



**Séminaire du Master Arts et Cultures de la
Préhistoire et de la Protohistoire
et de l'équipe SMP3C Sociétés et Milieux des
Populations de Chasseurs-Cueilleurs-Collecteurs,
UMR TRACES**

**Cycle « Modernité »
organisé par Nicolas Teyssandier**

Mercredi 13 mai 2015, Salle D31

Maison de la Recherche, Université Toulouse Jean Jaurès

9h30 - Damien Flas, Université de Liège, Belgique

À l'Est, rien de nouveau ? Diversité des débuts du Paléolithique supérieur de l'Europe orientale à l'Asie centrale

10h30 - Lars Anderson, UT2J, UMR 5608 TRACES

Towards a synchronic view of Aurignacian lithic economy: lithic know-how, social group composition, and (eventually) mobility

11h15 - Olaf Jöris¹, Tim Matthies¹, Lisa Schunk¹, Alexander Verpoorte²

¹ MONREPOS Archaeological Research Centre and Museum for Human Behavioural Evolution. Schloss Monrepos, Neuwied, Allemagne ; ² Human Origins Group, Faculty of Archaeology, Leiden University, Pays-Bas

The Late Aurignacian Site of Breitenbach-Schneidemühle (Germany). Results from recent Field-campaigns, 2009-2013

14h - François Bon¹, Romain Mensan¹, Lars Anderson¹, Mathieu Lejay¹ & Hélène Salomon² ¹UT2J, UMR 56608 TRACES ; ²Université de Liège, Belgique)

The Aurignacian open-air campsite of Régismont-le-Haut (Hérault, France)

15h - Mathieu Lejay¹, Farid Sellami¹, Marie Alexis², Romain Mensan¹ & François Bon¹ ¹UMR 5608 TRACES, ² Université Pierre et Marie Curie

Fireplace variability in the Aurignacian: a multiscale analysis at the open-air campsite of Régismont-le-Haut (Hérault, France)

15h30 - Olaf Jöris, MONREPOS Archaeological Research Centre and Museum for Human Behavioural Evolution. Schloss Monrepos, Neuwied, Allemagne

The Origins of Settlement and Society – The Upper Palaeolithic Roots of Modern Human Spatial Behaviour

16h30 - François Bon & Nicolas Teyssandier, UT2J, UMR 5608 TRACES

Discussions et perspectives



Damien Flas, Université de Liège, Belgique

À l'Est, rien de nouveau ? Diversité des débuts du Paléolithique supérieur de l'Europe orientale à l'Asie centrale

En Europe occidentale, la question de la transition du Paléolithique moyen au Paléolithique supérieur, centrée autour de l'étude de la fin du Moustérien, du Châtelperronien et de l'Aurignacien des régions méridionales, a souvent abouti à l'élaboration de modèles liant changement de population et développement du Paléolithique supérieur, modernité biologique et « modernité comportementale », et conduisant ainsi à réduire une problématique pourtant multiple à un choix entre « continuité » ou « remplacement » (avec ou sans acculturation corrélative). Le développement du « Paléolithique supérieur » correspond cependant à des phénomènes variés ayant une géographie très large, pratiquement globale. Cette question gagne donc à être également abordée dans des régions où les données et la recherche sont peut-être moins développées mais qui offrent la possibilité de tester et d'enrichir les hypothèses relatives à cette période très discutée. L'étude des complexes « transitionnels » de certaines de ces régions, qu'il s'agisse du Lincombien-Ranisien-Jerzmanowicien, du Bohunicien, du Streletskyen ou, encore plus loin à l'Est, des industries d'Asie centrale, permet ainsi d'aborder cette problématique d'un point de vue qui pourrait apparaître marginal mais qui est essentiel. En outre, ces régions sont également impliquées dans l'apport de données récentes (biologiques, en particulier génétiques, chronologiques et culturelles) qui conduit à renouveler la discussion autour de la transition du Paléolithique moyen au supérieur.

Lars Anderson, UT2J, UMR 5608 TRACES

Towards a synchronic view of Aurignacian lithic economy: lithic know-how, social group composition, and (eventually) mobility

To date our comprehension of Early Aurignacian lithic economy presents a relatively homogenous image, with variability being a simple function of distance between sites and raw material sources, but in what way is this a reflection of site functions and mobility strategies? And can the exploration of lithic economy bring to light more than these simple distance dependant relationships? In this presentation we will explore how the study of variable skill levels manifest in lithic production can reflect the social composition of groups occupying sites, and how, in conjunction with prudent use of the ethnographic record, this information can ultimately be useful for reconstructing the dominant types of mobility practised by prehistoric hunter-gatherers. Finally, preliminary results from the study of Champ-Parel 3 (Dordogne, France) will be used as a case study as we reflect upon the possibly dominant mobility strategies seen in the Early Aurignacian of South-West France.

Olaf Jöris¹, Tim Matthies¹, Lisa Schunk¹, Alexander Verpoorte²

1

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The Late Aurignacian Site of Breitenbach-Schneidemühle (Germany). Results from recent Field-campaigns, 2009-2013

Whilst the earliest evidence for complex internal organization of sites is documented in the European Mid-Upper Palaeolithic (i.e. the Gravettian), the preceding Aurignacian is predominantly known from cave sites, where finds are deposited within and according to the given space of the natural rock formations. In this respect, the large-extent Late Aurignacian open-air site of Breitenbach (Saxony-Anhalt, Germany) is an exception and provides a unique opportunity for detailed studies into the complexity of Early Upper Palaeolithic land-use and site organization. Early excavations at the site ran in the late 1920's indicated the great potential of this site by revealing spatial patterns that resemble those of the large and complex-structured Gravettian open-air sites of Eastern Central Europe.

Since 2009 new excavations at Breitenbach have been run jointly by the MONREPOS Archaeological Research Centre and Museum for Human Behavioural Evolution, the Faculty of Archaeology of Leiden University and the Cultural Heritage Department of Saxony-Anhalt (LDA) with the aim to explore the site over its wider spatial extent. Aside a range of other spatial features, in 2012/13 a distinct area for processing mammoth ivory was documented that differs significantly from other areas previously

encountered at the site. The preliminary results of our new fieldwork and its implications on understanding Early Upper Palaeolithic spatial behaviour and land-use will be discussed.

Keywords: Early Upper Palaeolithic, Spatial Behaviour, Settlement organization, Features, Posthole, Mammoth Ivory Working.

François Bon¹, Romain Mensan¹, Lars Anderson¹, Mathieu Lejay¹ & Hélène Salomon² ¹ UT2J, UMR 56608 TRACES ; ² *Université de Liège, Belgique*

The Aurignacian open-air campsite of Régismont-le-Haut (Hérault, France)

Régismont-le-Haut (Hérault, France) counts among the rare open-air Aurignacian campsites in southwestern France having both spatially conserved activity areas and explicit traces of a constructed living space. This minimally disturbed single habitation occupies two perpendicular paleochannels, whose geometry separates the site into two main zones. Throughout its excavation numerous combustion structures (27), all being surrounded by differentially diffuse archaeological material, have been discovered within the two paleochannels. The density and nature of archaeological materials, the character and location of the hearths, and their association with features indicating a possibly structured living space (in particular possible post-holes and associated wedging stones), have allowed us to characterize the two zones. The first contains several polyvalent units, which we interpret as a domestic zone. The second contains several structures having seemingly specialized purposes, including a probable bison primary butchery area and several ochre processing and use areas, which we thusly interpret as a multi-function workshop zone. The fact that all of the material is encased in a single occupation surface, along with the seeming coherence and complementarity between the various structures and zones, pleads in favor of a single episode of occupation, likely in the form of a relatively large seasonal residential campsite.

Mathieu Lejay¹, Farid Sellami¹, Marie Alexis², Romain Mensan¹ & François Bon¹ ¹ UMR 5608 TRACES, ² Université Pierre et Marie Curie

Fireplace variability in the Aurignacian: a multiscale analysis at the open-air campsite of Régismont-le-Haut (Hérault, France)

Through the study of several contemporary fireplaces at the Aurignacian open-air site of Régismont-le-Haut we will distinguish differences in the function and operation of a common-place form of archaeological vestige. To achieve this goal we rely on multiscale examination of hearths, which consists of classic planimetric and stratigraphic observation coupled with both micromorphological and geochemical analyses. Results are also compared with experimental hearths analyzed using the same methodology. Experimental data shows clear microscopic and geochemical variations that correlate with types of fuel used in fireplaces. These variations are equally seen in archaeological samples (while controlling for post-depositionnal processes), which highlight whether wood or bone were used as fuel. Regarding the question of rhythms of use, our observations of thermo-altered sediments highlight the maximal intensity of fire, but not fire length or possible reutilizations. The lack of in situ residues, such as charcoal or ash lenses, makes the study of rubefied sediment limited in regards to the chronology of fireplace use. Along with technological and spatial analysis of artifacts, these results allow us to identify strong differences between areas organized around fireplaces. The complementarity of these areas has a structuring effect on their variability, demonstrating the complex nature of the site.

Olaf Jöris, MONREPOS Archaeological Research Centre and Museum for Human Behavioural Evolution. Schloss Monrepos, Neuwied, Allemagne

The Origins of Settlement and Society – The Upper Palaeolithic Roots of Modern Human Spatial Behaviour

Modern Human behaviour is organised at distinct spatial levels. Humans create “spatial systems” to organise their relations, interactions and transactions. Such systems are inherent to all our actions. This spatiality shapes the organisation from the small scale of households, the most elemental socio-economic units, to any type of settlement, including modern Mega-cities. The different modes of spatial organisation are directly linked to super-ordinate land use patterns that derive from our distinctively human spatial behaviour. Palaeolithic Archaeology can document spatial signatures left from past

activities at the highest resolution, allowing archaeologists to identify different expressions of spatial behaviour. These can include traces of ephemeral activities or patterns resulting from a more permanent structuring of space over a certain period of time. Whilst the spatial signatures left by Lower and Middle Palaeolithic archaic hominins are interpreted as due to ephemeral activities, it is not before the beginning of the European Upper Palaeolithic that modern human spatial behaviour is varied with a plethora of spatial expressions beyond ephemerality alone. This new form of structuring of sites and territories is interpreted as a modern human invention reflecting novel conventions in spatial organisation. Until today our lives are governed by this spatiality. Nevertheless, the consequences of this “revolution of spatial behaviour” have yet not been fully explored.

The origins and evolutionary advantages of this latter type of behaviour remain, however, entirely unknown. Here, we seek to investigate these origins during a period, when early Modern Human populations were about to establish all over Europe in the early Upper Palaeolithic. Using a diachronic approach we will investigate whether this spatial behaviour co-evolved in parallel with or facilitated new forms of social organisation and cultural performance, ultimately asking for the roots of our human ‘behavioural setup’.

Keywords: European Upper Palaeolithic settlement, spatiality and “spatial systems”, spatial analyses, GIS, Breitenbach, Gönnersdorf, Niederbieber.