



XXXVII-2. Human subsistence and settlement patterns during the Late-Glacial and early Holocene: insights from bones

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The Late-glacial and early Holocene periods (ca. 16,000-5,000 BC) have witnessed rapid and severe climatic oscillations. Following the cold conditions of the late Pleniglacial, these oscillations start with the warming phase of the Late-glacial interstadial (GI1e to GI-1a), which was interrupted by the Younger Dryas, and succeeded by the definitive global warming of the early Holocene heralding the current climatic conditions. The warm phases of the Late-glacial and early Holocene generally correspond to an expansion and intensification of human settlement, which is reflected by a large number of archaeological sites, rich in faunal remains.

Such dramatic, rapid climatic fluctuations have triggered not only significant changes in ecosystems but could also be the origin of important cultural transitions. In fact, research on hunter-fisher-gatherer groups during the pre-Neolithic period has been flourishing in recent decades. Establishing links between cultural innovation and/or persistence with environmental variation requires deciphering local prehistoric frameworks and recording tools at different levels of resolution. For this purpose, skeletal remains (bones, teeth, antlers and horns) of animal specimens and human individuals yield insightful information on diet, environment, phylogeny, and cultural practices through studies in paleoanthropology, zooarchaeology, bone industry, proteomics, stable isotopes, and paleogenetics. Researchers working in all disciplines related to human subsistence and settlement patterns during the Late-glacial and early Holocene from various geographical contexts and settings are invited to contribute. Papers providing archaeological overviews and/or methodological and theoretical insights relevant to these issues are also welcomed. This session intends to stimulate exchanges and discussions pushing the limits of disciplinary frontiers.

Key-words: Paleodiet and trophic webs, subsistence-settlements patterns, predation strategies and territoriality, pre-agricultural management of resources, anthropogenic niche construction, food processing and consumption

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