

Hunter-Gatherers in the Late Glacial World. What do we know exactly?

Hunting and gathering societies are traditionally seen as groups with a fairly uniform, unvarying lifestyle, largely in tune with environmental conditions. However, many recent studies of various manifestations of their activity, ranging from subsistence strategies, lithic production, raw materials exploitation to mobility show remarkable degrees of change under the rapidly fluctuating climate and environmental conditions of the Late Glacial in Northern Eurasia.

More and more accurate results from paleobiological, geochemical and physicochemical research allow us to study relationships between environmental variables and human responses quite precisely. Using sophisticated methods, i.e. aDNA, ZOOMs, stable isotopes measurements and mathematical modelling we can observe in more detail processes such as migration (both humans and animals), subsistence systems, dietary reconstruction, resources exploration and seasonality. The optimists define this state as “Third Science Revolution” (Kristiansen 2014), while the pessimists label it as „correlation limitation” (David 2019). So, where do we see ourselves as researchers interested in Late Glacial hunter-gatherers ways of life on the Northern Eurasia? How should we participate in this discussion? What do our results indicate? How will all these methods help us to better understand prehistoric hunter-gatherers? Who they were? How they lived? How their network systems functioned?

We would like to invite people working on these subjects to present their newest research, to discuss the current state of Late Palaeolithic archaeology and possible future directions of development.