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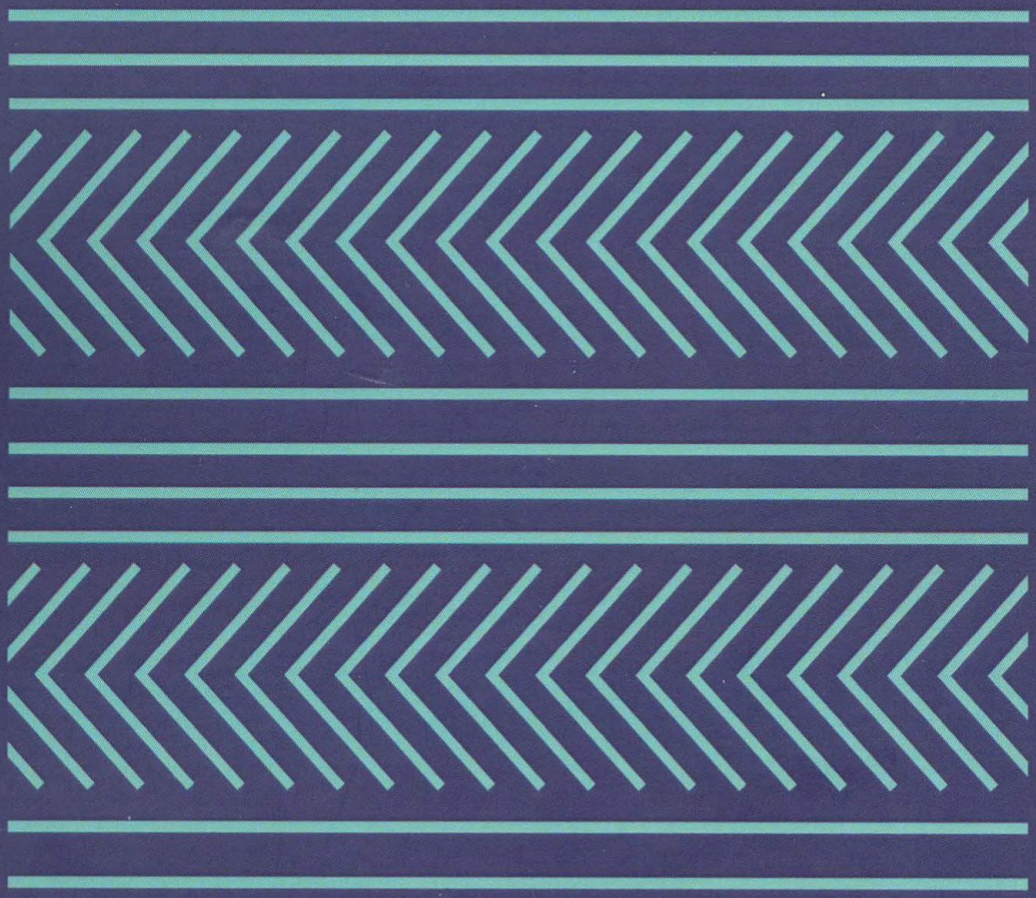

1st Conference on the
EARLY NEOLITHIC of EUROPE

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gy and microfossil evidence to provide new insights into herding practices, domestic uses of animal dung, and foddering strategies. The microstratigraphic record from the Central Anatolian sites of Boncuklu (8300-7800 cal BC), Pınarbaşı (9800-6000 cal BC) and Çatalhöyük (7100 to 6000 cal BC), offers an exceptional opportunity to deconstruct the nature of local variability in human-animal interactions. This region, situated within the distribution zone of major domesticated animal species, namely cattle, pig and ovicaprines, is an area of key importance for understanding the interplay between the adoption and development of Neolithic innovations and their spread into Europe. Results shed light into the particular circumstances under which early animal management emerged and was adopted by communities displaying different degrees of sedentarisation in this region, relevant for current models of local diversity more widely.

ORAL PRESENTATION 3

The importance of milk in the Early Neolithic diet of the Northern parts of the Balkan Peninsula

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Farming was introduced in the Balkans together with other technical novelties (pottery, polished stone tools, architecture...) during the 7th and 6th millennium cal BC, and these events marked the beginning of the Neolithic period. Modern genetic investigations suggest that all domesticated species that took part in early farming activities in the Balkans, were introduced from Southwest Asia. The relative importance of different products/species, however, varies from region to region (conditioned mainly by the environment). One of the biggest environmental challenge for the early farmers in Europe was the shift from Mediterranean to temperate climate, which happened in the central Balkans. Here we present

the results from chemical and isotopic analyses of ancient lipids extracted from pottery, combined with typology assessment. We focus on sites from the temperate zones of the northern Balkan Peninsula (Vojvodina, Serbia), which belong to the Starčevo Neolithic group. The results suggest that milk and dairy products played an important role in the subsistence of the people in the North, which is very different from the image we have so far for the more southern areas of the peninsula (Greece, Macedonia and Bulgaria). The neolithisation of the Balkans reveals itself once again not as a homogeneous event, but as a complex process, during which pockets of different "Neolithics" developed within the diverse landscape.

ORAL PRESENTATION 4

Between early farming, fishing, hunting and gathering – Neolithic settlement in northwestern Banat

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The landscape of the northwestern Banat offers an unusual habitat for a Neolithic settlement. In the border area between wide highly dynamic fluviatile swampy areas and fertile loess plain, different subsistence strategies of the Neolithic inhabitants can be observed, which deviate from the usual Neolithic way of life. In particular, aquatic resources must have played a much bigger role in the subsistence strategies characteristic for this landscape. However the bioarchaeological studies so far revealed also most elements of the Neolithic agriculture and animal husbandry typical for the Starčevo and Criș/Köros cultures. Another special feature of the