Upper Palaeolithic subsistence strategies

Keywords: Hunter-gatherers, Pleistocene, lithic technology, tool typology, taphonomy, animal remains

Main Organizer: Jarosław Wilczyński

Institute of Systematics and Evolution of Animals, Polish Academy of Science, Poland

Co-Organizer: György Lengyel

Hungarian National Museum, Hungary

Abstract:

The relationship between humans and the environment over the past tens of thousands of years has been complex and mostlyshaped by the responses of Upper Palaeolithic societies to dynamic climatic fluctuations. The Upper Palaeolithic archaeological record showed that the human subsistence strategy in continental Europe was operated involving various prey animals such as cave bear,mammoth , horse, and reindeer.indicating a persistence adaptation to shifts in environment and game availability, which was an essential foundation of Pleistocene hunter-gatherer survival.

Regional variations in game availability reveal a broadening of diet among foraging groups, and reflect a spectrum of survival strategies from opportunistic behaviors to highly specialized forms of subsistence.

This session aims to explore the adaptive capabilities of hunter-gatherer communities facing environmental change and to address whether narrow hunting specialization indicates abundance or scarcity of resources, or whether it results from other factors such as settlement structure or seasonality.

We invite contributions from researchers working in archaeology and archaeozoology throughout the lenses of lithic analyses, taphonomy, isotope studies, and settlement networks from Eurasia and beyond.