The last decade saw a rapid increase in the collection and analysis of radiocarbon dates to infer trajectories of prehistoric population change. Early efforts based on the visual inspection of time-series of few uncalibrated dates are now been replaced by statistical analysis on thousands of dates, enabling the kinds of detailed time-series comparisons that are not achievable via other demographic proxies. By building time-series framed in an absolute chronology we are no longer constrained by the confined spatial ranges of relative chronological frameworks and we can evaluate cross-cultural and cross-regional divergences in prehistoric population dynamics. This talk will present the main benefits (as well as the challenges) of this endeavour illustrating a case study on Neolithic population dynamics in Korea and Japan between 7,000 and 3,000 cal BP.

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