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**Megaliths, landscapes and social complexification across Europe and Africa: comparative analysis of contextualized processes**

*Megalithic structures in Europe and Africa are widely spread, both in space and in time. The label "megalithic" often covers many different construction techniques (from standing stones to corbel vaulted chambers), many different types of monument (from menhirs to stone circles and passage graves) and several different functions (from burials to domestic or ceremonial enclosures). Such structures nonetheless seem to emerge in association with processes of social complexification (including early farming, the dawn of metallurgy or other analogous changes). Discussion of the processes related to these structures within Europe has produced an extensive bibliography. Comparative studies across the Mediterranean, however, and in relation to processes within Africa, have received less attention, despite research projects highly relevant to both of these. This session aims to assess regional networks of megalithic structures, which may allow comparisons and insights into possible inter-regional contacts. It may also allow the anthropological assessment of characteristics across time and space that relate to varying economic, technological and symbolic contexts, as well as identifying similar processes of social complexification.*