

papers that bring forth new perceptual methods for archaeological research and concrete applications in specific case studies, as well as submissions that critically engage with questions about presentism.

ABSTRACTS

1 HUMAN PERCEPTION IN ACTION: THE COLLECTION AND USE OF FOUND OBJECTS AS MEDIUMS FOR OBJECT-MAKING DURING THE PALAEOLITHIC PERIOD

Abstract author(s): Efrati, Bar (Department of Archaeology and Ancient Near Eastern Cultures, Tel Aviv University)

Abstract format: Oral

This study will propose that conscious perception has existed since Early Palaeolithic times and can be detected and discussed by inspecting the first facilitators of cognitive practice: the process of object-making using subtraction methods (e.g., knapping and carving).

The study will hold a theoretical discussion on perception through the presentation of three Paleolithic case studies of tools and portable objects made from defined material mediums using subtraction, proposed to be termed found objects: the collection and recycling of 'old' existing flint items into tools, the use of bones as materials for the creation of tools and portable objects, and handaxes made on thin and/or small flint slabs. Especially since the limited shape range of the original material may dictate a change in the engagement and creation process if subtraction is used, thus requiring a change in perception.

The discussion will focus on the perception of these materials from an "enactive" perspective and follow the decision-making process from the decision to collect and re-create from found objects until the finished product is achieved. By choosing to relate to perception as enactive, the discussion will deal with the active place and role of the senses; of knowledge and experience; as well as of ontological, cosmological, and cultural worldviews as facilitators of an attentive state which afford to perceive particular objects and work from them.

Finally, the study will claim that enactive perception was involved in every step of the item's chaîne opératoire, from the choice to act and collect, through the process of alteration, to the finished object.

2 PERCEPTION AND STONE TOOLS. AN APPROACH TO PAST VISUAL BEHAVIOUR THROUGH LITHIC TECHNOLOGY

Abstract author(s): Silva Gago, María (Instituto de Ciencias del Patrimonio - INCIPIT, CSIC) - Fedato, Annapaola (Centro Nacional de Investigación sobre la Evolución Humana - CENIEH) - Terradillos-Bernal, Marcos (Universidad Isabel I de Castilla) - Bruner, Emiliano (Centro Nacional de Investigación sobre la Evolución Humana - CENIEH)

Abstract format: Oral

Vision is the dominant source of sensory information in humans. It channels the relationships between the individual and the environment, including tools. Due to the fact that we receive a huge amount of information from our surroundings, it is essential to selectively focus the attention on some stimuli instead of others. The patterns of visual attention can be studied through eye-tracking technology, which consists of measuring eye position and movements. Taking into account the relevance of visual perception in the human genus, this technology can provide a useful approach to understand visual behaviour from an evolutionary perspective. In this sense, we developed a series of experimental studies involving different stone tool technologies and different scanning conditions. Our results showed that each lithic technology triggers a different visual strategy, which suggests that there are distinct attentional patterns involved in the interaction with these tools. Although tools have been interpreted as the output of the cognitive system, different disciplines have adopted an embodied cognition perspective, arguing that physical tools should be considered as a functional part of the cognitive network. Following this approach, archaeological remains would be an active element of cognition, and not mere products of the brain. Likewise, different sets of artefacts would represent different cognitive elements, which are susceptible to experimental studies