



WORKSHOP

“ Current approaches and new directions in lithic analysis: defining, identifying and interpreting variability”

Workshop date and venue:

From Thursday 29 September, 2.30pm until Saturday 1 October, 1pm

McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research, Seminar Room

Contact: Alice Leplongeon - amgl2@cam.ac.uk

Abstract: This workshop aims to review and discuss the ways researchers in prehistoric archaeology approach lithic assemblages, particularly regarding issues related to describing, quantifying, comparing and interpreting variability in lithic assemblages during the Late Pleistocene/early Holocene. In recent years, multidisciplinary approaches have been applied to the study of stone tools, which besides “traditional approaches” have borrowed tools and methods from social or computing sciences (typo-technological approach, attribute analysis, controlled experiments to better understand the mechanism of fractures of the stone, 3D scanning of artefacts, geometric morphometrics, use of multivariate statistical tests, etc.). However, the use of these very different methods has sometimes contributed to impede communication between researchers as well as comparisons between stone tool assemblages. It has therefore become critical to increase communication between stone tool analysts. The main objective of this workshop is therefore to bring together researchers applying different methods and to provide a platform for them to present their methods and exchange ideas on how to best characterise and interpret variability in lithic assemblages.

This workshop is organised in the frame of the European Union Programme Horizon 2020, Marie Skłodowska-Curie Project PleisTechnoVar (grant no 655459) and has received funding from the D M McDonald Grant and Award Fund.

WORKSHOP SCHEDULE: "Current approaches and new directions in lithic analysis: defining, identifying and interpreting variability"

Thursday 29 September

14.00-14.30

Arrival of participants: coffee, tea and biscuits

14.30-14.45

Introduction, objectives of the workshop

Session 1 - Intra-assemblage / intra-site variability (1st part)

14.45-16.00 **Gema Chacon**

Istitut Catala de Paleoecologia Humana i Evolucio Social (IPHES), Tarragona

Technological behaviors from a spatio-temporal perspective: the interpretation of the lithic variability at the Abric Romaní Middle Paleolithic site (Barcelona, Spain)

Mae Goder- Goldberger

Ben Gurion University, Beer Sheva

A fresh look at Boker Tachtit following renewed excavations: Intra-site lithic variability, technological changes and the onset of the Upper paleolithic in the Levant

Discussion

16.00-16.20

Tea / coffee break

16.20-18.00 **Erella Hovers**

Hebrew University of Jerusalem

title tbc; Intra-assemblage variability: a case study of attribute analysis and refitting

Ceri Shipton

British Institute in Eastern Africa, Nairobi; University of Cambridge

"One trench, thirty thousand lithics" - sampling and analytical strategy

Discussion

19.30-22.00

Dinner at the Riverside Restaurant

Friday 30 September

Session 1 - intra-assemblage / intra-site variability (2nd part)

09.00-10.20	Hermine Xhaufclair <i>University of Cambridge</i>	Is the shape of SE Asian denticulates intentional or fortuitous? How traceology sometimes challenges the conclusions of typo-technology.
	Giuseppina Mutri <i>University of Cambridge</i>	What is this bladelet for? Integrated techno-functional interpretation of a stone tool life
	Stéphanie Bonilauri <i>Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Paris, UMR CNRS 7194</i>	Variability(ies) of lithic industries from Middle Paleolithic : question of scales and methodologies. Focus on an area (the Levant), a site (Umm el Tlel), a complexe / assemblage (levalloiso-mousterian), a methodology (techno-functional). Example of an intra-assemblage / site variability.

Discussion

10.20-10.50

Tea / coffee break

Session 2 - intra-regional variability (1st part)

10.50-13.00	Marta Arzarello <i>Università degli Studi, Ferrara</i>	How a methodology influences the interpretation of a lithic assemblage? Some examples from Lower and Middle Paleolithic of Italy
	Marie Hélène Moncel <i>Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Paris, UMR CNRS 7194</i>	Question of variability of lithic assemblages: the study cases of the Acheulean in the Centre of France and the Middle Palaeolithic of the Rhone Valley
	Shannon McPherron <i>Max Planck Institute, Leipzig</i>	Building Large Attribute Databases of Middle Paleolithic Lithics: Possibilities, Problems, and Perspectives

Discussion

13.00-14.00

Lunch break - sandwiches served at the McDonald Institute

Friday 30 September

Session 2 - intra-regional variability (2nd part)

14.00-15.15 **Knut Bretzke**
University of Tübingen
Leore Grosman
Hebrew University of Jerusalem

3D approaches for capturing, studying and visualising variability

Lithics in 3-D: Methods and Applications

Discussion

15.15-15.45 *Tea / coffee break*

Session 3 - inter-regional variability

15.45-18.00 **Alice Leplongeon**
University of Cambridge
Eleanor Scerri
University of Oxford
Gilbert Tostevin
University of Minnesota
Huw Groucutt
University of Oxford

Testing the Late Pleistocene (25-15ka) Back-to-Africa hypothesis using the archaeological record: contribution and limits of a comparative lithic analysis

Understanding and using multivariate methods to understand variability in lithic reduction methods: from experimental to archaeological application

Refits, Attributes, and Analytical Choices in Studying Lithic Technology

Beyond NASTIES: Alternatives to named stone tool industries

Discussion

18.00-20.30 *Wine reception and finger buffet at the McDonald Institute*

Saturday 1st October

Session 4 - General discussion

09.00-12.00

Summary of the workshop and main discussion points.
Discussants: Eleanor Scerri, Gilbert Tostevin, Erella Hovers and Shannon McPherron
mid-morning coffee/tea break

12.00-12.30

Conclusion of the workshop and perspectives: future publications and/or meetings

From 12.30 *Lunch break at the McDonald Institute - sandwiches to eat inside or take away*