

Call for participants



THE SILICEOUS RAW MATERIALS OF NORTHWESTERN EUROPE: *transnational dialogue on the characterization of raw materials*

Raw material identification and characterization is a prerequisite of any study on prehistoric lithic industries. This allows a better understanding of the issues surrounding the mobility of groups as well as the organization and structure of exchanges networks and thus can prove invaluable indicators of territoriality.

In this perspective, many lithothecas were established over the last decades, scattered all over Europe and often heterogeneous composed. On one hand, they are generally under-used by archaeologists because of their regional character and their lack of accessibility. On the other hand, they do not allow to easily identify the important exogenous raw materials varieties. Nevertheless, the study of the diffusion of siliceous stones over long distances as well as the progress realized these last decades in petro-archaeology, especially thanks to diverse geochemical approaches, have really highlighted the need to form a solid reference collection of raw materials.

While it is obvious that the mobility and the networks of prehistoric exchanges transcend the current borders of our countries, there is at present time no cross-border teaching on the identification and recognition of the siliceous raw materials used in the Prehistory. That is why we wish to take advantage of the EAA 2017 taking place in Maastricht, which is located in a region rich in outcrops of siliceous raw materials, to propose a platform of exchanges on the characterization and identification of flints of the chalk from the North of France to the lower Rhine Valley.

This workshop will be a place of exchange and questioning about the limits of our regional reference collection for the identification of raw materials circulated over long distances. Therefore, it will have two main objectives:

- **From a methodological standpoint**, the objective will be to develop a simple tool highlighting the main criteria of identification of the raw materials in question. This part will thus focus on the outcrops of raw materials and their distinctive characteristics. The participants will bring samples of raw material of their region, stemming from prospecting or from lithothecas, and share the documentary resources (macro and mesoscopic photos) with other participants.
- **From an archaeological standpoint**, the participants can bring archaeological material, of which the origin is unknown or problematic, to compare it with the outcrops samples and, more importantly, to exchange with other foreign researchers. Thanks to this transregional, or cross-border, sharing of our knowledge, we will try to estimate the biases in our perception of the raw materials diffusion networks.

To facilitate the flow of samples as well as the exchanges, **the number of people will be limited**. This workshop will aim at establishing a **transnational dialogue between researchers** on the macro- and mesoscopic characterization of raw materials. **The presence of junior researchers is strongly encouraged**. We wish that this session will be a springboard for a dynamic and long-lasting networking of the researchers of Northwestern Europe.

To participate, please fill in the attached file « Participation form » before the 15th March and register you on <https://www.klinkhamergroup.com/ea2017/sessions/contribution>