



First & Last Call



UISPP Congress
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University Paris Sorbonne, Paris, France

Session (1) n°XII-1

" Bones, Bodies and Objects - Vectors of symbolic representations "

org. Claire Houmard¹ & Ulla Odgaard²

Bone and tooth - osseous and dental material - have properties, which make them suitable as resources for the manufacturing of tools, weapons and objects of art. Bones and tooth are also remains of living beings, and in this session the objective is to explore how objects in their materiality could refer to spiritual meanings and transcend the material support used for utilitarian purposes. Vectors, in mathematics, are objects possessing both magnitude and direction, and in Latin vector means "carrier". By using vector as a metaphor, the session wishes to focus on archeological objects and structures, which could possess multiple dimensions and meanings, by discussing the insights that studies of osseous and dental material, can bring to the understanding of past societies. The relationship between the subsistence strategies and the modes of representations in bone and tooth materials, both animal and human, including human-animal interaction, will be the heart of the discussion. In objects it could be the raw material selected, the design and/or the drawing applied to the objects/bodies. These tacit material 'connotations' are hard to be tangibly grasped from archaeological finds, especially in the oldest contexts.

However, when data from different disciplines such as zoo-archaeology, anthropology and history of religion are combined, new perspectives on cosmology and ritual efficacy and performance could be reached. E.g. from Inuit traditional knowledge we know that hunting weapons, due to special attributes and/or chosen material can possess qualities, which will encourage the hunted game to allow its own kill. The living world is usually intermingled with the next world, both having linked symbolic representations which deserve to be better understood. This session will welcome papers discussing possible metaphorical representations in the construction of materiality expressed in bone and tooth, and it is the aim to be able to draw pertinent comparisons between different times, places and cultures.

Session (2) n°XII-2

" Prehistoric Personal Adornment in Social and Economic Context "

org. Claire Heckel³ & Solange Rigaud⁴

Artifacts of personal adornment are intimately connected to issues of identity, wealth, status, value, and exchange and can offer unique insights into the organization and practices of prehistoric societies. Evidence that has been uncovered in the last twenty years has substantially altered the timeline for the emergence of symbolic behavior and also shown that instead of a sudden emergence, personal adornment has a complex and mosaic prehistory marked at certain times and places by intensified

investment. The conditions that motivate investment in symbolic material culture are complex and varied, and untangling them is crucial to understanding the centrality of symbolic practice to the form and function of human societies.

In order to gain a more comprehensive and nuanced understanding of the factors that have influenced investment in personal adornment over time and space, this session will focus on contexts of ornament production and use across prehistory, from the hunter-gatherer bands of the Pleistocene to early pastoral and farming societies, without geographic restriction. We invite papers that go beyond typology to examine the broader social, technological, and economic contexts of the production and use of articles of personal adornment.

Specifically, contributions will focus on the relationships between personal adornment and technology, raw-material economy, demography, mobility, landscape use, subsistence patterns, wealth, exchange, cultural transmission, production organization, and/or social organization more broadly. The primary focus of the session is beads and pendants in biogenic materials (tooth, shell, ivory, bone, antler, amber, ostrich eggshell), but we invite contributions based on other materials related to adornment such as stones and minerals, metals, pigments, and perishable materials such as hide, sinew, and hair.

Hosted Session (3) n°XII-3

" Integrating Ballistics into Archaeology "

org. Elisabeth Noack⁵ & Sabine Gaudzinski-Windheuser⁶

Adoption of hunting as the primary subsistence strategy is considered to be one of the major stages in the evolution of human behaviour. Hunting practices are culturally transmitted and socially embedded. Thus, the reconstruction of hominin hunting behaviour is one of the keys to the understanding of human behavioural evolution. Research in Palaeolithic and Mesolithic archaeology has made great advances in the identification and characterisation of weaponry systems and hunting lesions. However, a theoretical framework incorporating the interdependencies of weapon system and target has not yet been defined. Here we attempt to initiate the development of such a framework with the help of ballistic science. The ballistic perspective fractionises the process of hunting into definitive components, along a timeline beginning with weapon construction and ending with a successful kill. But ballistic science not only structures the hunting process, it also provides sufficient background to explain the causal relationship between wound formation on animal bones and weaponry systems.

Thus, we can recalculate the equation involving weapon, hunter and target by emphasizing the interdependent role of each component: the effect resulting from weapon use can only be understood in relation both to its target and to its user. We consider this approach to the interrelated effects of hunting weapons in regard to target and hunter to be a crucial step towards a novel and holistic perspective on past hominin hunting behaviour and its material signal. At this inaugural meeting, we intend to discuss the potential of ballistics to serve as a starting point for developing a methodology for a new sub-discipline in Pleistocene and early Holocene archaeology, and its implications for our current methodological apparatus, especially in relation to experimental research. We invite contributions that discuss critically the current state of knowledge on the evolution of prehistoric weaponry and hunting behaviour in the context of Palaeolithic and Mesolithic archaeology.

Registration (until 30 Nov. 2017): <https://uispp2018.sciencesconf.org/>

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