

## 4 NEANDERTALS, MODERN HUMANS, SAINTS: RECENT RESEARCH AT ROMUALD'S CAVE, ISTRIA, CROATIA

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**Abstract format:** Oral

Romuald's cave in Istria is a well known archaeological site that was visited by many for different reasons. According to the legend, it was a place where St. Romuald lived for several years around the year 1000, which caused numerous visits by pious inhabitants of the regions in the past. However, archaeological excavations provided evidence that the cave was visited since the Pleistocene. A Mousterian sequence testifies that the site was visited by Neandertals, while the upper layers yielded material from (most likely) two different phases of the Upper Palaeolithic. This is also supported by the recent discovery of the Palaeolithic cave paintings in the main channel of the cave. Here we present an overview of preliminary analysis of archaeological, zooarchaeological, anthropological, genomic, and other of data from the site that will provide a more detailed insight into the site use and behavior of the Pleistocene hunter-gatherers in the region. The research was supported by the Croatian Science Foundation (grants no. UIP-11-2013-7789 and IP-2019-04-7821, PI: Ivor Janković) and the University of Vienna "Mineralogical Preservation of the Human Biome from the Depth of Time (MINERVA)" Research Platform, (PI: Ron Pinhasi).

## 5 A CRITICAL VIEW OVER THE SEQUENCE OF TABUN CAVE, ISRAEL, AND ITS REFLECTION ON THE LEVANTINE MIDDLE PALEOLITHIC HOMININ POPULATIONS

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**Abstract format:** Oral

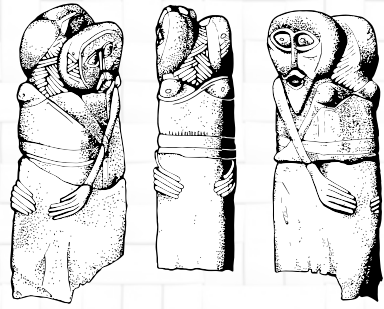
Tabun Cave, Mount Carmel, Israel, constitutes a major landmark in the research of human evolution due to its exceptional long sequence and the presence of several hominin remains within the Middle Paleolithic layers, which are attributed to different hominin populations. Thus, it constitutes one of the key localities to address inter hominin group encounters long before occurring in Europe. The Middle Paleolithic sequence that is commonly addressed through a triple division of three superimposed phases, or type industries – 'Tabun D', 'Tabun C' and 'Tabun B' – is the result of the pioneering work of D.A.E. Garrod between 1929-1934. Even a century after, this "classical" sequence is still considered a reference yardstick for the onset and subsequent proliferation of the Levantine Middle Paleolithic. A. Jelinek's excavations at the site during 1967-1971, already demonstrated the high variations along the sequence and provided a wider perspective that combined behavioral and environmental proxies from layers paralleling Garrod's layers C and D. Nonetheless, high-resolution investigation to better grasp and reconstruct the complexity of hominin populations that roamed Mount Carmel during the Middle Paleolithic, addressing their behavioral patterns, episodes of migration and potential interactions, alongside reconstructing the environmental changes, is still much needed. In this presentation we use the results of our new multi-disciplinary excavation project at the upper part of the sequence, Tabun B, that was not excavated since the 1930s, alongside our on-going work on the materials of former excavations at Tabun, to re-evaluate the complexity of the regional Middle Paleolithic sequence and provide a critical review of what we know and do not know of the various hominin populations at this key site.

## 6 EVIDENCE OF FRESH WATER TURTLE REMAINS IN THE NEANDERTHAL SITE OF BAWA YAWAN ROCKSHELTER, WEST-CENTRAL ZAGROS MOUNTAINS, IRAN

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**Abstract format:** Oral

Four seasons of systematic excavations in the Bawa Yawan rock shelter in the West-Central Zagros Mountains, led to the discovery of five geological layers (GH 1 to 5) with hominin occupations from the Middle to Late Paleolithic periods. The lower part of layer two to five in Bawa Yawan have been associated with Middle Paleolithic cultural materials including lithic artefacts, fauna and a Neanderthal tooth. In this section along with significant remains of a wide range of fauna have been found including various herbivores species such as Large and small mammals like Bovidae antelope, Ovis/Capra or Gazella and Equidae. Among these faunal remains a significance number of fresh-water turtle bones were found as well. These finds in the Bawa Yawan Rockshelter indicate that the Neanderthals beside their

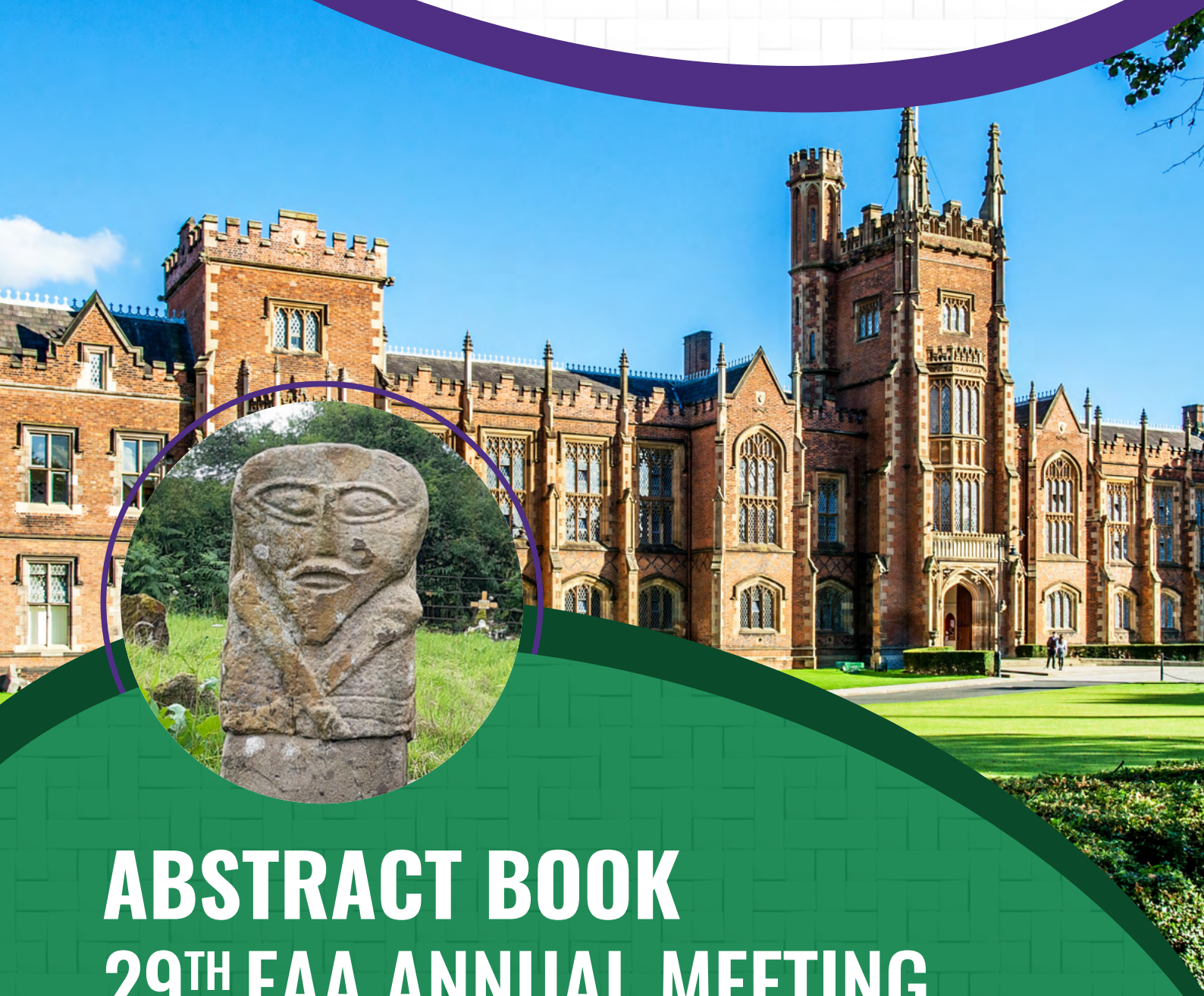


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