

LOWER PALAEOLITHIC ACROSS TIME AND SPACE: what we are talking about?

Marta Arzarello* & Marie-Hélène Moncel**

*Università degli Studi di Ferrara, Dipartimento Studi Umanistici, Sezione di Scienze Preistoriche e Antropologiche - C.so Ercole I d'Este 32 - 44121 Ferrara (IT).

marta.arzarello@unife.it

**Muséum national d'histoire naturelle, DR CNRS - UMR 7194 Département Hommes et Environnement - 1 Rue René Panhard - 75013 Paris (FR). marie-helene.moncel@mnhn.fr

The Lower Palaeolithic is commonly considered as a long period, from the earliest evidences of a lithic production (at around 3.3 Ma) to the apparition of the Levallois core technology (at around 0,3 Ma). Different Hominins (*Australopithecus*, *Homo habilis*, *Homo rudolfensis*, *Homo ergaster*, *Homo erectus*, *Homo heidelbergensis*...) existed together or successively as well as several “cultural traditions” (for instance Oldowan and Acheulean). If we also consider the geographical extension, different Lower Palaeolithic expressions existed in Africa, Asia and Europe. According to countries, what is described as the Lower Palaeolithic differs as well.

Starting from this idea of mosaic features, the session “LOWER PALAEOLITHIC ACROSS TIME AND SPACE: what we are talking exactly about?”, organized by the “Lower Palaeolithic” UISPP commission, aims to investigate the variability of the Lower Palaeolithic across time and space raising questions such as: (1) were there common trends through the whole Lower Palaeolithic?; (2) what is the degree of influence of the raw materials in the Lower Palaeolithic variability?; (3) can we define a cultural tradition if related to different Hominins?; (4) can we identify phenomena of convergence during the Lower Palaeolithic?