

# **TME** *Tumuli and Megaliths in Eurasia*

International Congress of Archaeology

Proença-a-Nova (Portugal), May 25-29, 2021



***Book of Abstracts***



Alignment of Tera. (Mora, Portugal). Photo: Leonor Rocha.

**Title** Tumuli and Megaliths in Eurasia: book of abstracts

**Organization** Associação de Estudos do Alto Tejo e Câmara Municipal de Proença-a-Nova, CHAIA – Universidade de Évora, Universidade Autónoma de Lisboa, Instituto Terra e Memória

**Editors** João Caninas, Telmo Pereira, Ana Carmona, Isabel Gaspar, Paulo Félix, António Sequeira e Pedro Fonseca

**ISBN** 978-989-95004-9-5

**Format** PDF

**Cover image** relief view in central Portugal (author: João Caninas; graphic editing: Mário Monteiro)

**Edition** 1st (March 2021)

**Cost** free



Mound of Cimo dos Valeiros (Oleiros, Portugal). Photo: Mário Monteiro.

# INDEX

<b>Finding common things from Portugal to Japan</b>	7
<b>Scientific Committee</b>	9
<b>Organization</b>	11
<b>Session 1</b> Surveying the past: geomatics in the study of megaliths and tumuli	12
<b>Session 2</b> Geophysical methods in archaeology and cultural heritage	20
<b>Session 3</b> Decoding the spatial significance of mound landscapes	30
<b>Session 4</b> Mounds architectures: no more than heaps?	44
<b>Session 5</b> Burial Monuments and Rock Art	62
<b>Session 6</b> New data, new insights: recent developments on funerary practices, gestures, and life of late Neolithic/ Chalcolithic communities	74
<b>Session 7</b> Local and non-local raw material selection, transportation, processing and use in the construction of tumuli, megaliths and artifacts	84
<b>Session 8</b> Geoarchaeological and environmental assessment of megalithic mounds: site formation and subsequent modifications	96
<b>Session 9</b> Measuring the time of burial structures: searching for the oldest dates	100
<b>Session 10</b> Ways of public appreciation of megalithic monuments: from local to global	104
<b>Session 11</b> Tumuli and Megaliths in the Eurasian Steppe and Eastern Europe: regional groups, complexity differences and affinities	110
<b>Session 12</b> South and East Asian megaliths	126
<b>Session 13</b> Establishing landscape patterns around later prehistoric burial-ritual sites of Atlantic islands	144
<b>Session 14</b> Funerary architectures in the Mediterranean	148
<b>Session 15</b> Mechanisms of ritual and landscape: How rock art interacts with death and burial	160
<b>Session 16</b> Monumental sites in the landscape: multiscale and multimethods approach	164
<b>Session 17</b> Monumental miscellany	174



Megalithic tomb of Cabeço da Anta (Proença-a-Nova, Portugal). Photo: Mário Monteiro.

# FINDING COMMON THINGS FROM PORTUGAL TO JAPAN

Pre-Historic and Proto-Historic societies developed different ways to bury dead people. One of the most distinctive way was offering them to earth using positive structures as artificial hills, such as tumuli, mounds, and kurgans, of circular shape. Even though it involves different rituals and geographic and chronological distances, these are the most common methods across Eurasia, with strong and similar structural mounds.

In the International Congress Tumuli e Megaliths in Eurasia, we aim to discuss the question: Why did people build burial chambers with a such similar shape, taking into account the distance in space and time between them?

We invited a podium and created a poster presentation focusing on the history period from the western megalithism to the central European and Asian Kurgan, and the classic Mediterranean graves. We will give preference to groundbreaking results, interdisciplinary and new methodological approaches, regional synthesis, and innovative ways of relating them with other realities (enclosures, cromlechs, menhirs, stelae and rock carvings).

<https://tumulieurasia.wixsite.com/home>



Menhir of Meada (Castelo de Vide, Portugal). Photo: Jorge de Oliveira.



# SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

## **Primitiva Bueno Ramírez**

Universidad de Alcalá de Henares, Spain

## **Viktor Trifonov**

Institute for the History of Material Culture, Russian Academy of Sciences, Russia

## **Chris Scarre**

Durham University, United Kingdom

## **Luc Laporte**

French National Centre for Scientific Research, France

## **Riccardo Cicilloni**

University of Cagliari, Italia

## **Maria-Magdalena Stefan**

National Museum of Eastern Carpathians, Romania

## **Goderdzi Narimanishvili**

Tbilisi State University, Georgia

## **Arman Beisenov**

A. H. Margulan Institute of Archaeology, Kazakhstan

## **Bayarsaikhan Jamsranjav**

National Museum of Mongolia, Mongolia

## **Kim Jong Il**

Seoul National University, South Korea



Mound of Cimo dos Valeiros (Oleiros, Portugal). Photo: Mário Monteiro.

# ORGANIZATION

**João Caninas** is a PhD in Archaeology, Associate researcher of the Center for the History of Art and Artistic Research at the University of Évora, founder and owner of the CRM company Emerita - Empresa Portuguesa de Arqueologia, director of the Mesopotamos research project and of the Proença-a-Nova Archaeological Field Camp, and his main focus of research is funerary megalithism of western Iberia.

**Telmo Pereira** is Assistant Professor in Universidade Autónoma de Lisboa and Invited Adjunct Professor in Instituto Politécnico de Tomar, working with lithic technology and lithic raw materials from the Middle Paleolithic to the Bronze Age in Iberia, and with Middle Stone Age from Southern Africa.

**Ana Carmona** graduated in Cultural Communication by Universidade Católica Portuguesa. She has worked in distinct areas such as multimedia content production and tour guide. Collaborates with Associação de Estudos do Alto Tejo since 2016 motivated by new challenges in learning about youth associativism, environmental issues, archaeology and cultural heritage.

**Isabel Gaspar** graduated in Landscape Architecture at the University of Évora and graduate staff from the Municipality of Proença-a-Nova and member of the organizational staff of the Proença-a-Nova Archaeological Field Camp since 2012.

**Paulo Félix** is CRM professional, researcher at the Geosciences Center of the University of Coimbra and PhD student at University of Extremadura. His research focus on the Iberian Late Prehistory and Protohistory, particularly on the occupation and continuities and disruptions on the exploitation of the territories, and their effects on the landscape.

**Pedro Fonseca** graduated in Anthropology by Higher Institute of Social and Political Sciences and he's currently taking a master's degree in Anthropology at the same institution and a postgraduate degree in Underwater Archeology at Polytechnic Institute of Tomar. He was a technician at Tagus Rock Art Interpretation Center (CIART) and at the moment he is an anthropologist at the Alto Tejo Studies Association (AEAT).

## Special collaboration

**António Sequeira** is a graduate staff from the Municipality of Proença-a-Nova and member of of the organizational staff of the Proença-a-Nova Archaeological Field Camp since 2012.

**Francisco Henriques** graduated in Anthropology by the Faculty of Social and Human Sciences of the New University of Lisbon. He is one of the founders of the Associação de Estudos do Alto Tejo and member of the head staff from the Proença-a-Nova Archaeological Field Camp .

**Mário Monteiro** graduated in Archeology by the Faculty of Letters of the University of Lisbon and is member of the head staff from the Proença-a-Nova Archaeological Field Camp and from EMERITA - Portuguese Archaeological Company.

## **All different, all the same? The old question of funerary architectures and the new data from Southern Portugal**

**Author** Leonor Rocha

**Email** lrocha@uevora.pt

**Institution** University of Évora, Department of History, Portugal

**Abstract** Contrary to what would be expected, the advance of research with better methodologies and other analytical tools has not brought us more answers but, on the contrary, there are more and more doubts about the way the populations who lived and died in Southern Portugal between the 4th and the 3rd millennium B.C. lived. The old question about the evolution of architectures and their distribution in space and time is, more than ever, being evaluated (or re-evaluated). Were we all different a social groups and did we all have similar structures and rituals or, on the contrary, were we all the same but had very different structural and ritual choices? Whether one approaches this question on a regional, supra-regional or even Western European level the answer is not easy and may never be feasible due to a number of factors/problems that may disrupt and render insurmountable the possibility of reaching more or less valid conclusions.

**Keywords** Funerary contexts, Arquitectures, Spoils, Dating, Portugal