



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

ZooStan - Establishment of a French-Central Asian Archaeozoological Center, challenge and solutions.

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Abstract

In May 2024, we established the Archaeozoological Center for the Study of Central Asia, IRL ZooStan—a joint laboratory between the French National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS) and Al-Farabi Kazakh National University (KazNU) in Almaty, Kazakhstan. Our center examines the adaptive strategies developed by human societies to exploit their environment through the prism of human-animal relations (archaeozoology) in Central Asia from the Middle Pleistocene to the Holocene. We lead excavations and archaeozoological researches in five countries, along with conducting laboratory work for cementum and ZooMS (Zooarchaeology by Mass Spectrometry) analyses.

Beyond our research objectives, we aim to train a new generation of bioarchaeological scientists in Central Asia. However, the establishment of a new facility in the region faces numerous challenges, particularly logistical, administrative, and ethical. Our presentation aims to address these specific issues and to present the solutions we have developed to tackle them.

Keywords

archaeozoology, organization, international cooperation

Session

6. Life and death: Human behaviour and practices

Workshop

A16697MM - Development in South West Asia (SWA) of local initiatives in bioarchaeological practices and trainings.

Type of paper

Oral presentation