



## **UISPP 2020 MEKNES - EVOLUTION OF THE HUMAN SOCIETIES OF PREHISTORY TO PROTOHISTORY**

### **Session Proposal**

### **RECONSTRUCTING SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL DYNAMICS FROM THE SAHARA TO MEDITERRANEAN AFRICA DURING THE HOLOCENE**

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In the framework of the general theme proposed by the UISPP for its 19<sup>th</sup> World Congress, the Commission “Art and Civilisations of the Sahara during Prehistoric Times” intends to focus on human groups and societies during the Holocene, in the vast territory ranging from the Sahara to the Mediterranean coast, and from the Atlantic Ocean to the Red Sea. The aim of this session is to emphasize the possibilities of reconstructing Holocene socio-economic and cultural dynamics through new approaches in anthropological theory, landscape surveys, excavation of open-air and cave sites, and in the analysis of rock art contexts. Particular attention will be devoted to the ways in which the archaeological record can provide information that are relevant to the sphere of social groups. Dynamics of change that started at the beginning of the Holocene can be reconstructed by combining different theoretical and scientific approaches in the investigation of domestic, funerary and ritual contexts, economic activities, technological innovations, which can draw inferences about socio-economic structures, demography, symbolic, and identity behaviours.

We particularly welcome the participation of colleagues working on palaeoeconomic reconstructions; analysis of ceramics and lithics; demographic modelling; DNA analysis; bioarchaeological and food-related studies; mobility and identity; complexity and power. Rock art contributions will integrate such information, providing the first representations of individuals in a societal framework. We welcome not only reconstructions of socio-economic and cultural dynamics applied to freshly excavated materials/samples, but also those that use legacy data.

As we did for the sessions organized by our Commission for the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> UISPP Congresses respectively held in Burgos (2014) and Paris (2018), it is our intention to publish the proceedings of this session as a special issue volume in an international peer-reviewed journal.

Our UISPP Commission also intends to offer a scholarship to one M.A. or Ph.D. student from an African country who wishes to present a paper in this session, to cover travel and accommodation expenses. Information about the application procedure will follow.

### **Organizers and contact**

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