

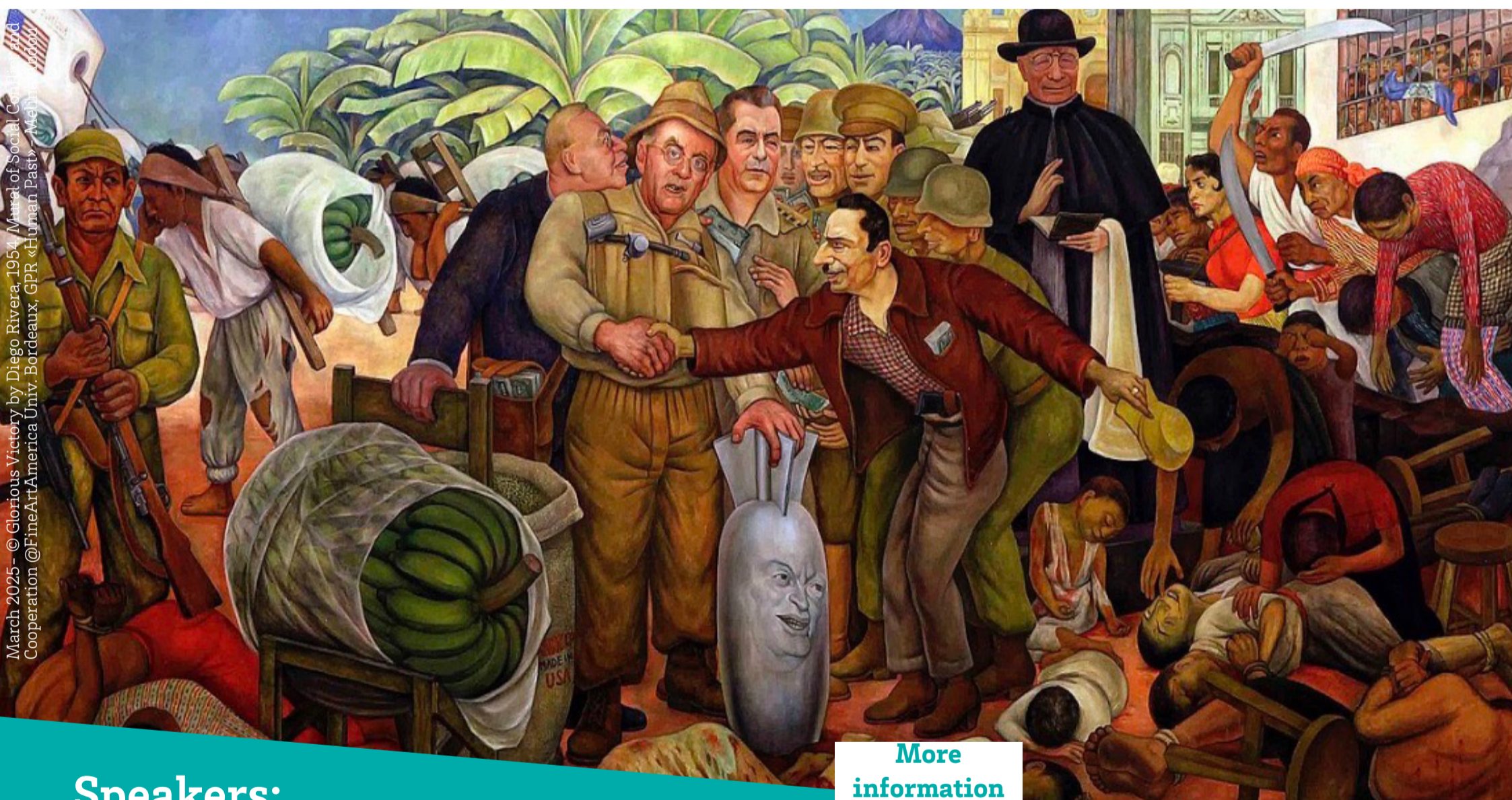
Conflict, Cooperation, and the Transformation of Cultural Systems

April 9, 2026, 3:00pm–5:00pm (Paris time)

Open to all, no registration required

PABA amphitheatre (Building B5, Bordes Campus) & online

Zoom link: <https://u-bordeaux-fr.zoom.us/j/81523504963>



March 2025 - © Glorious Victory by Diego Rivera, 1954, Mural of Social Cooperation @FineArtAmerica Univ. Bordeaux, GPR «Human Past» - Melina Abdou

Speakers:

Hugo Meijer

CERI Sciences Po, France

Ian Kuijt

University of Notre Dame, Indiana, USA

[More information](#)

sciences-archeologiques.u-bordeaux.fr/gpr

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Seminar Abstract

How do cultural traits emerge, persist, or disappear, and what role do conflict and cooperation play in shaping these processes across human history?

Bringing together perspectives from archaeology, evolutionary anthropology, and heritage studies, the seminar investigates how intergroup conflict and cooperation have co-evolved over deep time, producing both the destruction and transformation of cultural systems. Particular attention will be given to processes of cultural heritage loss in contexts of conflict, understood not only as consequences of violence but potentially as deliberate strategies linked to demographic change and social reorganization.

The discussion will also address major socio-economic transitions, including the shift from collective to household-based risk management in early agricultural societies, highlighting how small-scale decisions and technological innovations can generate profound long-term social and cultural consequences.

By integrating evidence from material culture, archaeological records, and historical sources, from prehistory to contemporary heritage crises, the seminar offers new perspectives on the mechanisms driving cultural continuity and rupture, and on the relevance of deep-time processes for understanding present-day challenges.

Speakers

Hugo Meijer – *CNRS Research Fellow at CERI Sciences Po, France*

The Co-Evolution of War and Peace in the Hominin Lineage: A Biocultural Perspective

Hugo Meijer serves as Deputy Director at the Center for International Studies (CERI) at Sciences Po. His research focuses on the deep history of war and peace, the origins of diplomacy, and long-term processes of biocultural evolution in human societies. He is also Founding Director of the European Initiative for Security Studies and Honorary Researcher at the Centre for War and Diplomacy, Lancaster University. His recent and forthcoming publications include: *The Origins of War and Peace in the Human Species* (Cambridge University Press, forthcoming 2026); "Janus faced: The Co-Evolution of War and Peace in the Human Species," *Evolutionary Anthropology* 33/3 (2024), pp. 1-14; "The Origins of War: A Global Archaeological Review," *Human Nature*, 35(3) (2024), pp. 225–288; "The Evolutionary Roots of War and Peace," *Journal of Strategic Studies*, 48(6-7) (2026), with Richard Wrangham, <https://doi.org/10.1080/01402390.2024.2440397>.

Ian Kuijt – *Professor of Anthropology at the University of Notre Dame, Indiana, USA*

(Pre) Historic Memory Making: Cooperation, Identity, and Risk

Ian Kuijt researches the origins of agriculture, early village life, and long-term processes of social and economic change in Neolithic societies of the Near East. His work examines food storage, risk management, and the evolution of social organization from evolutionary and archaeological perspectives. He is also engaged in contemporary heritage research, documenting and analysing the large-scale destruction of cultural heritage during the Russia-Ukraine war and its social consequences. His public scholarship highlights both visible and "unseen" losses of cultural heritage, including damaged archaeological landscapes and threatened historical archives. He is a Fellow of the Nanovic Institute of European Studies and the Keough-Naughton Institute for Irish Studies at the University of Notre Dame

Organisers:

This seminar is jointly organised by the co-PIs of WP3 and WP5 – Solange Rigaud (PACEA), Eneko Hiriart, Aurélie Mounier (Archéosciences Bordeaux), and Bruno Dutailly (PACEA & Archéosciences Bordeaux)

**More
information**

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