



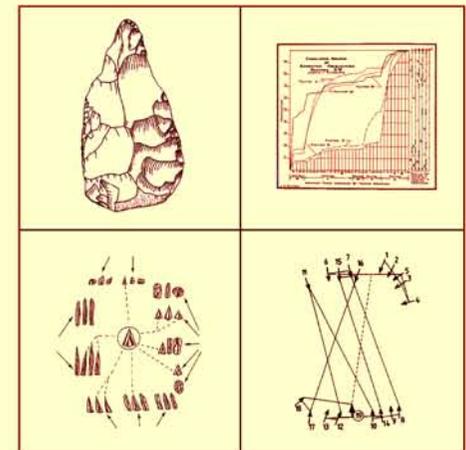
ISTITUTO ITALIANO
di
PREISTORIA E PROTOSTORIA

**INTEGRATED METHODOLOGICAL
APPROACHES
TO THE STUDY OF
LITHIC TECHNOLOGY**

Florence, 13-15 december 2007



Laboratori di Antropologia
Università degli Studi di Firenze
Via del Proconsolo, 12
50122 Firenze



Artifact use and production are the concrete expressions of abstract ideas and models in response to external stimuli. Such models can be as simple as the basic functional parameters of lithic blank morphology and as complex as the explicitly defined series of steps that go into the production of a finished retouched tool. Such models can be used to describe an artifact's life-history from raw material procurement to final tool production as it passes through a series of stages. Such sets of stages have gradually grown in complexity and sophistication over the course of prehistory, but their defining elements are nonetheless very clearly identifiable and obviously present even in the earliest lithic assemblages.

The study of the material expressions of cultural norms focuses on the factors that influence and/or determine the technological, typometric, typological, and stylistic features of the assemblages. This integrated perspective underscores some of the shortcomings of traditional methods of studying and classifying stone tools.

The operational sequences of artifact production unfold following precise rules, rhythms and cadences that link the mechanical properties of various raw materials to the dynamics of the knapping process. Artifact production can also be influenced by other factors, including the prevalence of socially-transmitted technological traditions (i.e., conservative forces) and the ability to innovate as a result to variation in environmental or cultural parameters (i.e., evolutionary forces). Most fundamentally, however, the goal of any analysis of lithic production is to relate all such changes in artifact production patterns to the functional requirements of the lithic end-products. While change can be tracked in the archaeological record, the current state of knowledge about lithic production does not provide fully satisfactory answers to why, how, and when it occurs.

The main goal of this meeting is therefore to focus attention on the motivations that led prehistoric craftspeople to adopt and modify the given sequences of gestures that led to the development of increasingly effective lithic artifacts.

The meeting is therefore conceived as a forum to present case studies that can serve as examples of the changing analytical approaches used by prehistoric archaeologists to tackle this range of issues, contrasted to a more traditional focus on the reconstruction of lithic cultural sequences.

The *Istituto Italiano di Preistoria e Protostoria* thus perpetuates its function as a key player in setting the agenda of contemporary scientific research by sponsoring a scientific meeting organized around the following four main themes

-) **Raw materials and lithic production strategies**

STEVEN L. KHUN, University of Arizona, USA

Raw material economics: moving beyond least-effort models

-) **Mobility patterns and lithic resource management**

JAQUES JAUBERT, Université de Bordeaux 1, France

*Mobilité et gestion des ressources lithiques au Paléolithique:
y a-t-il une évolution diachronique?*

-) **Operational sequences: blank production and modification**

ERIC BÖEDA, Université de Paris Nanterre, France

Approches technologiques: bilan et perspective

-) **Interpretive models and the behavioral implications
of cultural complexity**

EUDALD CARBONELL, Universitat Rovira i Virgili, Tarragona, Spain

Evolución de los sistemas técnicos

A **Round Table** will also be held to clarify the significance of this shift in analytical perspectives to the study prehistoric cultures studies.

The central theme to be debated in this context will be the idea that culture is best considered as the synergetic product of the interaction between humans, their environments and their material culture.

Call for Paper

We are waiting for your contributes to the discussion.

Please send the abstract of your podium or poster by the end of April 2007 to:

Laura Longo, Longo10@unisi.it

Info on the WEB site: www.iipp.it

Scientific Commitee

E. Böeda, Université de Paris Nanterre, Paris, France

E. Carbonell, Universitat Rovira i Virgili, Tarragona, Spain

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J. Jaubert, Université de Bordeaux 1, France

S. Khun, Arizona State University, USA

L. Longo, Università di Siena e IIPP

M. Montagnari Kokelj, Università di Trieste, Italia

Esecutivo Scientific Commitee

S. Grimaldi, Università di Trento

M. Montagnari Kokelj, Università di Trieste

L. Longo, Università di Siena e IIPP

(Meeting Coordinator & Convenor)

Date: 13-15 December, 2007

Location

Laboratori di Antropologia, Università di Firenze,
Via del Proconsolo 12, 50122, Florence, Italy.

Proceedings

The papers presented in the context of the meeting will be published as a special issue of the international peer-reviewed journal *Human Evolution* (Springer Editions).