



26th Neolithic Seminar

Eurasian Neolithics: How Cultures and Societies Evolve and Why It Matters

Thursday 9th to Saturday 11th November 2023

Department of Archaeology, Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana

Conference Programme and Abstracts Book





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The conference will be held in the conference hall in the City Museum of Ljubljana

Programme

Thursday, 9th November

Morning session 9.00 - 12.00

Conference Opening and Words of Greeting

Mihael Budja

Department of Archaeology, Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia

Introduction to the Conference

Mehmet Özdoğan

Istanbul University, Istanbul, Turkey

Reassessing the Dispersal of Neolithic Way of Living or Social and Cultural Patterns in Change. What Matters?

Necmi Karul

Department of Archaeology, Faculty of Letters, Istanbul University, Istanbul, Turkey

Special Buildings in the Context of the Construction of the Neolithic Societies

Detlef Gronenborn

Leibniz Centre for Archaeology (LEIZA), Mainz, Germany

Understanding Neolithic Dynamics and What it Means for Us Today

Eszter Bánffy¹ and Alasdair Whittle²

¹Romano-Germanic Commission, German Archaeological Institute, Frankfurt, Germany; ²School of History, Archaeology and Religion, Cardiff University, United Kingdom

Steps Along the Road: Successes, Delays and Failures in Processes of Neolithisation

lunch break 12.00 - 13.00

Afternoon session 13.00 - 18.00

Marek Nowak

Institute of Archaeology, Jagiellonian University, Krakow, Poland

From the Archaeological site of Miechów to Central Europe During the Neolithic. Different Scales of the Prehistoric Narrative

Pere Gelabert

Department of Evolutionary Anthropology, University of Vienna, Wien, Austria

Social Genomics for Understanding Neolithic Social Structures

Alasdair Whittle

School of History, Archaeology and Religion, Cardiff University, United Kingdom

On the Nature and Tempo of Social Change: Three Studies from the Neolithic of Britain and Ireland

Çiler Çilingiroğlu

Department of Archaeology, Faculty of Letters, Ege University Izmir, Turkey

Social Stratification of PPN Communities in SE Anatolia

coffee & tea break 15.00 - 15.30

Lee Clare

German Archaeological Institute, Istanbul Department, Istanbul, Turkey

Upper Mesopotamia in the Early Holocene: Establishing an Absolute Chronology for the Taş Tepeler (Sanliurfa, SE-Turkey) and Investigating the Hunter-Gatherer-Crisis (HGC)

Eylem Özdoğan

Department of Archaeology, Faculty of Letters, İstanbul University, İstanbul, Turkey

The Neolithic Narrative from the Perspectives of the "Sayburç Reliefs"

Dušan Boric^{1,2,3}, Alessia Nava⁷, Beatrice Peripoli¹, Theron Douglas Price⁵, Luca Bondioli⁴, Wolfgang Müller⁶

¹Department of Environmental Biology, Sapienza University of Rome, Roma, Italy; ²The Italian Academy for Advanced Studies in America, Columbia University, New York, USA; ³Department of Anthropology, New York University, New York, USA; ⁴School of Human and Social Sciences and Cultural Heritage, University of Padova, Padova, Italy; ⁵University of Wisconsin, Madison, USA; ⁶The Institute of Geosciences, Goethe University, Frankfurt am Main, Germany; ⁷Department of Oral and Maxillo-Facial Sciences, Sapienza University of Rome, Roma, Italy

Mesolithic and Neolithic Mobility Patterns in the Balkans Revealed Via Time-Resolved Records in Teeth

Dushka Urem-Kotsou¹, Apostolos Sarris², Nikos Papadopoulos³, Konstantinos Vouvalidis⁴, Yannis Maniatis⁵, Chrissa Karadima⁶, Maria Chrysafi⁷, Dimitris Matsas⁶, Anna Mousioni⁶, Matheos Koutsoumanis⁶, Stavros Kotsos⁸, Despoina Skoulariki⁷, Kyriakos Sgouropoulos⁹, Periklis Chrysafakoglou⁹, Dimitris Oikonomou³, Sofia Doani⁴, Ioannis Chronis⁴ and Georgios Polymeris⁵
¹Democritus University of Thrace, ²University of Cyprus, ³Foundation for Research and Technology, ⁴Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, ⁵NCSR "Demokritos", ⁶Ephorate of Antiquities of Rhodope, ⁷Ephorate of Antiquities of Xanthe, ⁸Ephorate of Antiquities of Thessaloniki City, ⁹Democritus University of Thrace

Early Farmers in Aegean Thrace

conference dinner banquet at place 18.00



Friday, 10th November

Morning session 9.00 - 13.00

Goce Naumov

Center for Prehistoric Research, Museum of Macedonia, Skopje, Republic of North Macedonia

The First Farming Communities of Pelagonia and the Balkan Neolithic Wetlands

Dušan Mihailović¹, Steven Kuhn², Sofija Dragosavac¹, Vesna Dimitrijević¹, Ivana Živaljević³, Anđa Petrović¹, Danilo Pajović¹, Mirela Đurović¹, Mirjana Rokсандić⁴

¹Department of Archaeology, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Beograd, Beograd, Serbia; ²School of Anthropology, University of Arizona, Tucson, United States; ³Department of History, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Novi Sad, Novi Sad, Serbia; ⁴Department of Anthropology, University of Winnipeg, Winnipeg, Canada

First Insights into the Late Upper Paleolithic and Mesolithic Settlement of Southern Serbia

Marko Porčić

Department of Archaeology, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Beograd, Beograd, Serbia

The beginning of the Neolithic in the Central Balkans: Knowns and Unknowns

coffee & tea break 10.30 - 11.00

Maxime Brami

Palaeogenetics Group, Institute of Organismic and Molecular Evolution, Faculty of Biology, Johannes Gutenberg University, Mainz, Germany

The Lepenski Vir Conundrum Revisited

Barbara Horejs

Austrian Archaeological Institute, Austrian Academy of Sciences and Human Evolution and Archaeological Sciences, University Vienna, Wien, Austria.

Multi-scalar and Multispecies Mobility in the Neolithisation of the Balkans

Raiko Krauß¹ and Dan Ciobotaru²

¹Institute of Prehistory, Early History and Medieval Archaeology, Faculty of Humanities, Eberhard Karls University, Tübingen, Germany; ²National Museum of Banat, Timișoara, Romania

The Early Neolithic Settlement of Movila lui Deciov in Romanian Banat

Mario Bodružić, Kristina Horvat and Maja Grgurić

Department of Archaeology, University of Zadar, Zadar, Croatia

Early Neolithic Herders of Northern Dalmatia: New Insight from Cave in Ždrilo

lunch break 13.00 - 14.00

Afternoon session 14.00 - 18.30

Dimitrij Mlekuž Vrhovnik

Department of Archaeology, Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana and The Institute for the Protection of the Cultural Heritage of Slovenia, Ljubljana, Slovenia.

Active Periphery. The Place of the Southeastern Alps in the Neolithic World System

Guram Chkhatarashvili¹ and Valery Manko²

¹Department of Archaeology, Batumi Shota Rustaveli State University, Batumi, Georgia; ²Institute of Archaeology, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, Kyiv, Ukraine

Evolution Patterns of Final Pleistocene, Early and Middle Holocene Cultures in Southern Eastern Europe and the Caucasus

Giedrė Motuzaite Matuzevičiūtė

Bioarchaeology Research centre, Archaeology Department, History Faculty, Vilnius University, Vilnius, Lithuania

Forest Neolithic, Subneolithic or no-Neolithic – The Beginning of Food Production in the East Basics

Natalia Tsydenova

Institute for Mongolian, Buddhist and Tibetan Studies of the Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Ulan-Ude, Republic of Buryatia, Russia

Origin of the Late Pleistocene Early Ceramic Transbaikalia Complexes

coffee & tea break 16.00 - 16.30

Agathe Reingruber

Institute for Prehistoric Archaeology, Freie Universität Berlin, Berlin, Germany

The flat sites Elateia 1 and Sesklo B in Context: Settlement Patterns of the Thessalian Early and Middle Neolithic

Dragana Rajković¹ and Selena Vitezović²

¹Archaeological museum Osijek, Croatia; ²Institute of Archaeology, Beograd, Serbia

Neolithic Multiculturalism: Zones of Contact of Various Communities

Katarina Botić

Institute of Archaeology, Zagreb, Croatia

8.2–6 ka BP Human-Environment Interaction in the Southwestern Carpathian Basin: A Past Narrative for Future Adaptation

Alexandra Anders

Institute of Archaeological Sciences, Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, Hungary

Neolithic People and their Artefacts. Burials of the Polgár Microregion (NE Hungary) from the Perspective of Biosocial Archaeology



Saturday, 11th November

Morning session 9.00 - 12.00

Ivana Pandžić

Department of History, Faculty of Philosophy University of Banja Luka; Museum of Republic of Srpska; Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Unearthing the Role of Salt Exploitation in Transforming Neolithic Bosnia and Herzegovina

Vidan Dimić and Dragana Antonović

Institute of Archaeology, Beograd, Serbia

Born Again: Multiple Biographies of Ground and Abrasive Stone Tools in the Neolithic of Serbia

Matija Turk

Institute of Archaeology, Scientific Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts (ZRC SAZU), Ljubljana, Slovenia

Mesolithic site Viktorjev spodmol: A lithic Perspective

Alenka Tomaž

Department & Institute of archaeology and Heritage, Faculty of Humanities, University of Primorska, Koper, Slovenia

Tracing Standardization in Early Eneolithic Pottery Production. Case Study: Prekmurje Region

Bine Kramberger¹, Borut Toškan² and Tjaša Tolar²

¹Institute for the Protection of Cultural Heritage of Slovenia, Ljubljana, Slovenia; ²Institute of Archaeology, Scientific Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts (ZRC SAZU), Ljubljana, Slovenia

Reassessment of the Neolithic Sava Group in Slovenia after 20 Years: New Data on the Chronology, Settlement Features, Ceramic style(s) and Economy from Dolsko – Spodnje Škovce

general discussion & closing remarks



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($\delta^{13}\text{C}$, $\delta^{15}\text{N}$) and ^{14}C measurements, microarchaeobotany on dental calculus, and palaeogenetic data for kinship patterns. The various artefacts (personal jewellery made of Spondylus or red deer canines, lithics, and ochres) found in the burials were also analysed by microscopic wear analysis and provenance studies (petrography, SEM-EDX, PGA).

The results of these complex but fundamentally archaeological methods complement each other, enabling us to trace the possible changes in lifestyle through space and time. These results can be used to trace microhistories of specific communities as well as personal life histories of individuals. The individuals and their artefacts have different biographies, and by weaving together the strands of these different biographies and interpreting them in the context of the tomb, we gain insight into the lives of Neolithic people in Polgár.

The project is funded by a grant from the Hungarian National Research, Development and Innovation Fund (Grant K124326: Neolithic Life Histories. Bioarchaeological studies on graves in the Polgár microregion).

Ivana Pandzić

Department of History, Faculty of Philosophy University of Banja Luka; Museum of Republic of Srpska; Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Unearthing the Role of Salt Exploitation in Transforming Neolithic Bosnia and Herzegovina

The Eurasian Neolithic witnessed profound transformations in human societies and marked a pivotal moment in prehistory. This paper examines the dynamics of cultural and social development during this period in Bosnia and Herzegovina, highlighting the importance of salt exploitation as one of the most important factors that influenced the cultural and social development of the region. It played a role in food preservation, nutrition, economy, and may have had cultural and ritual significance as well. Understanding the importance of salt exploitation offers valuable insights into the dynamics of this transformative period in the region's prehistory and provides insight into how this important resource contributed to the development of early societies and cultures.

Vidan Dimić and Dragana Antonović

Institute of Archaeology, Beograd, Serbia

Born Again: Multiple Biographies of Ground and Abrasive Stone Tools in the Neolithic of Serbia

Stone has always been a highly valued commodity due to its natural properties. It is practically indestructible, being incombustible and very difficult to dissolve. The only imperfection is its fragility, but even after breaking it does not disappear, and the remaining pieces can be used for a long time, either as building blocks, tools or decorations. Therefore, man's attachment to stone as a raw material is very deep and remains unchanged even after the advent of metal. Although stone was used primarily as a utilitarian object in prehistory, stone objects often had symbolic value as well. Because of their hardness, toughness, and durability, stone tools had a long, dynamic, and complex life in which they could pass through different segments of the operating chain again and again until their final disposal. The way stone tools are made, used, and discarded is primarily a consequence of social traditions and practices. Various aspects of the use of rocks and minerals as raw materials were particularly

emphasized during the Neolithic period, when the technology of stone working reached its peak. Stone tools wore out slowly and could be used for a long time with constant renewal. Even after being damaged, they started a new life cycle through various recycling processes or in a secondary context. Although very interesting for research, these specific ways in which stone objects were redirected to a secondary or recycling function, usually after damage in their original function, are often neglected in archaeological studies. The spectrum of repeated functions of such stone tools is broad, ranging from utilitarian to symbolic purposes, and provides important information about the cultural practices of the communities that made and used them. The aim of this paper is to clarify the use of the terms for repeated, extended, secondary, and reused use within the lithic industry and to present the most common examples of the use of ground and polished tools in secondary contexts in the Neolithic of Serbia, focusing primarily on tools for everyday use and the ways in which their function was redirected through different segments of the operational chain.

Matija Turk

Institute of Archaeology, Scientific Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts (ZRC SAZU), Ljubljana, Slovenia

Mesolithic Site Viktorjev spodmol: A Lithic Perspective

The rock shelter Viktorjev spodmol (southwest Slovenia) is located at the foot of the mountain Vremščica near Divača. After the discovery of the first archaeological findings by local amateurs, a small archaeological survey was carried out in 1999. Stone and bone artefacts were collected, as well as abundant faunal and paleobotanical remains. Finds of pottery sherds from the Neolithic and Bronze Age indicate that the shelter was also inhabited in later periods. The typological and technological analysis of the stone artefacts, especially the microlithic armatures, shows that the Mesolithic finds belong to the Sauveterrian and Castelnovian traditions. However, the boundary between the two Mesolithic phases is not clear, since the excavated Holocene sediments, followed by a rockfall, are only 1 m thick and do not show clear stratification. Nevertheless, Viktorjev spodmol can be considered one of the richest Mesolithic sites in the northern Adriatic due to the abundance and diversity of finds, especially microlithic armatures. In 2017, new archaeological excavations began at Viktorjev spodmol. In this paper, we present the old and new finds, focusing on the lithic industry and placing it in the wider context of Mesolithic sites in the Karst and Istria.

Alenka Tomaž

Department & Institute of archaeology and Heritage, Faculty of Humanities, University of Primorska, Koper, Slovenia

Tracing Standardization in Early Eneolithic Pottery Production. Case Study: Prekmurje Region

“For over twenty years, archaeologists have been concerned with the identification of the early appearance of specialized production and the implications of such a mode of production mode for understanding the rise of complex forms of social and political organization” wrote William A. Longacre more than twenty years ago. Since then, numerous studies have been conducted worldwide on these questions, but in Slovenia, not a single in-depth study has been published to date.