

## **Technology, subsistence, and spatial dynamics in Middle Paleolithic and Middle Stone Age, territories**

Keywords: Middle Paleolithic, Middle Stone Age, Settlement dynamics, behaviour, territory

### **Main Organizer:**

M. Gema Chacón

IPHES-CERCA, URV, SERP-IAUB, UMR7194-HNP-MNHN

### **Co-Organizers:**

Amy Elizabeth Clark

Department of Anthropology, University of Harvard, USA

Cyrielle Mathias

UMR7194-HNP-MNHN, Paris, France

### **Abstract:**

The Middle Paleolithic and the Middle Stone Age represent key phases in human prehistory, marked by technological innovations, evolving subsistence strategies, and changing spatial dynamics across diverse ecological settings. Advancing our understanding of how prehistoric groups organized their territories requires examining different site types—caves, rockshelters, and open-air sites—each preserving distinct dimensions of past human behavior. While caves and rockshelters often provide long-term or recurrent occupations with rich faunal records, open-air contexts frequently offer higher-resolution spatial patterning and insights into short-term or task-specific activities.

This session explores how technological practices, subsistence behaviors, mobility strategies, and environmental conditions intersected to shape spatial and settlement dynamics during the Middle Paleolithic and Middle Stone Age. By integrating evidence of site function, occupation duration, landscape use, and resource exploitation, we aim to refine and update interpretations of how prehistoric groups structured their activities and adapted to shifting ecological and climatic contexts.

We particularly welcome multidisciplinary studies that combine technological, geoarchaeological, paleoenvironmental, zooarchaeological, spatial, or chronometric data to reconstruct territorial organization and mobility. However, discipline-specific research is also encouraged when it contributes meaningful insights into Middle Paleolithic or Middle Stone Age settlement systems. Comparative regional analyses, high-resolution site studies, and integrative models of technological or economic change are especially relevant.

By bringing together a wide range of methodological approaches and geographic perspectives, this session seeks to advance a more comprehensive understanding of technological,

subsistence, and spatial dynamics during these pivotal periods of human prehistory, fostering dialogue and collaboration across research communities.