TVE Tumuli and Megaliths in Eurasia

International Congress of Archaeology Proença-a-Nova (Portugal), May 25-29, 2021

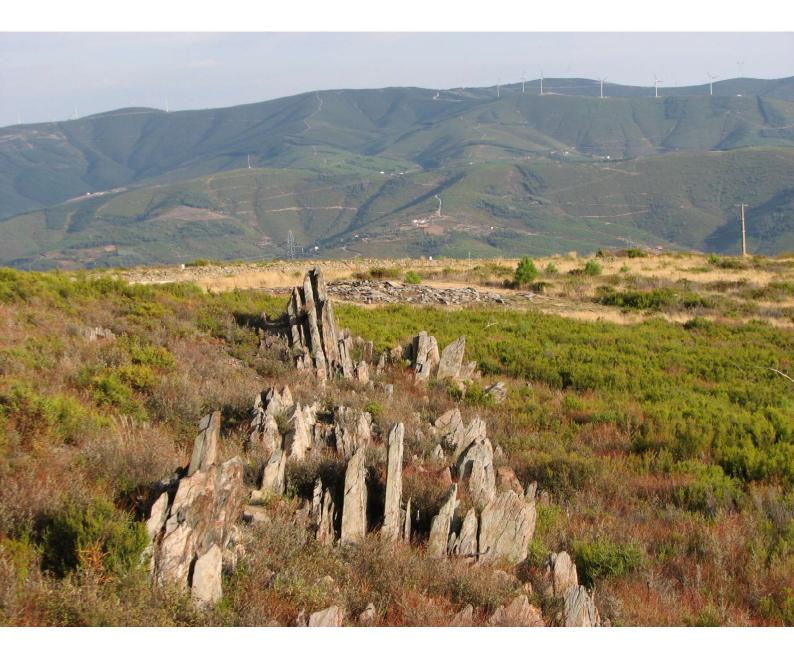


Book of Abstracts



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

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

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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 Mediterranian 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.

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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.

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

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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