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26th EAA Virtual Annual Meeting

Abstract Book

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26th EAA Virtual Annual Meeting

Abstract Book

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Index of Authors includes all session organisers and only the main authors of contributions.

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(integration of the tool into the body schema). In previous works, we described sexual differences associated with stone tool haptic exploration and electrodermal reactions, suggesting different patterns of arousal or attentional response. These differences are apparently not associated with differences in hand size. Here, we take into consideration sexual differences associated with ergonomics and stone tool handling. In particular, we evaluated the finger joint flexion of 82 subjects during the haptic exploration of handaxes and worked pebbles. Differences between males and females are significant for both stone tool type, although with distinct grasping patterns.

11 TOWARDS A RESEARCH AGENDA FOR STONE STUDIES

Author(s): Lyes, Christopher (University of Oxford)

Format: Oral

Four decades ago, Colin Renfrew spoke of a Great Divide. An opposition between European descriptive archaeology and American anthropological archaeology: 'there is, therefore, a brilliant opportunity for anyone who can command the data and scholarship of the Great Tradition while employing the problem-orientation and research methods of current anthropological archaeology'.

Whether Renfrew's dichotomy has been bridged remains a question for debate, though from the perspectives of social scientists and those in the humanities, scientific approaches to archaeology can appear distant, confusing and aloof. Whilst it certainly has the capability to answer questions of real archaeological significance, all too often, science-led archaeology 'betrays a lack of consensus about what the major current questions in the discipline truly are.' The lack of a strategic approach to academic study has seemingly broadened Renfrew's dichotomy into an opposition between grand theory and abstract empiricism. Where the first ignores real-world problems in favour of theoretical models, and the second focuses on provenance studies, methods and data—the limited study of small-scale questions that remain isolated from their larger context.

It will be argued, therefore, that an epistemologically-aware, yet practice-focused response, deriving from a sound strategic-framework, is lacking. And that such strategized approaches need to be extended into the sub-disciplinary level in order to provide this response. We shall explore this further by addressing ourselves towards a single, multi-threaded sub-discipline—the study of stone in antiquity. Seeking to learn from successes elsewhere, we shall explore the need for, and the route towards, a more coordinated and strategic approach in this field, one that bears the potential to promote research networking, partnerships, context, and capacity. An approach that is mutually supportive of different strands of enquiry rather than conflicting, and one that is as concerned with interpretation and synthesis of existing data, as with new data collection.

503 GENERAL SESSION - HUMAN-ANIMAL RELATIONSHIPS

Theme: 5. Theories and methods in archaeology: interactions between disciplines

Chair: Bartosiewicz, László (Stockholm University)

Format: Regular session

ABSTRACTS

1 INTERDISCIPLINARITY TO AID ARCHAEOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF ANIMALS IN EGYPT AND NEAR EAST

Author(s): Gransard-Desmond, Jean-Olivier (ArkéoTopia, une autre voie pour l'archéologie)

Format: Oral

Any scientific study requires data from outside the researcher's precise field of work. Archaeology is amongst the scientific disciplines most frequently calling upon a multitude of other disciplines, both scientific ones and crafts. In this way, art history or iconological approach involving identification, description and image comprehension give new informations to archaeology. This case shows interdisciplinarity as producer of an actual new form of knowledge.

This presentation will present

A. why iconology and archaeology are different disciplines because their topics are not the same : images in the first case and techniques in the second case,

B. how an interdisciplinarity approach is useful to better understand an archaeological topic thanks to an iconological approach dealing with:

- Canine farming techniques in pre-pharaonic times in Egypt from the 5th millennium BCE and suidae farming in the Middle-East during the 1st millennium BCE.
- Technicians' (farmers') movement between the Middle-East and Egypt during the 5th millennium BCE.

2 ORNITHOMORPHIC IMAGES IN THE UPPER PALEOLITHIC (MAL'TA BURET' CULTURE, SIBERIA)

Author(s): Pankina, Anna - Lbova, Liudmila - Kazakov, Vladislav (Novosibirsk State University)

Format: Oral

The most antique bird images in the archaeological record belong to the Upper Paleolithic sites such as Hohle Fels, Dolní Věstonice,

Mezino, Mal'ta and Buret'. The largest collection of ornithomorphic sculpture is represented in the materials of the Mal'ta Buret' culture (Baikalia, Northern Eurasia). This collection includes 21 items of figurines of water birds.

Numerous investigations of the ornithomorphic sculpture and analysis of the bird image semantic are based usually on the ethnographic parallels. One interpretation is that those figurines were personal amulets, used as pendants and related to solar and celestial symbolic (Formozov, 1980; Shmidt, 2006).

Modern researches offered a new look at the question about the interpretation of this collection with the application of microscopic and trasological analysis and analysis of the archaeological context (Lbova, Volkov, 2015). A historical semantic approach explains the meaning of the archaeological artifact through the understanding of the process of its fabrication and use.

Technological analysis of the collection allows differentiating the blanks of figurines and objects of various degrees of completeness. A steady correlation of the initial workpiece with the final look of the object is noted, which proves the absence of a random nature in the production. The traces of use have an uneven distribution in the finished products - from complete absence to the marks of use of the figurine even after breakage. The likely multifunctional use of the sculptured pieces is confirmed by the planographic features.

These provisions allow us to call into question the hypothesis (Formozov, 1980) of the identity of the semantic and functional purpose of the ornithomorphic figurines from the Mal'ta-Buret' culture. They also offer an understanding of this collection as a long-time tradition of specialized figurine fabrication, which had different functional orientations.

This work is supported by the Russian Science Foundation (project 18-78-10079).

3 THE PATHWAYS OF HUMANS AND ANIMALS IN THE EARLY NEOLITHIC BALKANS: AN ARCHAEOZOOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE

Author(s): Zivaljevic, Ivana (BioSense Institute, University of Novi Sad) - Dimitrijević, Vesna (Laboratory for Bioarchaeology, Department of Archaeology, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Belgrade; BioSense Institute, University of Novi Sad) - Stefanović, Sofija (BioSense Institute, University of Novi Sad; Laboratory for Bioarchaeology, Department of Archaeology, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Belgrade)

Format: Oral

Over the last couple of decades, extensive archaeozoological and aDNA studies have securely placed the origin of animal domestication in the Middle East. From this area, humans and domesticated animals (sheep, goat, cattle and pig) gradually spread to the Balkans, and ultimately to the rest of Europe. Nevertheless, the faunal record from the Early Neolithic (c. 6500–5500 cal BC) sites in the Balkans indicates that this process had been far from uniform. There seem to have been pronounced regional differences in herding strategies, mainly between the southern parts of the Balkan peninsula, and its central and northern parts, bordering with the Great Pannonian plain. In the former, animal husbandry was mainly oriented towards caprovines, whereas in the latter, in addition to sheep and goat, cattle husbandry played a more significant role. In this paper, we present new results of the analysis of faunal assemblages from Early Neolithic sites in Serbia and North Macedonia, the latter representing an area which had previously been insufficiently studied from an archaeozoological perspective. By comparing taxonomic compositions and mortality profiles of domestic animals in the two studied regions, we aim to provide additional insights into different animal husbandry practices, and look into possible reasons for this divergence – adaptations to new environments, cultural attitudes to various animals, and/or adherence to particular traditions.

4 SPATIAL BEHAVIOR OF MAMMOTH HUNTERS OF EPIGRAVETTIAN MEZHRYCH CULTURE IN MIDDLE DNEIPER BASIN (UKRAINE)

Author(s): Shydlovskiy, Pavlo (Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, Ukraine; Center for Paleoethnological Research) - Péan, Stéphane (Muséum national d'histoire naturelle, Paris) - Tsvirkun, Ostap (Institute of Archaeology, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine; Center for Paleoethnological Research) - Chymyrys, Marharyta (Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv; Center for Paleoethnological Research) - Mamchur, Bohdan (University of Ferrara; Center for Paleoethnological Research)

Format: Oral

In recent years, the Epigravettian site of Mezhyrich in the Middle Dnieper region, has been continuously studied, including the fourth mammoth bone dwelling, which was discovered in 1978 and left in situ for future research.

The complexity of the dwelling cultural layer reveals several surfaces of residence; in addition, a functional specialisation of areas and objects within the dwelling, associated with the processing of flint, animal bones and skins has been identified. The structural features of the building are characterized by symmetry and rhythmicity in the use of large mammoth bones, which makes up the basement of structure, exterior cladding and upper roof overlap that fell inside. The archaeological structures around the dwelling have different economic specificities (processing areas, workshops, pits, outer hearths, areas of a rich cultural layer). In total, four units each one being composed of a central dwelling have been discovered since the site was opened.

In addition to the base camps with mammoth bone architecture (Mezhyrich, Gontsy, Dobranichivka), a number of short-term sites, kill-sites and localities of Late Pleistocene fauna have been investigated in the Middle Dnieper. The technological analysis, together with the radiocarbon data, show that the sites of the so-called "Mezhyrichian culture" are the remnants of the activity of a single society that lived in a rather limited territory 15-14 ka 14C BP. This conclusion provides a unique opportunity to reconstruct some