



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Formation and evolution of the Caucasian Neolithic(s): common background or heterogeneity?

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Abstract

Research carried out on the formation of a Neolithic way of life over the last 30 years has raised many questions about the paths followed by Caucasian Neolithic communities to come into being. Full-fledged agricultural and herding practices have been evidenced on all the sites so far excavated in the South Caucasus from the very beginning of the Neolithic era (ca. 6200-6000 BCE), suggesting that the adoption of Neolithic subsistence practices may correspond to some kind of knowledge transfer from elsewhere, possibly from Western Iran or Mesopotamia. But what was the part played by local Mesolithic groups? Is it possible to make out different paths leading to formation of the South Caucasian Neolithic or is there a "common cultural background" inherited from the Mesolithic period? The aim of the present workshop will be to address the processes underlying the development of the Caucasian Neolithic way of life, and as well as to reassess the significance of the "Aratashen-Shulaveri-Shomu" cultural complex in the light of the data accumulated over the last decades.

Keywords

Neolithic, Southern Caucasus, Mesolithic transition, Aratashen-Shulaveri-Shomu, cultural background

Program

1) "Mesolithic-Neolithic transition: what links?"

Authors: Yohihiro Nishiaki-coordinator (The University Museum, The University of Tokyo) - Other participants to be confirmed

2) "Exploitation of faunal and flora resources in the South Caucasus during the Neolithic"

Authors: Rémi Berthon-coordinator (Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, UMR 7209 AASPE), Alexia Decaix-coordinator (GeoArchEon, UMR 7209 AASPE) - Other participants to be confirmed

3) "Neolithic lithic industries of the Caucasus"

Authors: Denis Guilbeau-coordinator (Conservateur du Patrimoine, UMR 8068 TEMPS), Laurence Astruc-coordinator (CNRS, UMR 7041 ArScAn) ; participants to be confirmed: Yoshihiro Nishiaki (The University Museum, The University of Tokyo) and Judith Thomalsky (Deutsches Archäologisches Institut)

4) "The 'Aratashen-Shulaveri-Shomu culture': a chronology and significance of a chrono-cultural concept from the point of view of ceramic assemblages"

Authors: Catherine Marro-coordinator (CNRS, UMR 5133 Archorient) ; participants: Valeh Alakbarov (Azerbaijan National

Academy of Sciences), Armine Harutyunyan (National Academy of Sciences of Armenia, Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography), Giulio Palumbi (CNRS, UMR 7264 CEPAM) ; participants to be confirmed: Mark Iserlis (Deutsches Archäologisches Institut)

5) “Food processing and storage systems”

Authors: Catherine Marro-coordinator (CNRS, UMR 5133 Archéorient), Emmanuel Baudouin-coordinator (University Paris Nanterre, UMR 8068 TEMPS); participants to be confirmed: Caroline Hamon (CNRS, UMR 8215 Trajectoires)

6) “Architecture in the South Caucasus: technical practices, regional variations and settlement dynamics”

Authors: Emmanuel Baudouin-coordinator (University Paris Nanterre, UMR 8068 TEMPS); participants confirmed: Ruben Badalyan (National Academy of Sciences of Armenia, Department of Early Archaeology), Yoshihiro Nishiaki (The University Museum, The University of Tokyo), Bérengère Pérello (CNRS, UMR 5133 Archéorient), Shizuka Miyai (The University Museum, The University of Tokyo); participants to be confirmed: Andrea Ricci (UFG-Kiel)

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