

Hunters and farmers from both margins: Debating Mediterranean intercontinental connections during the early and middle Holocene

Palaeolithic; Mesolithic; Neolithic; Cultural relationship; mobility

Abstract

Contacts between northern Africa and southern Europe during the late Palaeolithic, the Mesolithic and the Neolithic was a usual topic of archaeological research in the early twentieth century, albeit it was usually viewed from a Eurocentric, colonial, perspective. However, since the 1960's it has lost the central role in Mediterranean Holocene Prehistory due to new chronometric tools - made available by the 14C revolution - but also to ideological issues related to the decolonization of northern Africa. It is only in the last years that, following the dramatic increase in the archaeological knowledge of northern African Prehistory, new debates have been opened, particularly on topics such as the African influence in the spread of the Neolithic along the western Mediterranean

This session intends to discuss contacts and reciprocal influences between the late Pleistocene and Holocene hunter-gatherers and early farmers of both sides of the sea. Historiographic approaches will also be welcome.