

Megaliths and Giants: Why did prehistoric people build big monuments?

Start date	17 June 2018	Time	10:00 – 16:45
Venue	Madingley Hall Madingley Cambridge		
Tutor	Dr Isabelle Vella Gregory	Course code	1718NDX057

Director of Programmes Emma Jennings
For further information on this course, please contact Public Programme Coordinator, Clare Kerr
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To book See: www.ice.cam.ac.uk or telephone 01223 746262

Tutor biography

Isabelle Vella Gregory is an archaeologist, formerly a Junior Research Fellow at Christ's College and now an affiliate scholar at the McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research.

Born in Malta, where she first studied archaeology, she moved to Cambridge to pursue her Master's and doctoral studies. She teaches undergraduates at the University of Cambridge, focusing on prehistory, methodology and an inter-disciplinary approach to archaeology. Her expertise lies in central Mediterranean prehistory, from the Neolithic to the Bronze Age, and archaeological method and theory. Isabelle has conducted fieldwork in Malta and Italy and museum studies in Sardinia.

Isabelle's teaching style is aimed at enabling participants to develop their critical thinking skills and encouraging group discussion. She finds that heavy use of mixed media, particularly vision and sound, stimulates thought and discourse and enables participants to really take a close look at the many fascinating things under discussion. Her approach is very much multi-disciplinary- after all an understanding of humanity requires many tools and approaches. Interacting with adult students is, for Isabelle, always a pleasure- participants bring with them a wealth of experience and perspectives and they are always willing to engage in lively debate.

Course programme

09:30	Terrace bar open for pre-course tea/coffee
10:00 – 11:15	The lure of big stones
11:15	Coffee
11:45 – 13:00	Megaliths in Europe
13:00	Lunch
14:00 – 15:15	Megaliths in the Mediterranean and beyond
15:15	Tea
15:30 – 16:45	So why did people build big stone monuments?
16:45	Day-school ends

Aims:

1. Develop a good understanding and knowledge of key megalithic sites through the lectures which is tested during the discussion sessions
2. Enhance analytical and critical thinking skills through the group and individual exercises under the guidance of the lecturer
3. Increased appreciation of, and engagement with, the many ways in which humans have created their worlds.

Content:

Throughout Europe, the Mediterranean, Asia and Africa there are numerous large megalithic buildings, generally described as monuments. There are many myths about their origins, including a 'race of Giants'. The immense stones have both revealed and obscured details about prehistoric life. As we explore key sites, we will discover how they cannot be understood on their own and why there is no single explanation. Indeed, while all these buildings are built of large stones they were created by very different people and for very different reasons.

Does size matter? Is monumentality an indicator of greatness? Do big stones obscure our view of people? These questions will be discussed and debated throughout the course.

Presentation of the course:

Illustrated lectures, class discussion, short tasks

As a result of the course, within the constraints of the time available, students should be able to:

- To identify and understand major megalithic sites
- To apply analytical skills regarding these sites, particularly since they often feature in popular media
- To pursue further independent study using the tools acquired in this course.

Reading and resources list

Listed below are texts that might be of interest should you wish to supplement your learning on the course. Any essential reading is marked with an asterisk *

Bradley, R. 1998. *The significance of monuments: On the shaping of human experience in Neolithic and Bronze Age Europe*. London and New York: Routledge.

Cilia, D. (ed.) 2004. *Malta Before History: The World's Oldest Free-standing Stone Architecture*. Malta: Miranda.

Cunliffe, B. 2004. *Facing the Ocean: The Atlantic and its Peoples*. Oxford: Oxford University Press

Scarre, C. (ed) 2002. *Monuments and landscape in Atlantic Europe: Perception and society during the Neolithic and Early Bronze Age*. London and New York: Routledge.

Scarre, C. 2007. *The Megalithic Monuments of Britain and Ireland*. London: Thames and Hudson.

Additional information

Venue

Details of how to find Madingley Hall can be found on our website:
<http://www.ice.cam.ac.uk/who-we-are/how-to-find-the-institute>

Refreshments

Tea and coffee and lunch will be provided. If you have any specific dietary requirements or allergies and have not already advised us, please inform our Admissions Team on ice.admissions@ice.cam.ac.uk or +44 (0)1223 746262.

Note Students of the Institute of Continuing Education are entitled to 20% discount on books published by Cambridge University Press (CUP) which are purchased at the Press bookshop, 1 Trinity Street, Cambridge (Mon-Sat 9am – 5:30pm, Sun 11am – 5pm). A letter or email confirming acceptance on to a current Institute course should be taken as evidence of enrolment.

Information correct as of: 03 June 2018