

## **An Overview of Michelsberg and Funnelbeaker Enclosures in Neolithic Europe**

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Enclosures are a European phenomenon and they are neither characteristic for a region, nor a period. These sites can be installed on a hill, can be adjacent to a watercourse and they can take part in the structure of a territory on a (micro-)regional scale. Their localization is particularly linked to salt springs or deposits of raw materials. The exact function of these monuments is a highly sensitive theme and several hypotheses have been advanced: fortified settlements, livestock enclosures, gathering places, markets, shelters, sanctuaries or other religious sites. It is possible that a differential or a multifunctional use of these sites existed, because they are located at ecological places quite variable and various architectural types exist. In this presentation, several enclosures of the Michelsberg and Funnelbeaker cultures will be presented to illustrate the great variety of types and their evolution in time and space.