Prehistoric occupations on river archives

Telmo Pereira∗1,2,3,4,5, Proença Cunha∗6, Sara Curá§1,3,4,7, David R. Bridgland¶8, and Mark White¶9

1Instituto Politécnico de Tomar – Portugal
2Universidade Autónoma de Lisboa – Portugal
3Instituto Terra e Memória – Portugal
4Centro de Geociências, Universidade de Coimbra – Portugal
5UNIARQ, Faculdade de Letras, Universidade de Lisboa – Portugal
6Universidade de Coimbra, MARE – Marine and Environmental Sciences Centre, Departamento de Ciências da Terra – Portugal
7Museu de Arte Pré-Histórica de Mação (MAP) - Site web Lg. Infante D. Henrique, 6120-750 Mação – Portugal
8Department of Geography, Durham University – United Kingdom
9Department of Archaeology, Durham University – United Kingdom

Abstract

Fossilized and active river deposits cover major areas of the continental surface of the Planet. These deposits hold some of the most relevant keys of the human past. Since they are abundant, scaled and stratified they represent one of the richest archives of ancient human records. Despite many of the assemblages are not pristine, their position in the original geological and geomorphological context make them reliable to infer human occupation. Often, the combination of fluvial, colian and volcanic dynamics allows the preservation of remarkable human behavior. It is possible to understand with great accuracy the formation processes of these sites. This can be achieved, namely, by integrating independent disciplines, methods, and techniques such as archaeology, geomorphology and sedimentology and absolute dates. Ultimately, it is also possible to infer with great detail the reliability and meaning of the prehistoric record. In this session, we will gather researchers working on fluvial and alluvial deposits to refine approaches, protocols, and methodologies in the scope of human and environmental past for the remaining 21st Century.

Keywords: Prehistory, Fluvial deposits, Human record, River archive

∗Speaker
†Corresponding author: telmojrpereira@gmail.com
‡Corresponding author: pcunha@dct.uc.pt
§Corresponding author: 0saracura0@gmail.com
¶Corresponding author: d.r.bridgland@durham.ac.uk
∥Corresponding author: mark.white@durham.ac.uk