

Friendly or hostile? How long did they last? Relations between the last Mesolithic hunters and the first Neolithic farmers.

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Abstract:

The emergence of agriculture in Europe took place at different times and from different directions. Research into the meeting/clash between those two worlds, the local hunter-gatherer groups and migrating farmers has a long tradition. Evidence of resilient hunter-gathers maintaining their lifestyle in ecological niches is known from different parts of Europe. Interdisciplinary research in recent years, especially DNA analysis, shed new light on the parallel societies of last hunter-gatherers and first farmers. This gives opportunity to gain detailed insight into the relations of these economically divergent groups and helps to better understand one of the key turning points of prehistory, sedentism. We invite you to discuss topics such as:

How long could two different communities live side by side?

What were the relations between hunters and farmers in different parts of Europe like?

Was contact peaceful or violent?

How can archaeological and genetic information be connected?

How and why were ecological niches sustained by late hunter-gatherers?

How did early farmers expand into new territories?

What did farmers learn from hunter-gatherers, what did hunter-gatherers learn from farmers?

What happened to the last hunter-gatherers?

What is the history of research on the relations between Mesolithic or Epipalaeolithic hunters and the first farmers?

We invite you to discuss the above questions and to submit papers on issues concerning both the last hunters and gatherers of the Mesolithic period and the beginnings of the Neolithic period, as well as information on the latest research and interdisciplinary data related to the relations between Mesolithic communities and the first farmers.