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Abstracts

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Impresso-Cardial occupation at La Marmotta in Lake Bracciano near Rome, Italy, have provided increased insight into the technology involved. Complementarily, experimental archaeological work by the University of Hradec Králové has demonstrated the effectiveness of such canoes for long-distance sea transport. However, while the technological aspects of the Neolithic maritime expansion are becoming increasingly clear, relatively limited research has been devoted to the social context of the process. . We combine data from the experimental archaeological work, specifically the construction of a series of replica dugout canoes and four long-distance voyages (expeditions Monoxyton I through Monoxyton IV) with ethnographic data from the Northwest Coast of North America to consider the social implications of manufacturing and using such craft. While the ethnographic and early Neolithic cases have significant differences, we argue that the labor requirements for construction of the canoes, and particularly the organization of and commitment to such long-distance trips, combined with the evidence of long-distance transport of exotic materials, implies a level of social complexity that is not immediately evident in the currently known archaeological record of Impresso-Cardial or other early circum-Mediterranean Neolithic sites. Such organization may have included the development of some degree of social-hierarchy; minimally, it involved cooperative social units well organized above the household level.

136. EXPLORING LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT AND SEASONAL RHYTHMS IN EARLY NEOLITHIC ADRIATIC COMMUNITIES

Contribution format: Oral

Contribution authors: Alejandro Sierra (Dipartimento di Civiltà e Forme del Sapere, Università di Pisa) – Marie Balasse (AASPE, CNRS MNHN, Paris) – Sinisa Radovic (Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts) – Francesca Alhaique (Servizio di Bioarcheologia, Museo Delle Civiltà, Roma) – Denis Fiorillo (AASPE, CNRS MNHN, Paris) – Jean-Denis Vigne (AASPE, CNRS MNHN) – Mirella Cipolloni Sampò (Università degli Studi della Toscana, Viterbo) – Jean Guislaine (Collège de France)

The Adriatic region played a pivotal role in the Neolithization process of the central and western Mediterranean, notably marked by the spread of Impressa pottery complex. This “maritime stream” underscores a significant cultural cohesion between the Adriatic coasts, facilitated by sustained exchanges and shared elements of material culture. Economically, both regions share an emphasis on sheep herding and barley cultivation, although they differ in their use of wild resources, reflecting both local adaptations and cultural preferences. However, knowledge about livestock practices remains limited, particularly regarding animal management and exploitation. This study aims to characterize livestock practices in the Adriatic during the early Neolithic, focusing on sheep, the predominant species. By examining mortality profiles from sites on both Adriatic coasts, the study seeks to uncover herd demographic management and production orientations. Furthermore, the analysis includes pastoral calendars from sites such as Tinj and Crno Vrilo (Dalmatia) and Trasano and Rendina (southern Italy), with particular attention to the timing of lambing cycles. This may provide insights into potential early practices of autumn lambing deseasoning, a method still observed in contemporary Mediterranean contexts. The findings will shed light on the adaptive strategies of these early agropastoral communities and their socio-economic organization. This study highlights the Adriatic's central role as a cultural and economic nexus in the Mediterranean during the Neolithic, contributing to a broader understanding of the region's impact on the spread and development of early farming practices.

2375. HUMAN-ENVIRONMENT INTERACTIONS IN THE UPPER PLEISTOCENE: NEW ARCHAEOZOOLOGICAL EVIDENCE FROM BADANJ ROCKSHELTER

Contribution format: Poster

Contribution authors: Sinisa Radovic (Institute for Quaternary Palaeontology and Geology, HAZU (Croatia)) – Alejandro Sierra (Università di Pisa) – Nikola Vukosavljević (FFZG, University of Zagreb) – Aitor Ruiz-Redondo (IUCA, University of Zaragoza | CAHO, University of Southampton)

Badanj rockshelter is a key Upper Palaeolithic site in south-eastern Europe. Excavations began in 1974 and uncovered numerous lithic and bone remains from the Late Epigravettian, along with personal ornaments and engraved bone fragments. The discovery of the first known Palaeolithic rock art in the region highlights its cultural significance. Recent fieldwork (since 2019) has refined the site's chronology (~20 ka to ~12.7 ka cal BP) through radiocarbon dating. Multidisciplinary research has enhanced our understanding of human occupation, subsistence, and symbolic expression in the Late Pleistocene Balkans. Within this new research, the archaeozoological study of the sequence is essential for understanding the subsistence strategies of Late Pleistocene hunter-gatherer societies. This study aims to present the preliminary results of the faunal analysis and compare it with the archaeozoological analysis of old excavations (Miracle 1995; 1996). By examining the faunal remains found across different stratigraphic levels of the rich sequence, we will analyze shifts in subsistence strategies and their relationship with climatic and landscape changes. Expected outcomes include identifying variations in prey selection and hunting techniques over time, assessing the impact of environmental fluctuations on resource exploitation, and

reconstructing seasonal mobility patterns. These findings will contribute to a broader understanding of the region's human-environment interactions during the Late Pleistocene.

190 ARCHAEOLOGY, ORAL TRADITION AND PLACE NAMES – NEW PERSPECTIVES

Session theme: 5. Finding the way! Archaeological sciences and opening new research perspectives
Session format: Regular session
Session keywords: Archaeology, Ethnology, Toponymy (place names), Landscape studies, Oral tradition, Interdisciplinarity
Session organisers: Alexandra Vieira (Polytechnic Institute of Bragança (IPB)) – Tõnno Jonuks (Estonian Literary Museum) – Tomáš Klír (Charles University, Faculty of Arts, Department of Archaeology) – Loredana Lancini (Université catholique de Louvain) – Katja Hrobat Virloget (University of Primorska)

SESSION ABSTRACT

While archaeology provides material evidence through the excavation and analysis of artefacts, oral tradition and toponomastics complement these discoveries by offering historical, cultural and symbolic contexts that are often inaccessible through physical remains alone. Oral tradition is a way to encapsulate the memory of typical features of places, landscape, building, cultural activities, a behaviour observed in all societies. One way to codify the memory in oral tradition is the toponomastics, but there are other ways, like myth, legends, novels, dance, songs, all part of the collective memory of a community. Place names in particular can preserve past symbolic meanings and conceptualisations of places, identity and geography. By integrating archaeology and oral tradition researchers can reinterpret archaeological sites in the light of local narratives. Even if oral tradition constantly changes and adapts to current collective memories, identities, and values through time, researchers have shown that some continuity in its meaning and symbolism can be detected. Furthermore, this multidisciplinary approach allows us to explore how contemporary communities give meaning to landscape and how they associate with past people(s) and ancestral territories, revealing how place names and oral tradition provide the basis for collective identities, even in contexts of change and displacement. Oral tradition is still part of living culture and therefore becomes a tool to manipulate the perception of the past, it is an unexplored field that can be useful as long as it is systematic and based on a strict documentary basis. The abuse of oral history in the context of archaeological monuments is therefore an important subject of research. The ‘new perspectives’ reflect a more holistic approach to the study of the past: this interaction contributes to a more complex and complete view of ancient societies and their connections with present and past landscapes.

CONTRIBUTION ABSTRACTS

418. TOPONYMY: LIVING MEMORIES OF OUR PAST?

Contribution format: Oral
Contribution authors: Leonor Maria Pereira Rocha (CHAIA, Universidade de Évora) – Gertrudes Branco (CHAIA, Universidade de Évora | CCDR Centro, Portugal) – António Diniz (CHAIA, Universidade de Évora | CIDEHUS, Universidade de Évora) – Inês Ribeiro (CHAIA, Universidade de Évora | FCT. Phd 2024.00869.BD) – Nelson Almeida (CHAIA, Universidade de Évora)

The information provided by thousands of archaeological excavations tells us about the existence (or not) of human occupation and the respective chronological period. However, in addition to this type of material evidence, there is also the analysis of oral tradition and onomastics that can contribute greatly to the identification or better cataloguing of sites and artefacts. In this context, toponymy translates, in most cases, reminiscences of a past that can be quite distant and that is part of the cultural memory of our populations, especially those in rural areas, who usually tend to preserve and pass on legends and collective memories orally for a long time. In this work, we aim to analyse how toponymy reflects ancient memories by matching names/toponyms to specific types of archaeological sites. It will be interesting to see what kind of toponyms are most represented, by chronological period and by name, which may allow us in the future to draw up lists of toponyms that are more probably to have archaeological sites associated with them.

1157. LANGUAGE CONTACT AREAS AND MOTIVES FOR SETTLEMENT NAMING IN THE MIDDLE AGES. EXAMPLES FROM CENTRAL EUROPE (BOHEMIA, GERMANY)

Contribution format: Oral
Contribution authors: Tomas Klír (Charles University, Faculty of Arts, Department of Archaeology)