

24th EAA Annual Meeting

BARCELONA,
5-8 SEPTEMBER 2018

REFLECTING FUTURES

Abstract Book VOLUME I



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EUROPEAN YEAR
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Author's affiliation is stated in brackets following the author's name; where authors share the same affiliation, it is only stated once.

The Index of Authors, situated in Volume II, includes all session organisers and only the main authors of contributions.

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Our results are combined with published data from other Levantine sites in order to consider change and continuity in obsidian circulation through time and space. The analysis of a large proportion of the obsidian artefacts from several assemblages has enabled us to demonstrate subtle changes within the general dominance of obsidian from Central Anatolia in the Levant. Not only does the use of southeast Anatolian obsidian increase through time, but we have also been able to identify the rare occurrences of obsidian from very distant sources.

Reference

Campbell, S. and E. Healey 2016 Multiple Sources: The pXRF Analysis of Obsidian from Kenan Tepe, S.E. Turkey. *Journal of Archaeological Science: Reports* 10: 377–389.

Campbell, S. and E. Healey 2017 Diversity in obsidian use in the prehistoric and early historic Middle East. *Quaternary International*.

05 NETWORKED COMMUNITIES. ACCESS AND CIRCULATION OF OBSIDIAN MATERIALS IN THE SOUTHERN CAUCASUS BETWEEN THE NEOLITHIC AND CHALCOLITHIC

Author(s): Ricci, Andrea (Graduate School „Human Development in Landscapes“) - Palumbi, Giulio (Laboratoire CEPAM, CNRS) - Gratuze, Bernard (Laboratoire IRAMAT, CNRS) - Hansen, Svend (Eurasia Dept., German Archaeological Institute) - Menabde, Medea - Nebieridze, Lamara (Georgian National Museum)

Presentation Format: Oral

The Caucasus is a region extremely rich of natural resources and raw materials. These not only include a variety in mineral resources (e.g. obsidian, copper, lead, silver, gold, and salt), but also an array of other natural resources, including large pasturelands and wild fauna. However, accessing these resources might be a challenge, as they are frequently found in regions located at high elevation, accessible only for part of the year. By combining novel analysis on obsidian fragments from the sites of Sioni and Tsopi with published results of landscape, artefacts, on-site studies (i.e. Aruchlo and other sites), and palaeoecological analyses, this paper will focus, in particular, on the region of southern Georgia and northwestern Azerbaijan in order to investigate changes in obsidian procurement strategies and patterns of obsidian circulation between the Lower Kura Valley and the mountains of the Lesser Caucasus. Specifically, we will concentrate on the evidence for the time comprised between the late Neolithic (6th Mill. BCE) and the Chalcolithic (4th Mill. BCE) Periods. Thus, this study shall unveil the role of technological shifts and socio-economic developments in changes in access and circulation of obsidian as well as in transformation of regional and over regional interactions in the Southern Caucasus.

06 OBSIDIAN PROCUREMENT STRATEGIES AND TECHNOLOGIES IN THE CHALCOLITHIC OF ARMENIA: AN EXAMPLE FROM GETAHOVIT 2 CAVE

Author(s): Tardy, Nicolas (CNRS/Archéorient - UMR 5133) - Kalantaryan, Irene (Archaeological Institute of Erevan) - Perello, Bérengère (CNRS/Archéorient - UMR 5133)

Presentation Format: Oral

Getahovit 2 is a cave discovered in 2010 and situated in the valley of the Khachakhpyur river, in the Tavush region (Northeastern Armenia). The excavation of the cave during 7 years revealed human occupations ranging from the Middle Ages up to the Late Palaeolithic periods.

This paper only focuses on procurement strategies and technologies of lithic artefacts recovered from the Chalcolithic layers, where the cave was mostly used as a sheepfold for transhumant shepherds.

Lithic assemblage from these chalcolithic layers is predominantly made of obsidian originating from 3 obsidian sources in Armenia and a great dichotomy in the technologies used is observed:

The majority of the lithic industry consists of small flakes, cores and chips deriving from simple production techniques such as hard hammer direct percussion and anvil technique on small nodules with cortical residues. The lithic analysis suggests a direct procurement strategy from the obsidian sources in the form of small nodules knapped in the cave itself (opportunistic model).

On the other hand, the presence of a few very regular blades produced using pressure techniques which appear to be imported to the site as finished products raises the question of a totally different procurement strategy probably set through exchanges with neighboring villages located closer to the sources (down the line exchange).

07 FROM FUNCTIONAL TO SYMBOLIC: OBSIDIAN PROCUREMENT, PRODUCTION, CONSUMPTION, AND DEPOSITION PRACTICES AT NEOLITHIC ÇATALHÖYÜK

Author(s): Doyle, Sean (McMaster University)

Presentation Format: Oral

The chipped stone of Neolithic Çatalhöyük in central Anatolia has been a focus of study since archaeologists first discovered the site 60 years ago. The obsidian, in particular, has been the focus of numerous research methodologies not limited to technological, typological, contextual, and chemical characterization studies. These studies have identified both changes and consistencies in obsidian procurement, production, consumption, and deposition practices on multiple spatial and temporal scales.

This paper covers everything from procurement to deposition practices within the site, but its primary purpose is to report on recent spatial analyses of obsidian's functional and symbolic roles within the community of Çatalhöyük. It identifies areas within the site

where obsidian was deposited as a form of minimally worked raw material, where and how it was reduced and worked into tools using different technological production systems, and final deposition patterns. It differentiates areas and levels within the site where particular industries are represented, and where they are not. In short, it discusses the chaîne opératoire of obsidian manipulation from when it entered the site to its ultimate deposition. It reviews the sub-floor caching of obsidian material that has become better understood in recent years, and the apparent ritualized deposition behaviours common to particular types of obsidian objects and stratigraphic contexts within the site. Finally, it identifies areas and levels within the site where distinct modes of obsidian preparation and production occurred.

An ultimate aim is to collate the chipped stone data and renew discussions on the large-scale regional processes that Çatalhöyük was but a part of. The site did not exist in isolation, but was plugged into exchange routes and levels of regional socio-cultural organization that are only recently being discussed.

08 THE EARLY CHALCOLITHIC OBSIDIAN POINTS FROM CENTRAL ANATOLIA

Author(s): Vinet, Alice (Université Paris 1 - Panthéon Sorbonne; UMR 8215 - Trajectoires; UMR 7264 CEPAM)

Presentation Format: Oral

This paper presents the preliminary results of a comparative techno-functional study of a corpus of Anatolian points. The artefacts from two contemporary sites have been examined, mostly the levels attributed to the late Neolithic and the Early Chalcolithic around 6000 BC. Tepeçik Çiftlik is located in Cappadocia, in a close environment from the obsidian sources. It was occupied from the PPN to the Early Chalcolithic. Çatalhöyük-West is situated in the Konya plain. The mound was occupied between c.6100 BC and c.5600 BC. Their situation provides an ideal setting for examining the socio-economic interactions between two communities bound by their use of obsidian.

The results demonstrate different strategies of use. At Çatalhöyük, we see a decrease of the points during the Early Chalcolithic in accordance with the progressive disappearance of hunting as the main mode of subsistence. Distinctive use-wears are also observable on these points which lead us to rethink the function of these “projectiles”.

Whereas, at Tepeçik, we observe an increase of the hunted species at the end of the Neolithic and an abundance of projectiles exhibiting characteristic impact fractures.

This presentation explores the chaîne opératoire of points production, from the procurement of the obsidian at the Cappadocian sources until the rejection of the used points in the houses.

09 OBSIDIAN AS A SOCIAL OBJECT? UNDERSTANDING ‘UNUSUAL’ OBSIDIAN ARTEFACTS IN THE AEGEAN NEOLITHIC

Author(s): Milic, Marina (Independent)

Presentation Format: Oral

Obsidian has long been recognised as a proxy for tracing long-distance interaction and exchange. Its great archaeological value has been its traceability and geographically widespread procurement by ancient communities. Obsidian naturally occurs throughout the Mediterranean which enabled its extensive use in prehistory, particularly by communities living close to sources (e.g. in central Anatolia or the Aegean). Rather than exploring lithics assemblages in which obsidian is utilised as a primary raw material, this paper focuses on small obsidian assemblages that only occasionally and irregularly appear in archaeological contexts. These rare pieces are found in two instances, either as minor components in chipped-stone assemblages dominated by other materials (e.g. flint or chert), or when a rare obsidian type is found within an assemblage dominated by other specific sources.

Such a small quantities have tempted us to view these objects as ‘exotic’ and a part of special social phenomena rather than minor components in ordinary exchange networks. As a marker of communication, the value of obsidian in these distant contexts is not technological and utilitarian (economic) but is more closely linked to ‘symbolic’ purposes that involve journey contacts and activities (e.g. travel tokens of specialists). This paper discusses a number of unusual / ‘rare’ obsidian groups that were identified through a systematic analysis of several sites in the eastern and northern Aegean, using a portable XRF instrument. Their origin is examined in tandem with the techno-typological characteristics allowing better understanding of the ‘exoticness’ of artefacts particularly in the regions where its procurement and consumption are generally common. The paper is exploring to what extent the rarity and visual identity of these artefacts allow us to define them as ‘characterful’ objects and how their traceability helps us to understand certain processes and events.

10 CAUSE FOR REFLECTION: OBSIDIAN “MIRRORS” IN THE NEAR EAST

Author(s): Coskunsu, Güner (Centro Internazionale di Sperimentazione, di Documentazione e di Studio per la Preistoria e l'Etnografia dei Popoli Primitivi) - Healey, Elizabeth (The University of Manchester Archaeology Department) - Iovino, Maria Rosa (Centro Internazionale di Sperimentazione, di Documentazione e di Studio per la Preistoria e l'Etnografia dei Popoli Primitivi)

Presentation Format: Oral

Obsidian “mirrors” feature among the more striking, rare and awe inspiring objects found in some Neolithic assemblages in the Near East. These “mirrors” are very distinctive in that they have a highly reflective planar or slightly convex surface on circular or sub-circular pieces of obsidian, though the form of the support may vary. The time and energy invested in the abrading and polishing