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# **26th EAA Virtual Annual Meeting**

## **Abstract Book**

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# 26th EAA Virtual Annual Meeting

## Abstract Book

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### 26th EAA Virtual Annual Meeting - Abstract Book

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deserves renewed synthetic attention for the same reasons. With the development of new computational possibilities and the push towards Open Science, the time is now finally ripe to re-visit the empirical basis of the supposedly complex cultural geography of the Final Palaeolithic and Early Mesolithic from a pan-European perspective and to re-assess and potentially revise the attendant taken-for-granted cultural taxonomic units. Our review primarily focuses on synchronous aspects of lithic variability, but we also briefly touch upon diachronic trends that may change our apprehension of ecocultural dynamics at the Pleistocene-Holocene juncture.

## 2 FIRST LITHIC CONCENTRATION IN AVOTIŅI LATE PALAEO-LITHIC - EARLY MESOLITHIC SITE, CENTRAL LATVIA

**Abstract author(s):** Kalnins, Marcis (University of Latvia, Faculty of History and Philosophy) - Rimkus, Tomas (Klaipeda University, Institute of Baltic Region History and Archaeology)

**Abstract format:** Oral

Avotiņi settlement is located on dune on the left bank of River Lielupe in Central part of Latvia. First lithic finds there – heavily patinated flint blades and flakes, were collected in 1991. Therefore, first test excavations that haven't produced significant results, were conducted in 1993 by Ilga Zagorska. Archaeological research in site was re-established in 2018. A new flint concentration was discovered in 2018 and in 2019 it was completely explored. The flint concentration, around 8 m in diameter, consisted of 254 finds and was partly disturbed by later land cultivation. All flint finds collected during excavations are from high quality exotic Cretaceous flint. Majority of them are waste from blade and tool production. Most of formal tools are complete and fragmented leaf shape arrowheads, rest are three burins, two scrapers and one borer.

In addition to its technological attributes, lithic concentration use-wear analysis was supplemented by Olympus SZX16 stereoscopic microscope. A total of 17 artefact types were investigated, consisting of arrowheads (4), burins (3), cores (1), blades that presumably were used as knives (7), and scrapers (2). Traces of soft organic material, including meat, wood and siliceous plants, have been found on the surfaces of the majority of tools, while some artefacts show a double function, and arrowheads have remained as hunting tools.

Technological analysis of core leftovers, production waste and blades, as well as arrowhead types indicates that lithic assemblage belongs to the Swiderian technological tradition. Thus, the Avotiņi site now becomes only the second known Swiderian settlement in territory of Latvia and the oldest site in central and western part of the country. Use-wear analysis and character of the finds indicates that prehistoric hunters in Avotiņi settlement used the banks of Lielupe River to establish here a temporary hunting site.

## 3 THE LATE PALAEO-LITHIC IN THE NORTHERN PART OF CENTRAL POLAND

**Abstract author(s):** Bielinska-Majewska, Beata (District Museum in Torun, Department of Archaeology)

**Abstract format:** Oral

The first discoveries of flint products that can be linked with the Late Palaeolithic in the northern part of central Poland, that is, in the area of the basins of the lower Vistula (reaching the Gniezno region) and the upper Noteć, date back to at least the end of the 19th century. Since then our knowledge and source base has increased significantly. Excavations, surface research as well as single discoveries provided many artifacts connected with the Late Palaeolithic communities in this area. The presence of archaeological sites, on which numerous flint materials were documented, mainly associated with the Tanged Point technocomplex, and, to a lesser extent, the Backed Piece technocomplex, shows that this area was characterized by environmental conditions that were of interest to the Late Palaeolithic communities. In total in the studied area, there are over 200 known archaeological sites, including the complex in Brzoza (formally Toruń-Rudak). Individual findings of flint, horn and bone objects, as well as flint material from surface studies, were also included.

The aim of this paper is to outline the current state of research and available archaeological sources left by the Palaeolithic communities in the northern part of central Poland on the example of selected archaeological sites.

## 4 FINAL PALEOLITHIC AND MESOLITHIC SETTLEMENT IN WESTERN POLAND - A CASE STUDY FROM ŻUŁAWKA SITE

**Abstract author(s):** Pyzewicz, Katarzyna (Institute of Archaeology, University of Warsaw) - Gruzdź, Witold - Migal, Witold (State Archaeological Museum in Warsaw) - Kaczor, Maciej - Teska, Sebastian (Faculty of Archaeology, Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań) - Sobkowiak-Tabaka, Iwona (Centre for Prehistoric and Medieval Studies, Institute of Archeology and Ethnology, Polish Academy of Sciences, Poznań)

**Abstract format:** Oral

The paper presents the results of the interdisciplinary study of the remains of a multi-phase Stone Age settlement in Wielkopolska. Based on the results of analyses of the archaeological records from Żuławka, site 13, we would like to present changes that took place in the settlement from the Late Palaeolithic to the Mesolithic in western Poland. The earliest lithic artifacts from Żuławka are attributed to Swiderian culture. Mesolithic lithic artifacts are related mainly to the Komornica and post-Magleose groups. In our studies, we mostly focused on changes associated with the two aspects - technology and utilization of lithic artifacts.

To achieve the intended effects, the methods of lithic analysis were employed, including typological, raw material sourcing, technological, use-wear, morphometric, spatial, refitting and experimental research analyses. The detailed typological analysis which mainly

covered distinctive retouched forms, provided the basis for the chronological and cultural classification of the assemblage. The raw material analysis enabled us to classify artifacts into particular categories of local flint varieties and to determine whether there was any relationship between the choice of raw material, the technology and the way individual artifacts were used. Based on the technological studies, it was possible to identify groups of artifacts produced in the course of various settlement episodes at the site. The technological research was further reinforced by the results of refitting analysis, which was applied to demonstrate the raw material processing sequence. This enabled the interpretation of both the techniques and methods of lithic reduction. Experimental studies were carried out to verify and complete the data on the technological and functional aspects. The use-wear analysis helped us verify the way Stone Age communities employed particular implements. We found out how selected groups of tools were used, what activities were undertaken with their help, and how lithic specimens were mounted.

## 5 CHRONOCULTURAL DIVERSITY AT THE BRIDGE OF THE LATE PLEISTOCENE AND THE EARLY HOLOCENE IN THE KRAKÓW AREA (SOUTHERN POLAND)

**Abstract author(s):** Stefanski, Damian (Archaeological Museum in Kraków)

**Abstract format:** Oral

The Kraków area is located in an upland zone. Together with the Carpathians, it constitutes a southern margin of the cultural processes which were distinctive for the North European Plain during the Late Pleistocene. The area is rich in finds documenting a wide spectrum of archaeological entities defined within the Allerød-Boreal time span. However, an investigation of the local chrono-cultural framework and the settlement process points to a dynamic human population there. During the Allerød and the Younger Dryas, the area appears not settled but only penetrated. A fundamental change can be noted at the beginning of the Holocene when a relatively rich and diverse Swiderian settlement appeared in the area. The investigation suggests the Palaeolithic tradition existed much longer here. It was evidenced in the latest Swiderian phase, but also in later units rooted in this tradition. A substantial transmission into the Mesolithic, though, could have taken place locally at the end of the Boreal period. This assumption is mainly based on few radiocarbon dates taken from lithic assemblages. However, other arguments like techno- and typological shift, raw material economy and spatial organisation modifications, support this hypothesis. Arguments for such reasoning will be presented and discussed.

## 6 CURRENT STATE AND FUTURE OF PALAEO-LITHIC RESEARCH IN ISTRIA, CROATIA

**Abstract author(s):** Jankovic, Ivor - Novak, Mario (Institute for Anthropological Research)

**Abstract format:** Oral

Recent decade saw a rise in research on the Upper Paleolithic sites in Istria, mainly due to a number of topical projects (e.g. Palaeolithic and Mesolithic sites in the northern Adriatic" (2003-2008), and "Archaeological investigations into the Late Pleistocene and Early Holocene of the Lim Channel, Istria (ARCHAEO-LIM)" (2014-2017). As a result, data on both Middle and Upper Palaeolithic of the region is ever growing. However, there is still much to learn. For example, once Neandertals were replaced by anatomically modern newcomers to Europe, the behavior of the Upper Palaeolithic hunter-gatherers was anything but static. Various archaeological traditions/industries/cultures have been recognized in different regions and at different times, some of which are still poorly understood. Furthermore, the end of the Pleistocene brought a significant rise in sea levels and changes in environmental and climatic conditions, specifically affecting the Adriatic coastline (the sea levels at the time of the Last Glacial Maximum were about 100 meters lower than today). This affected the Istrian region in particular, as it opened a natural passage (the Great Adriatic Plane) connecting it to its Italian counterpart. This paper presents an overview of the current state of investigation and outlines several research questions to explore in future work planned as a part of the new project funded by the Croatian Science Foundation (grant no. IP-2019-04-7821). Main aims are to better understand human behavior in Istria during the Upper Palaeolithic, and to compare it to adjacent regions (e.g. Italy, Dalmatia etc.) in order to see how the changes in climate and floral/faunal communities affected lifeways and contact zones of late Pleistocene hunter-gatherers. New excavations, as well as detailed analyses of already available collections through various types of analyses of both cultural and biological material will provide a much more detailed view than previously available.

## 7 RE-ASSESSING THE LITHIC VARIABILITY AND CULTURAL GEOGRAPHY OF FINAL PALAEO-LITHIC AND EARLY MESOLITHIC EUROPE

**Abstract author(s):** Matzig, David - Hussain, Shumon - Riede, Felix (Aarhus University)

**Abstract format:** Oral

The Final Palaeolithic is often said to signify a consequential departure from the developed European Upper Palaeolithic and its pan-continental techno-complexes, spawning a heterogeneous and regionalized landscape of small-scale taxonomic units. While there is a long tradition of focused regional research perspectives in archaeology, trans-regional syntheses to question this supposed process of cultural diversification have rarely been attempted or successful, as they have traditionally required a great deal of abstraction from primary or even secondary data sources and an epistemologically informed approach which is often missing and only partly developed. With more and more computational approaches finding their way into archaeology and the push towards Open Science, the task of tackling this problem has both become pressing and considerably more realistic.

We here present the preliminary results of an archaeological meta-analysis focused on the relationship between the proposed cultural taxonomic units of the European Final Palaeolithic, testing their underlying morphological similarities and differences by using geometric morphometric shape analysis on lithic point-types from selected key-sites all over Europe. We provide first insights into