

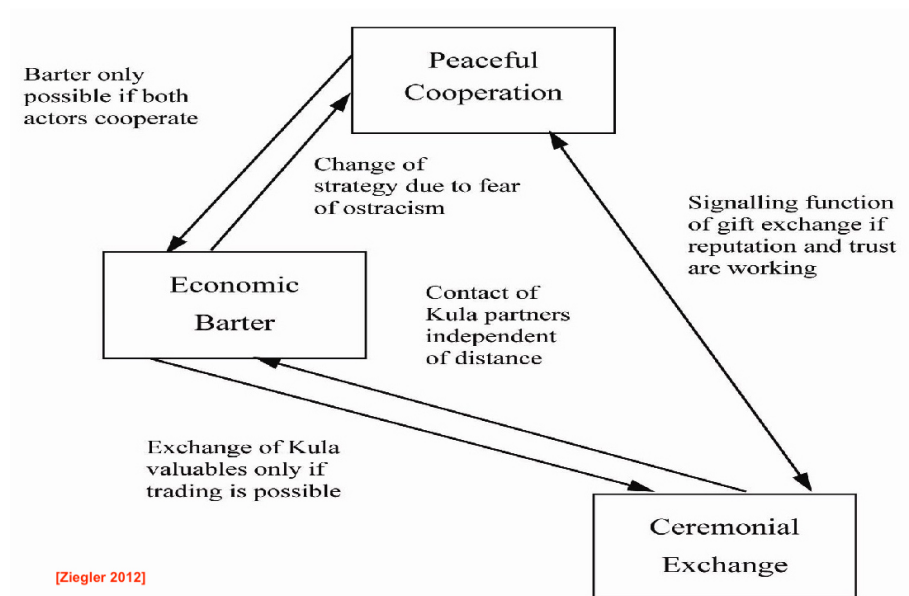
Gift, Exchange, and Goods Transfer in Prehistory

Teaching module UZH (FS 2021)

Workshop UZH ARCH 2021 / 26th May 2021 on Zoom

Catchwords such as exchange, gift, barter, trade, value, and money are abundant in archaeological literature when it comes to describing economic processes in past societies. However, the use of these terms often appears to be more incidental than accurate, and rather driven by modern assumptions or concepts of economic transactions, than by methodological approaches.

Following a successful workshop on the emergence of Number and Measure in Prehistory in spring 2020, we now aim at clarifying the origin and evolution of ritual, interpersonal, and societal exchanges in the various spheres of materiality, communication, dependence and reciprocity, by investigating among others key issues such as value, gift and money from an anthropological, sociological, economic and historical perspective. A particular focus on the development of money (both as a concept and as a material reality) and of trade (as one particular form of economic interaction) would be desirable, with reference and in contrast to other forms of creation of value (gift, debt...) and of (materialist, economic...) interaction.



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