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## International educational project "Nature and Society in Prehistoric Europe"

The project of the Center for Paleoethnological Research  
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**THE FIRST EUROPEAN PEOPLING: MIGRATION ROUTES AND BEHAVIOUR**

February 05, 2021, 11.00 AM (Brussels, GMT+1)

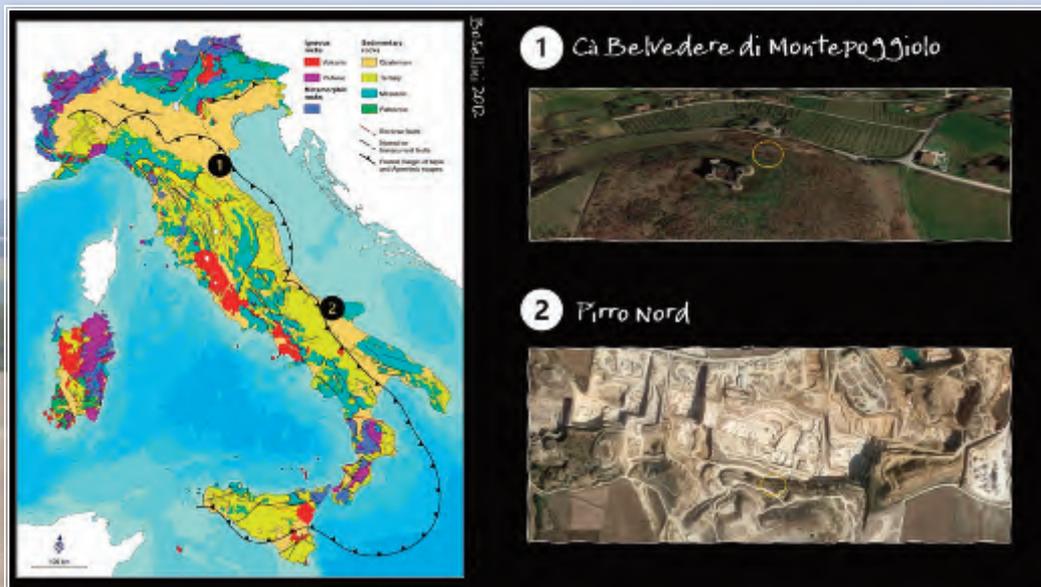


The history of prehistoric Europe is relatively short if compared to Africa. The firsts well dated evidences for the out of Africa are the ones of the Dmanisi site in Georgia, dated to 1,8 Ma (Gabunia, 2000), but from about 1,5 Ma we begin to have several evidences of Homo presence in Italy (Arzarello et al., 2016; Arzarello and Peretto, 2017), France (Desprée et al., 2018) and Spain (Carbonell et al., 2008; Toro-Moyano et al., 2011). Based on the founding, is not easy to really define a technical behaviour of firsts Europeans but we can underline some similitudes with the African Oldwain (even if in Europe the shaping is a marginal component of lithic assemblages) in what concern the methods and technique of flakes production. The oldest European sites, spanned in a chronological framework between 1 and 1,6 Ma, are united by the exploitation of local raw materials, by a lithic production mainly finalized to flakes debitage by multidirectional and centripetal methods and by relatively short reduction sequences.

Although common trends are visible, the oldest Europeans are also characterized by evidence of local adaptation to the environment in terms of occupational patterns and supply areas.

From where those human groups were coming is still an argument of discussion, as the chronologies of the oldest sites in E and W Europe are very similar. The paleogeographic and paleoecological data, however, let us think that the most likely passage was that for the Near East.

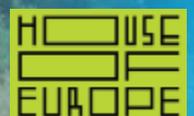
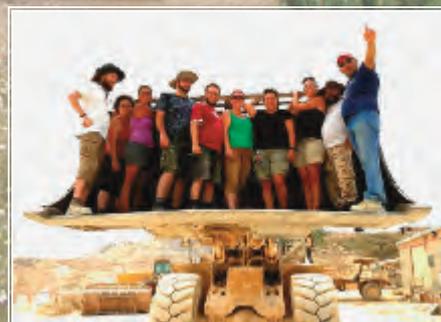
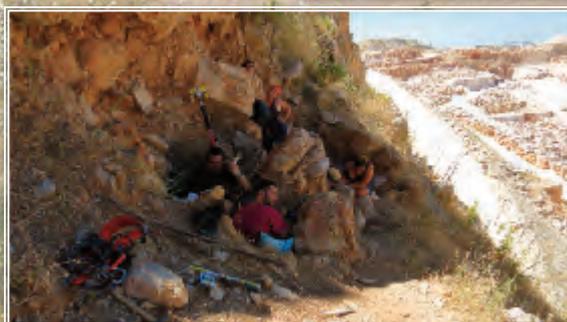
Keywords: Homo dispersal in Europe; Lithic technology; 1,5 Ma; Pirro Nord



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First evidences of the  
Homo presence in Europe  
→ Around 1,5 Ma  
Environment  
→ Open grass and dry  
conditions  
Behavior  
→ Exploitation of  
local raw materials  
(chert and obsidian)

It seems that environment influence the behaviour  
but we need a lot of data to really define that!



## STRATEGIES OF NEANDERTHAL OCCUPATIONS FROM THE MIS 5 TO 3 AT THE ABRI DU MARAS (SOUTH-EAST FRANCE)

February 16, 2021, 11.00 AM (Brussels, GMT+1)

The Abri du Maras yields recurrent occupations from the end of MIS 5 to MIS 3 under a large shelter collapsing over time. The technological study and the micro-wear and residues analyses, coupled to the study of the origin of the flint, refits and spatial distribution of the material, allow investigating short-term occupations with a fragmentation of the management of the tool kit. There is evidence of introduction of large pieces coming from a 30 km perimeter. An *in situ* debitage took place to complete the basic needs. The function of the tools indicates domestic and diversified activities and some artefacts, often irregularly shaped, were projectiles. Core technologies and ratio and types of flake-tools differ a bit between the MIS 5 and 3.

The faunal assemblages indicate over time recurrent human accumulations of ungulate carcasses, transported whole or by pieces. In the level 4.1 (MIS 3), multidisciplinary studies provide evidence of seasonal short-term occupations devoted to the major hunting of reindeer. In the levels 4.2 (MIS 3) and 5-5 upper (end of MIS 5), the faunal spectra are more various, with the predominance of reindeer, red deer, horse and bison. In these two levels, the phases of human occupations seem to be longer, up to a whole season in the level 5. In the three levels, there are *in situ* evidence of fire use, processing of meat and marrow and the use of some bone elements as retouchers.

Different scenarios are considered to explain variations in subsistence strategies over time: ecological and climatic impacts, duration and function of the occupations, various traditions. Neanderthals mainly occupied the rock shelter as a residential site.

*Keywords:* Neanderthals, technological analysis, faunal assemblage, residential site, seasonality



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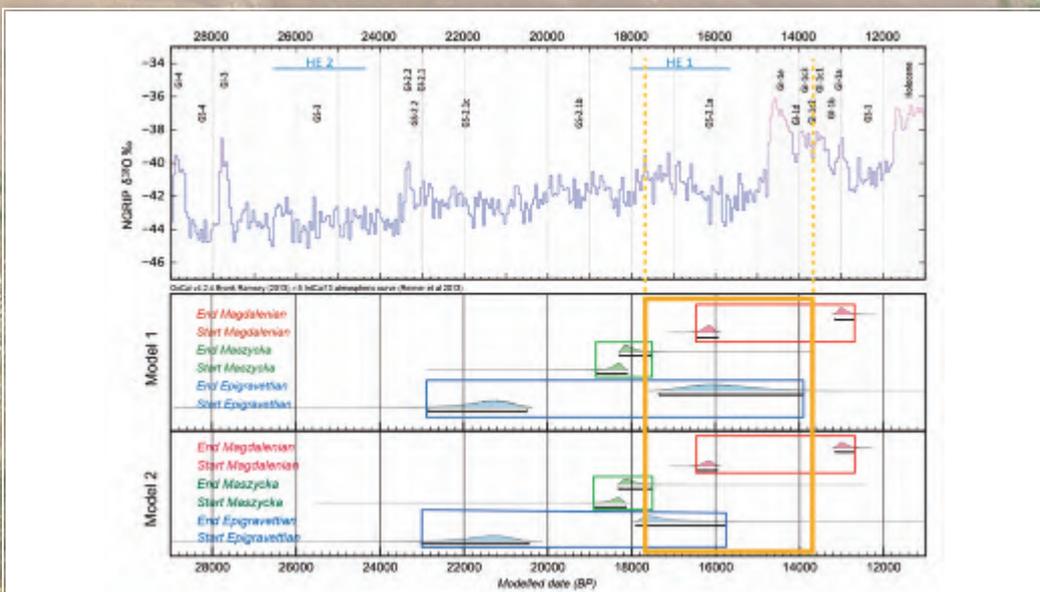
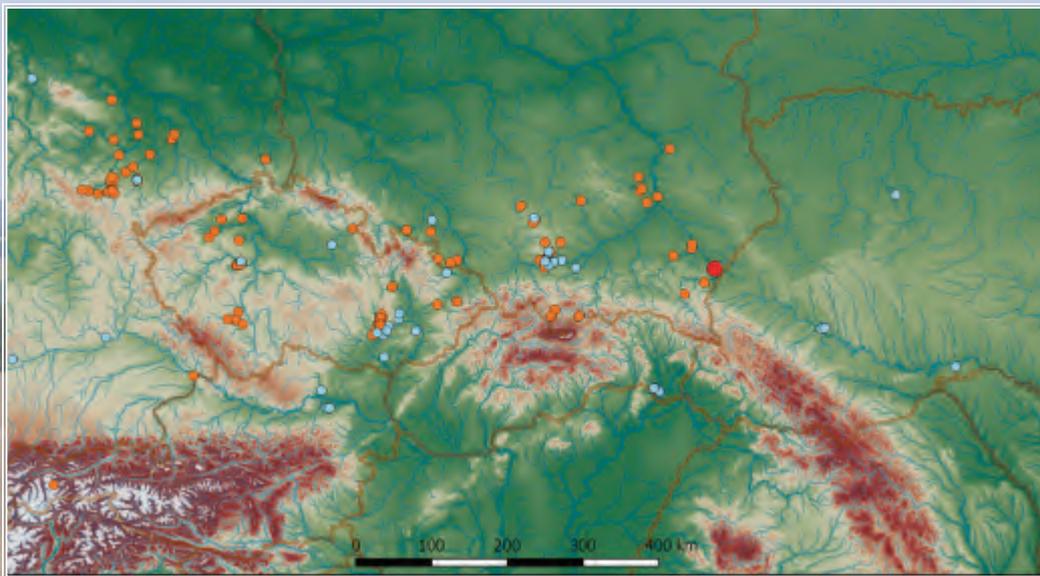


## ON THE CONTACT OF TWO WORLDS: EASTERN BORDERS OF THE MAGDALENIAN COMPLEX

February 23, 2021, 11.00 AM (Brussels, GMT+1)

The issue of the recolonisation of Central Europe after the end of the LGM is one of the problems that has been intensely discussed in recent years. The main topics of discussion include the problem of settlement in Central Europe during the LGM, the dynamics of settlement of these areas after the end of the LGM, cultural characteristics and the relationship between the two main complexes: Magdalenian and Epigravettian. The areas of Polish lands, situated on the borderline of two worlds: Magdalenian and Epigravettian and marking the eastern borders of the first one, are an extremely important area of research on this issue, all the more so as the recent years have brought about the development of research and growth of the source base, especially in the eastern part of Poland. The new chronological data, based primarily on absolute dating, show the dynamics of the spread of the Magdalenian settlement from the oldest episode from the Maszycka Cave to its very late traces, in connection with the nature of the settlement and its regional diversity, as well as posing the problem of directions and ways for the spread of the population and/or tradition that embraced the eastern part of Central Europe. An important problem is the identification of settlement centres and an attempt to interpret the importance of individual areas exploited by groups of hunters and gatherers. Also noteworthy is the issue of the eastern borders of Magdalenian and the question of possible contacts between Magdalenian and Epigravettian groups.

*Keywords:* Magdalenian, Epigravettian, settlement, chronology, eastern Central Europe



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## ZOOARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODS: RECONSTITUTE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN PALAEOLITHIC HUMANS AND OTHER MAMMALS

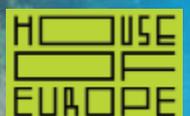
February 26, 2021, 11.00 AM (Brussels, GMT+1)

Among human societies of hunter-gatherers, animals play a central role, between subsistence, technical and symbolic spheres. Zooarchaeological methods include anatomical and taxinomial identification, and taphonomical study of extrinsic modifications of skeletal remains. Analyses show the use of animal resources, for both food and non-dietary purposes, in relation to the palaeoenvironmental and palaeoclimatic background.

*Keywords:* Palaeolithic, zooarchaeology, mammals, anatomy, taxonomy, taphonomy, palaeo-environment



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## MAMMOTH HUNTERS OF DNIEPER BASIN. HUMAN-ENVIRONMENTAL INTERACTION IN THE END OF THE LAST GLACIATION

March 05, 2021, 11.00 AM (Brussels, GMT+1)

The Upper Palaeolithic sites in the Middle Dnieper basin are attributed to the different cultural and chronological phenomena, i. e. Gravettian, Epigravettian, and Final Palaeolithic. A part of Epigravettian vestiges refers to the Mezhyrichian type of industry and is dated in the rather narrow limits of 15 000 – 14 000 uncal BP. The conducted typological-technological analysis of lithic assemblages allows us to assert the unity of processing techniques within this type. These sites have different functional and seasonal characteristics, which create a unique opportunity to reconstruct certain aspects of life, seasonal mobility cycle, hunting strategy of a group in a common ecological niche. The base camps of Mezhyrich, Dobranichivka and Gintsy functioned mainly during the cold season, while in the warm season there was a more high activity associated with topographically higher relief areas. The logistic model of annual mobility implies the presence of basic camps in the center of the movement of the group, in the most convenient places, given the availability of natural resources, on the one hand and short-term camps, kill-sites, gathering of flintstone places on the other. The spatial distribution of objects of the Mezhyrich type indicates the presence of a centralized structure of behaviour, which manifests itself at different hierarchical levels – at the level of dwelling, residential assemblage, base camp and microregion. The spread of ornaments made from the seashells of the Black Sea molluscs testifies to extensive exchange operations and links between synchronous Epigravettian communities – Mezhyrichian, Mezinian, Yudinovian.

*Keywords:* Gravettian, Epigravettian. Mammoth hunters, base campsite, seasonal mobility



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**LIVING ON THE EDGE.  
LATE PALAEOOLITHIC COMMUNITIES ON THE NORTH EUROPEAN PLAIN**

March 12, 2021, 11.00 AM (Brussels, GMT+1)



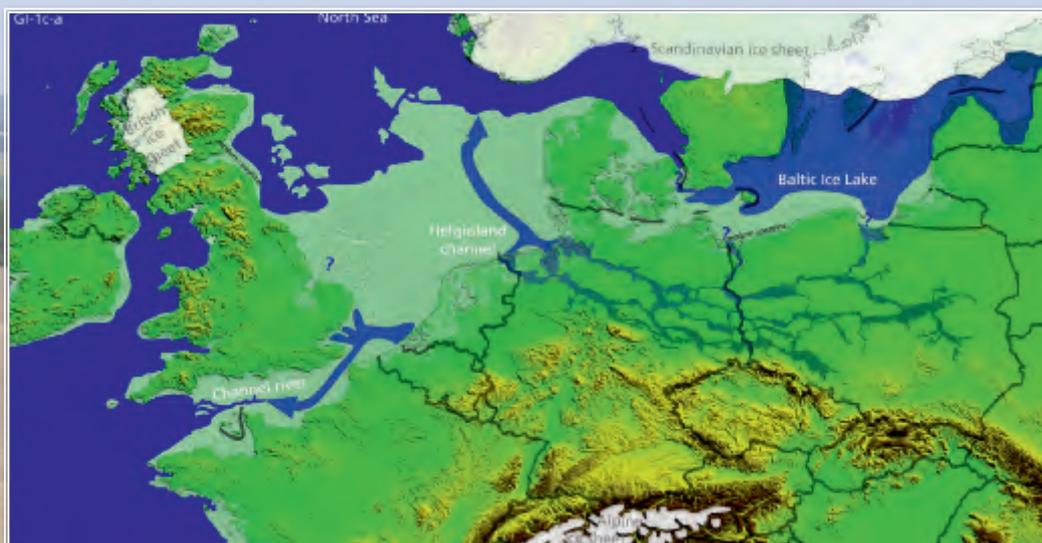
The northern part of Europe was glaciated ca. 100,000 years ago. The first signs of ice-sheet retreating north have occurred 20,000 years ago, while 15,000 years ago a migration of people from Franko-Cantabrian area has begun. They settled north-eastern France, Belgium, Thine area, Switzerland, southern Germany, Czech Republic, Moravia and southern Poland.

Pioneers, who recolonized the North European Plain, were related to Hamburgian culture, living in a tundra environment and based mainly of seasonally migrating reindeers, supplemented by small mammals and fishes.

After a short deterioration of climate condition, known as Older Dryas, the area from the Atlantic coast to the Bug river was occupied by hunter-gatherers, who used various backed pieces as projectile points. It is worth highlighting, that those groups inhabited also the area, sunken nowadays under the North Sea, so called Doggerland. The common name of this formation is Federmesser culture (Federmesser Gruppen) or more generally technocomplex with back arched points. They lived mostly in the Allerød climatic optimum of the Pleistocene. However, this warm period of late glacial climate development was interrupted by cold oscillations and Federmesser societies had to stand against them. Moreover, they came face to face with the biggest late glacial ecological disaster – the volcanic eruption in the western Germany.

The last Palaeolithic hunter-gatherers lived in a very cold natural conditions related to the Younger Dryas, lasting almost 1100 years. However, the harsh climate did not prevailed them to inhabit the vast area from the British Islands to Wolga river.

*Keywords:* Late Palaeolithic, Hamburgian, Federmesser, Swiderian, the North European Plain, hunter-gatherers, subsistence strategies



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## CROSSING BRIDGES, FROM MESOLITHIC TO NEW HORIZONS: IDENTIFYING CHANGES IN THE TAGUS ROCK ART TRADITION

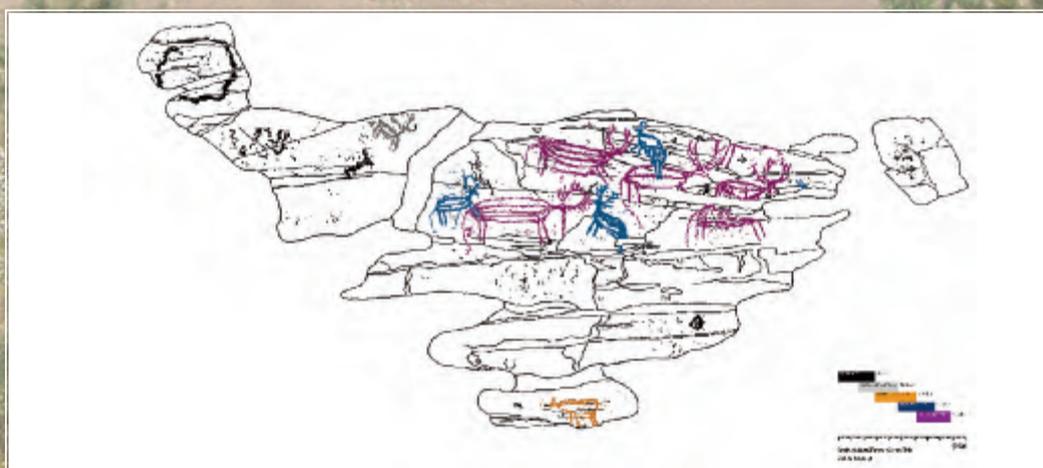
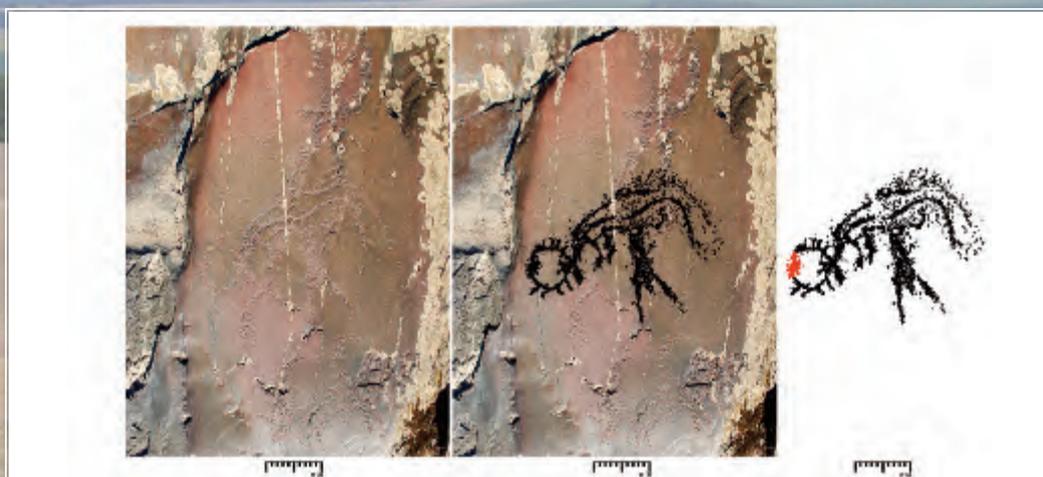
March 19, 2021, 11.00 AM (Brussels, GMT+1)

The Tagus Valley Rock Art Complex covers an area of 120 km in length. It has 12 rock art sites that extend roughly from the mouth of the river Ocreza downstream to the valley of the river Erges, upstream, in central Portugal. In 1974 a dam submerged over 90% of this recorded area.

These rock art sites include a set of 1636 rocks with 6988 figures of various typologies, whose chronology extends from the Upper Palaeolithic until the end of the Bronze Age roughly.

Taking into account recent studies, we will present the various methods of documentation used in the Tagus valley since its discovery and we present a proposal of the existence of an important set of figures recorded by the last hunter-gatherers of the region and how to understand the transition to the rock art of the early days of agriculture and pastoralism.

*Keywords:* Mesolithic; Neolithic; Schematic; Rock Art; Tagus



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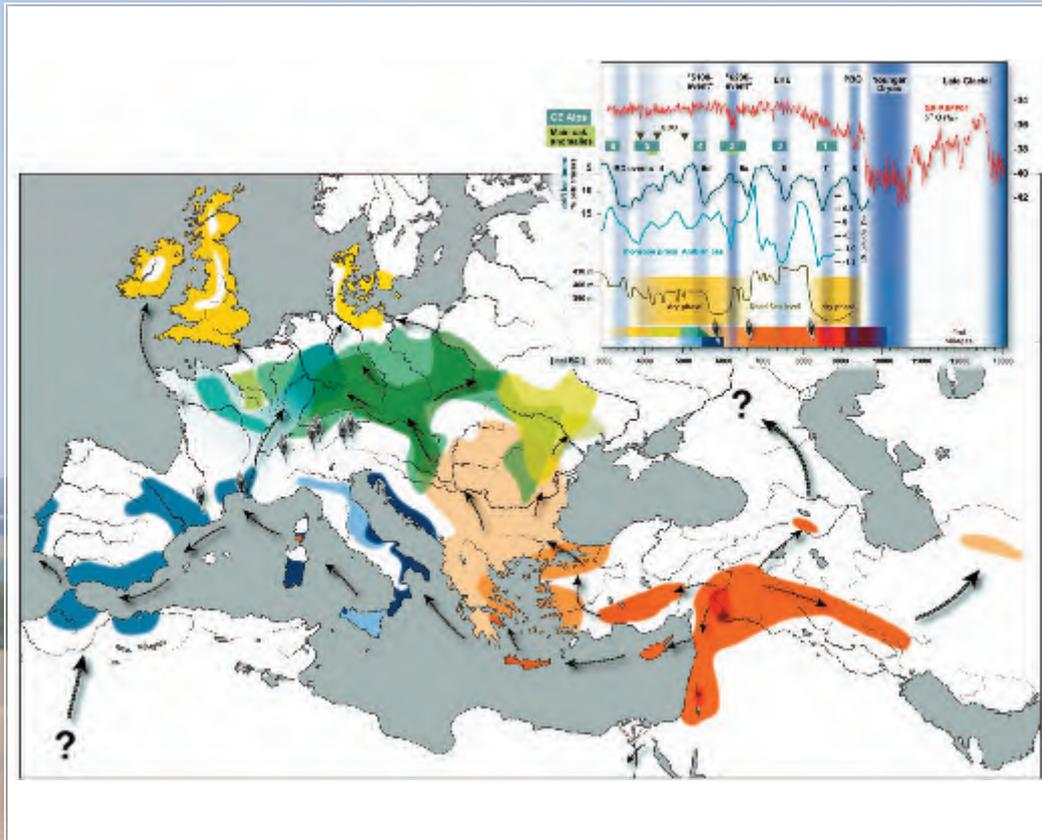


## TRACING HUMAN MOBILITY AND MIGRATION IN THE HOLOCENE

March 26, 2021, 11.00 AM (Brussels, GMT+1)

The prehistoric epochs can be reconstructed exclusively through material remains. Only in the last centuries before the turn of the millennium do written testimonies appear. The mobility of people and objects has therefore long been one of the major topics in archaeological research. The lecture will show which forms of mobility and migration can be proven with archaeological methods and what picture we can form today. The examples under discussion range from the earliest peopling of North America and the Neolithisation of Europe to the historically described migrations of Iron Age groups in the vicinity of the Alps. The lecture focuses on the archaeological evidence of mobility and migration and discusses the limits and possibilities of modern prehistoric research.

*Keywords:* Migration, mobility, Holocene, climate, paleogenetics



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