

Title

Moving on: updated scales, concepts and approaches to mobility in the Late Pleistocene

Keywords

Late Pleistocene; Palaeoclimate; Mobility; Site occupation; Lithics; Fauna; Hunter-gatherers

Abstract

Mobility is a key tool of hunter-gatherer populations – past and present – to gain access to a huge variety of natural and cultural resources and is thought to be primarily driven by climate and demography. Varying scales of mobility probably had a profound impact on raw material provisioning strategies, toolkit design and prey selection and exploitation strategies, thereby shaping the structure and very nature of the archaeological record along with post-depositional processes.

This session invites contributions that advance methodological and interpretative approaches to mobility based on lithic and/or faunal datasets of hominin populations between ca. 129,000 and 11,700 years ago in Africa and Eurasia – including Middle Palaeolithic, Middle Stone Age, Upper Palaeolithic and Later Stone Age case studies. Specifically, the session aims at studies that use prey body part representation, spatial components of food utility indices, lithic provisioning, fragmentation of reduction sequences and raw material sourcing to explore landscape use and scales of mobility against climate backgrounds. Other analytical approaches to palimpsest dissection or site occupation duration are equally welcome as contributions to the reconstruction of mobility. All in all, this session aims to generate a better understanding of mobility strategies among Late Pleistocene hunter-gatherers via innovative concepts and approaches to the material record.

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