

An universal symbol: hand representations in world rock art

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Abstract:

The hand is arguably the most universal symbol in both Palaeolithic and post-Palaeolithic rock art, with its presence documented across most continents worldwide. With this session, devoted entirely to such representations, we aim to facilitate a comprehensive exchange among researchers and research projects that address the study of hand motifs, whether as a central subject or from a more tangential perspective. Contributions adopting any kind of analytical approach are welcome, including chronological assessments, interpretative proposals, technical analyses, relationships with the supporting surfaces, execution criteria, morphometric studies, and the application of new technologies to their investigation.

Naturally, the presentation of newly identified sites, regardless of their chronology, will constitute another key priority of this session.

Ultimately, our objective is to bring together the largest possible number of scholars whose work focuses on hand representations in rock art, thereby providing a thorough update on the most recent discoveries as well as on current trends in their study and interpretation.