

THE VIEW FROM THE WEST: RE-THINKING THE CHÂTELPERRONIAN THROUGH THE LENS OF THE EUROPEAN INITIAL UPPER PALAEOLITHIC

Abstract author(s): Djakovic, Igor - Roussel, Morgan - Soressi, Marie (Leiden University)

Abstract format: Oral

The Initial Upper Palaeolithic (IUP) complex is emerging as a key to understanding the eventual replacement of Neandertals by anatomically modern humans (AMH) across Eurasia. In Europe, IUP-type assemblages are increasingly being considered a proxy for the first AMH occupations in the region. Similarities in bone tools and personal ornaments between the IUP at Bacho Kiro and the Châtelperronian of Grotte du Renne (France) has been proposed as supporting some form of cultural influence by early European AMHs onto late Neandertal populations. Here, we present a point-by-point comparison of Châtelperronian lithic technology with what is known for the European IUP. We highlight that the Châtelperronian reflects a substantially more well-developed 'Upper Palaeolithic' lithic industry in all observable metrics and, in this light, discuss the relevance of this observation to current explanatory models for the onset of the Upper Palaeolithic in France and northern Spain.

We stress that questions concerning the 'origin' of the Châtelperronian and the emergence of the Upper Palaeolithic in this region must be re-framed and re-evaluated in the light of rapidly evolving genetic, paleoanthropological, chronological, taphonomic, and techno-cultural data. To this effect, we make the case that current conceptions surrounding the nature and origin of the Châtelperronian should be reconsidered – and that this is irrespective of the question of the biological author(s) of this industry. Finally, we conclude with a brief discussion on the relevance of geographic patterning in the development and consolidation of Upper Palaeolithic technological behaviours across Europe.

ARLANZIAN. A NEW INDUSTRY FROM INLAND IBERIA WITH INITIAL UPPER PALAEOLITHIC FEATURES

Abstract author(s): Sanchez Yustos, Policarpo (Universidad de Valladolid) - Marín-Arroyo, Ana Belén (Universidad de Cantabria) - Arnold, Lee (University of Adelaide) - Luque, Luis (Universidad de Alcalá de Henares) - Kehl, Martin (University of Cologne) - López Saéz, José Antonio (CCHS CSIC) - Carrancho-Alonso, Ángel (Universidad de Burgos) - Demuro, Martina (University of Adelaide) - Sanz-Royo, Alicia (Universidad de Cantabria) - Buckley, Michael (University of Manchester)

Abstract format: Oral

The Arlanzian industry found in interior Iberia calls into question prevailing views on the transition from the Middle Palaeolithic to Upper Palaeolithic in Southwestern Europe and sheds light on the intricacies of this process. This discovery is noteworthy for several reasons: (i) it pioneers the development of Upper Palaeolithic stone tool technologies in Iberia while still incorporating elements of the Middle Palaeolithic; (ii) it lacks a counterpart in Iberia, but has similarities with the Initial Upper Palaeolithic industries in Western Eurasia; (iii) it is located in the Iberian hinterland (Arlanza Valley), being the first and earliest industry with Upper Palaeolithic features found south of the Ebro Basin; (iv) it predates the end of the Mousterian in Iberia, including the bio-geographic region where it is located, suggesting that their makers might have coexisted with geographically close Neanderthal groups. Further research is required to fully understand the origin of the Arlanzian industry.

A MATTER OF TIME. HANDLING CHRONOLOGICAL DATA IN ARCHAEOLOGY

Session theme: 1. Artefacts, Buildings & Ecofacts

Session organisers: Scholtus, Lizzie (Institut für Ur- und Frühgeschichte, Christian-Albrecht-Universität; UMR-7044 Archimède, Université de Strasbourg) - Dumont, Léonard (Ghent University, Department of Archaeology; Université de Bourgogne, UMR 6298 ARTEHIS) - Nakoinz, Oliver (Institut für Ur- und Frühgeschichte, Christian-Albrecht-Universität; Johanna Mestorf Akademie)

Session format: Regular session

The notion of dating, chronology, phase or period has always been present in archaeology. From the very beginning of the discipline, archaeologists sought to classify their discoveries, but also to relate them to known texts and events for historical periods and then to the ages established by C. J. Thomsen for prehistory (Thomsen 1836). Even now every archaeologist must deal with chronological data.

Many systems were invented in Europe since the typo-chronological method was invented by O. Montelius (1899) and many still co-exist today (Roberts et al. 2013), making archaeologists work difficult when dealing with several cultural regions. Absolute dating can be provided thanks to various scientific methods (¹⁴C, dendrochronology, OSL...), but will not be able to replace relative chronologies completely for decades. It can be challenging to make sense of these multiple types of data coming from these different sources developed during the past century.