

Prey and Hunters: Investigating Subsistence Strategies from the Pleistocene to the Holocene

Keywords: Subsistence strategy, Hunting, Prehistory, Protohistory, Large- Small games, Taphonomy

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Abstract:

Hominin subsistence strategies from the Pleistocene to the Holocene display considerable variability in both procurement methods and prey selection, closely connected to the range of animal resources available in different ecological contexts. Access to prey was shaped by multiple factors, including climatic and environmental changes, the natural distribution of species, technological skills, social organization, and even food preferences. This session aims to bring together scholars investigating subsistence strategies through innovative approaches, advanced diagnostic methods, and ethnographic comparisons. Contributions will address topics such as the interplay between hunting and scavenging, large-game and small-game hunting, selective hunting practices, the development of hunting technologies, hunting within farming communities, and the symbolic and social roles of hunting as a marker of prestige.