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Abstract Book

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UN-PACKAGING NEOLITHIC SOCIETIES: FROM STATIC NOTIONS TO BOTTOM-UP MODELS OF SOCIAL ORGANIZATION

Theme: Archaeological theory and methods beyond paradigms

Organisers: Heitz, Caroline (University of Bern, Institute of Archaeological Sciences, Prehistory; University of Bern, Oeschger Centre for Climate Change Research) - Wunderlich, Maria (Kiel University, Institute of Pre- and Protohistoric Archaeology) - Furholt, Martin (University of Oslo, Institute of Archaeology, Conservation and History)

Format: Regular session

Traditional ideas about Neolithic societies are shaped by questionable premises. Concepts of social and cultural coherence of residence groups and the ethnic interpretation of 'archaeological cultures' fostered ideas of static and homogeneous social entities with fixed borders. Farming – the core of the Neolithic way of life – was associated with sedentariness rather than with mobility. Furthermore, the widely used (neo-)evolutionist thinking assumed a universally growing social hierarchization in the course of prehistory. Such 'top-down'-perspectives deprived individuals and groups of genuine agency and creativity. In recent years, a wide array of empirical results on social practices related to material culture and settlement dynamics, (inter-)regional entanglements and spatial mobility based on Stable Isotope Analyses, aDNA etc. have come to the fore. Yet the question of possible inferences regarding the social organization has not been sufficiently addressed.

The aim of the session is to study social practice and organization in Neolithic societies based on such results by adopting bottom-up perspectives. We want to discuss how data can be methodologically combined on the basis of corresponding theories as well as the potential of such bottom-up approaches to infer models of social organization which could live up to the diversity and dynamism of Neolithic societies. This might include perspectives on mobility, social complexity, the importance of (political) interests and factors of kinship etc. We welcome papers that address the following questions:

- What models of Neolithic societies are used in current research?
- What kind of premises are projected onto the past and why?
- What kind of data is available and how can we combine those to explore different forms of social organization?
- What theories are used to approach social organization in prehistoric contexts?
- How could archaeology benefit from anthropological perspectives?
- What are the epistemological limits regarding the social organization of Neolithic communities?"

A SIGN OF MOBILITY AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE? CERAMICS WITH SCRIBBLE LINES AND IMPRESSIONS ORNAMENTATION FROM THE LYSA HORA CEMETERY (UKR)

Author(s): Andriiovych, Marta - Hafner, Albert (University of Bern, Institute of Archaeological Sciences, Prehistory) - Shydlovskyyi, Pavlo (Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, Faculty of History, Department of Archeology and Museology)

Presentation Format: Oral

At the Lysa Hora cemetery, 50 graves with nearly 80 vessels were discovered. It belongs to the IIB period of the so-called Azov-Dnieper culture, dated near 5200—4750 years BCE. For the Dnieper-Donetsk region, three types of ornamentation on ceramics were common: comb prints, impressions, and scribbled lines. In the first period, typical ornaments are comb prints and scribbled lines, in the second-period triangular impression. In my view, the observable differences in the vessels' ornamentation, as well as differing admixtures in the clay could be explained by two hypotheses:

1. The migration (permanent residential mobility) of social groups to the Dnieper-Donetsk region.
2. Phenomena of exchange beyond the Dnieper-Donetsk region between different social groups having different pottery production practices.

Comb ornamentation was most common in Ukrainian Neolithic. But in the second period, impressions became the most popular ornamentation, whereas the linear ornamentation almost disappeared.

If the comb ornamentation was created in the Middle part of Dnieper river or spread with three different waves of the sea migration of social groups making the Cardium pottery style, and another influence came from groups, who made ceramic with triangular impressions, we can suppose that scribbled linear ornamentations could be a local invention within the Bug-Dniester pottery style in the Early Neolithic.

Questions remain: Are combinations of different types of ornamentation the result of an exchange between culturally different groups and/or phases of adaptation and integration for the newcomers? And in both cases, what could this tell us about mobility, cultural exchange social organization in the Neolithic in the Middle Dnieper region?

QUANTIFYING STONE AGE MOBILITY: SCALES AND PARAMETERS

Theme: Interpreting the archaeological record: artefacts, humans and landscapes

Organisers: Sobkowiak-Tabaka, Iwona (Institute of Archeology and Ethnology of the Polish Academy of Sciences, Centre for Prehistoric and Medieval Studies, Poznań) - Diachenko, Aleksandr (Institute of Archaeology, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, Kyiv) - Wiśniewski, Andrzej (Institute of Archaeology, University of Wrocław)

Format: Regular session

Hunter-gatherer populations are usually presented as opposed to Neolithic communities through the highly mobile way of life contrasting to sedentary system of occupation. Meanwhile, numerous case studies have shown that the 'mobile cliché' of hunters, gatherers and fishers is often far from ethnographic and archaeological reality. The same applies to an idealized picture of early farmers settled particular places for a long time. This session explores quantitative approaches to mobility from the Paleolithic to the Neolithic at different spatio-temporal scales.

We encourage archaeological and ethno-archaeological contributions dealing with modelling and quantitative approaches to various aspects of Stone Age mobility. The session will explore the following questions:

- what parameters can be used to describe different factors of movement?
- what is the correlation between parameters describing environmental diversity, demography and the values describing spatial movement?
- can we unify the definitions for different spatio-temporal scales?
- what factors can be indicated as those responsible for different dynamics of mobility?
- when and why the outcomes of studies conducted at different spatio-temporal scales contradict each other in terms of reconstruction of mobility?

Approaches to the not listed, but related issues are also highly welcome!

9 SPATIAL ANALYSIS OF OBJECTS ATTRIBUTED TO THE MEZHYRICHIAN EPIGRAVETTIAN CULTURE: A MODEL OF MOBILITY

Author(s): Shydlovskiy, Pavlo (Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv) - Tsvirkun, Ostap (Institute of Archaeology NAS of Ukraine) - Péan, Stéphane (UMR 7194 HNHP, MNHN/CNRS/UPVD, Muséum national d'histoire naturelle, Paris)

Presentation Format: Oral

In the basin of the Middle Dnieper and its tributaries, a large number of Upper Palaeolithic sites and palaeontological deposits have been uncovered. The archaeological settlements are attributed to various chrono-cultural facies: Gravettian, Epigravettian, and Final Palaeolithic. A part of Epigravettian vestiges refers to the Mezhyrichian type of industry and is dated to the rather narrow limited time span of 15,1 – 14,3 14C uncal Kyr BP. The conducted typological-technological analysis of lithic assemblages allows us to assert the unity of processing techniques within this type. Such technological, territorial and chronological unity of sites represent the remnants of one society. These objects have different functional and seasonal characteristics, which create a unique opportunity to reconstruct certain aspects of life, seasonal mobility cycle, hunting strategy of a group in a common ecological niche. The base camps were mainly settled during the cold season, while in the warm season there was a more high

activity associated with topographically higher relief areas. The logistic model of annual mobility implies the presence of base camps in the center of the movement of the group, on the one hand and short-term camps, kill-sites, gathering of flintstone places on the other.

Planigraphic features of the settlement structures indicate a sectoral use of residential areas. The center of each one is a mammoth bone dwelling structure, around which there are functionally distinct objects and areas. The design of the dwellings exhibits a rhythmical and symmetrical disposal of bones in the structure. The renewal of internal space investigation inside the preserved fourth dwelling of Mezhyrich tends to confirm a sectoral location of functionally defined areas. The spatial distribution of sites and objects indicates the presence of a centralized structure of behaviour, which manifests itself at different hierarchical levels: dwelling, residential assemblage, base camp and subsistence territory.

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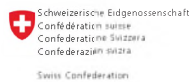
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