing the Transfer of Commodities and Knowledge in the “Uruk World”

11.30-12.15 Giulia Potumi (Lyon) & Maria Bianca D’Anna (Tübingen): Uruk, Pastoralism and Secondary Products. Was it a Revolution? A View from the Anatolian Highlands

12.15-12.45 Marya Ivanova (Heidelberg): The „Green Revolution“ in Prehistory. Late Neolithic Agricultural Innovations as a Technological System

12.45-14.00 Lunch (for Speakers)

14.00-14.30 Stefan Burmeister (Kalkriese): Early Wagons in Eurasia. De-Entangling an Enigmatic Innovation

14.30-15.00 Elke Kaiser (Berlin): The Innovative Potential in Communities of the Eastern European Steppe in the 3rd Millennium BC

15.00-15.30 Sabine Reindorf (Berlin) & Corina Knipper (Mannheim): Contextualising Innovation. On Wagons, Wagon Drivers and Burial-Mound Possessors in the North Caucasus and Beyond

15.30-16.00 Coffee

16.00-16.30 Maleen Leppek (Heidelberg): Innovation, Interaction and Society in the 4th Millennium BCE in Europe

16.30-17.00 Joseph Moran (Heidelberg): Wheels of Change. The Polysynous Nature of Early Wheeled Vehicles in Central and Northwest European Societies, ca. 3200-2500 BCE

17.00-17.30 Niels N. Johannsen (Aarhus): Appropriating Draught Cattle Technology in Southern Scandinavia. Roles, Context and Consequences

17.30-18.00 Helle Vandkilde (Aarhus): Innovation and Change at the Onset of the Nordic Bronze Age

18.00 Conference Dinner (for Speakers)

Friday, January 16, 2015

09.00-9.30 Haskel J. Greenfield (Manitoba): The Spread of Productive and Technological Innovations in the Old World. An Integrated Zooarchaeological Perspective on Secondary Animal Products and Bronze Utilitarian Metallurgy

9.30-10.00 Marcelle Frangipane (Rome): The Role of Metallurgy in Different Types of Early Hierarchical Societies. The Case of Eastern Anatolia between 4th and Early 3rd Millennium BC

10.00-10.30 Lorenz Rahmstorf (Mainz): And Childe was Right after all? Vere Gordon Childe’s Thoughts on Immigrant Craftsmen, Prospectors and the Dissemination of Key Economic Innovations During the 3rd Millennium BC in the Light of Recent Scholarship

10.30-11.00 Coffee

11.00-11.30 Federica Lume Pereira (Heidelberg): Beads on a String. Gonur Depe (Turkmenistan) and its Role in the Middle Asian Interaction Sphere

11.30-12.00 Peter Migués (Heidelberg): The Vault in 3rd and 2nd Millennium BC Mesopotamia and its Role in the Middle Asian Interaction Sphere

12.00-12.30 Johannes Müller (Kiel): Late Neolithic and Early Bronze Age Central Europe. Innovation and the Speed of Change

12.30-14.00 Lunch (for Speakers)

14.00-14.30 Ulrike Wischnewski (Heidelberg): Transfer of Innovation in the Near East in the Early Bronze Age

14.30-15.00 Erol Pekcan (Manisa): The Production of Tin Bronze in Eurasia – When, Where and Why?

15.00-15.30 Aslihan Yener (Koza): The Discovery of New Tin Mines and Production Sites near Kültepe, Ancient Kanesh in Turkey. A 3rd Millennium BC Highland Production Model

15.30-16.00 Coffee

16.00-16.30 Xinqian Chen (Beijing): Contact between the East and the West. Archaeological Evidence from the 3rd and 2nd Millennium BC

16.30-17.00 Jianjun Mei (Cambridge): The Appropriation of Early Bronze Technology in China

17.00-17.30 Sabine Linder (Heidelberg): Early Bronze Casting in China. Transformative Capacity of a New Technology

18.00 Conference Dinner (for Speakers)

Saturday, January 17, 2015

09.00-9.30 Fissan Klimscha (Berlin): Spheres of Knowledge and Recombination of Techniques. The Transfer of Innovations between SW Asia and Central Europe in the Chalcolithic and Early Bronze Age

9.30-10.00 Barbara Helwing (Lyon): A Comparative View on Metallurgical Innovations in Southwestern Asia

10.00-10.30 Svend Hansen (Berlin): Technical Innovations. The Role of Early Metallurgy

10.30-11.00 Coffee

11.00-11.30 Philipp W. Stockhammer (Heidelberg): The Transformative Power of Knowledge Transfer. Appropriating Bronze Technology

11.30-12.00 Ken Massy (München): Old space, Old Customs? Early Bronze Age Burials in the Lech Valley in the Light of Material and Cultural Innovations

12.00-12.30 Corina Knipper (Mannheim): Personal Mobility and Dietary Differentiation at the Onset of the Central European Metal Ages. A Case from the Lech Valley in Southern Bavaria

12.30-14.00 Lunch (for Speakers)

14.00-14.30 Alissa Mittnik (Tübingen): Genetic Studies on Late Neolithic and Early Bronze Age Burials of the Lech Region (Southern Germany)

14.30-15.00 Johannes Krause (Tübingen): Ancient Human Genomes Suggest Three Ancestral Populations for Present-Day Europeans

15.00-15.30 Christian Horn (Kiel): The Last War. A Theoretical Outlook on Innovations in Weapon Technology in the Late Neolithic-Early Bronze Age Transition of Southern Scandinavia

15.30-16.00 Coffee

16.00-17.30 General Debate and Conclusion