

Patterns and causes of spatial and temporal variability during the Middle Paleolithic

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Is the Middle Paleolithic a period of comparative stasis, one of substantial spatial-temporal change or both depending on the case studies one chooses? What factors led to variability at shifting spatial, temporal and demographic scales of analysis? This session exams patterns of technological variability and variability in subsistence, social organization and settlement dynamics over the course of the Middle Paleolithic with the goal of identifying meaningful patterns that will allow us to better understand the diverse lifeways of late archaic hominins. What was it about the populations of late archaic hominins that allowed them to occupy vast areas of Eurasia at different population densities and practicing different forms of subsistence?. What aspects of technological, economic and social organization led to the observable settlement dynamics and patterns of spatial-temporal stasis and change? This session will consider which aspects of the archaeological record of late archaic hominins reflect commonalities among Middle Paleolithic lifeways and what factors dictated the diverse record of intra-site, regional and interregional cultural variability and change.