



*En Mouvement / On the Move / In Bewegung*  
*Mobilités des hommes, des objets et des idées pendant le Paléolithique supérieur européen*  
*Mobility of people, objects and ideas during the European Upper Palaeolithic*  
*Mobilität von Menschen, Objekten und Ideen im europäischen Jungpaläolithikum*

Actes de la séance commune de la Société préhistorique française et la  
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## On the move – then as now

### *En mouvement – hier comme aujourd’hui*

### *In Bewegung – damals wie heute*

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**S**INCE 2012, the Société préhistorique française and the Hugo Obermaier-Gesellschaft have been associated partner organisations. From the 16<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> of May 2019, we had the opportunity to organise a first joint conference of both societies under the heading ‘On The Move – Mobility of people, objects and ideas between the LGM and the beginning of the Holocene’.

A central focus of the meeting was mobility – whether of people, objects, or ideas – as the backbone of social networks and as a driver for interpersonal communication, exchange and, thus, cultural development. What can be assumed for prehistory also seems valid today. Despite the blessings of technology for long-distance communication, mobility remains a mainstay of interpersonal exchange, including scientific debate. The minimising of borders and overcoming of barriers between different research communities is thus vital for scientific progress. Strasbourg, where the meeting was held, perfectly represents the idea of abolishing barriers and living the Franco-German friendship. We therefore warmly thank our hosts, the Maison Interuniversitaire des Sciences de l’Homme – Alsace (MISHA) and the Archimède Laboratory (UMR 7044, dir. Rose-Marie Arbogast) in Strasbourg for their hospitality and for making this meeting possible.

Individuals, however mobile or well-connected, do not have an infinite range of activities or an infinite number of social contacts. Looking at movements and networks thus also requires us to look at the endpoints of these movements and the fringes of networks. In the

archaeological record, networks can be represented in the spatial distribution of raw materials, shells, tool morphologies, technological choices, or figurative conventions. However, translating spatial information from archaeological finds into meaningful information on prehistoric networks and mobility patterns is neither simple nor straightforward, but requires many assumptions and careful reasoning. During our meeting, these aspects of mobility were addressed from various angles, both theoretical and practical, and from the point of view of different spatial scales. The studies presented were grouped under three topics: territoriality, social networks, and colonisation dynamics. Accordingly, the presentations were organised into three consecutive sessions, each introduced by a key-note lecture.

The first session ‘*Boundaries and margins – territorial aspects of the archaeological record*’ focused on the distribution patterns in the archaeological record that regularly evoke the impression of boundaries. While boundaries were certainly a part of prehistoric reality, their observation can be distorted by biases introduced by taphonomic processes or uneven research intensity. Therefore, it is necessary to make explicit the way these boundaries are inferred and to support the results with complementary data. For a boundary to be indicative of a network border, it should be observable in more than one object category and/or match geographical or other environmental features. Network borders may also be indicative of territorial borders. Territorial areas in hunter-gatherer

societies are usually related to a regional and thus medium spatial scale. Ethnographic observations suggest that the territorial boundary structures of hunter-gatherers differ according to the availability of resources, predicting mutually exclusive territories for the Late Glacial period and overlapping territories for the Holocene. In a synchronous perspective, the session addressed the reliability of the observed boundaries and their implications for possible network and territorial structures from the Last Glacial Maximum (LGM) to the Holocene.

The second session was entitled ‘*Social networks – Intra- and inter-territorial relations*’. While breaks in transport and distribution patterns can make boundaries observable in the archaeological record, inferences with regard to social networks always involve abstraction from the observations. For example, the distribution of concepts as recorded in the shape of artefacts is thought to be indicative of the exchange of ideas and hence, communication. Social networks can be observed on regional as well as on large spatial scales. In the latter case, they become apparent both in objects which regularly testify to remarkably long transportation distances, such as mollusc shells, and in artistic concepts. The resulting patterns often cross other regional boundaries, observable in raw material transport patterns or gaps in site distribution. They thus provide a source of information complementary to the regional-scale signals. As such, they allow for reflection on the notion of cultural globalisation and on the relevance of long-distance comparisons.

The third session, termed ‘*(Re-)Colonisation processes – timing and conduct*’, focused on the resettlement of post-LGM Europe, discussing regional and temporal differences. Understanding the timing and nature of these processes is vital for an understanding of cultural and social development as a whole. Special attention was given to recent findings from palaeodemographic and palaeogenetic research, which provide contextualisation for archaeological observations of boundaries and long-distance communication. Similarities and contradictions between these independent sources of information were discussed.

In this volume, we present the proceedings of the meeting in Strasbourg. The content is organised in a way that does not exactly mirror the structure of the meeting, but rather aims to group individual contributions under common topics and to provide a golden thread that links the different contributions in a consecutive and meaningful way.

The volume opens with a contribution by *Thorsten Uthmeier*, based on his keynote lecture. Acting as a prologue, it gives an introductory overview of concepts of mobility and territoriality in relation to hunter-gatherers and explores their implications for archaeological research.

Against this background, *Vincent Delvigne*, *Paul Fernandes*, *Peter Bindon*, *Raphaël Angevin*, *Audrey Lafarge*, *Mathieu Langlais*, *Damien Pesesse*, and *Jean-Paul Raynal* explore the role of acquisition patterns of lithic raw materials in deducing territories in the Late

Upper Palaeolithic of southern France. Complementing the thoughts of Delvigne et al., *Raphaël Angevin* and *Vincent Delvigne* elaborate on the paradox of ‘fluid territories’ and what this implies for hunter-gatherer archaeology. Moving away from lithic raw materials and into the sphere of personal ornaments, *Caroline Peschaux* discusses the role of seashells in the context of movements and territoriality during the Solutrean and Badegoulian. *Ingmar Braun* then elaborates on portable art from Switzerland and what supra-regional parallels can tell us about contacts and boundaries between people during the Palaeolithic. Bringing the focus to decorated projectile heads, *Claire Lucas* discusses the role of this find category for inferring movement and contact between different groups during the Magdalenian. *Diego Garate*, *Olivia Rivero*, *Iñaki Intxaurbe*, and *Lucía M. Díaz-González*, by contrast, focus on non-portable objects, namely decorated cave walls, and explore regional differences in their reutilisation patterns and potential implications for mobility and territories during the Late Upper Palaeolithic. *Olivier Bignon-Lau*, *Natacha Catz*, *Céline Bemilli*, *Pierre Bodu*, *Stephan Hinguant*, *Jessica Lacarrière*, *Gildas Merceron*, *Cyril Montoya*, and *Clément Paris* direct our attention to animal communities and the palaeoecological implications for the period between the LGM and the Late Glacial. These reflections set the stage for estimates of palaeodemographic development during the Late Palaeolithic in Europe, presented by *Isabell Schmidt*, *Birgit Gehlen*, and *Andreas Zimmermann*.

The volume closes with the contribution by *Boris Valentin*. Likewise based on his keynote lecture, it reflects on the use of several terms central to this meeting, their appropriateness, and what they convey in the archaeological literature, providing a fitting epilogue for the studies presented.

We thank Harald Floss and Jean-Marc Pétilion, the official representatives of the two societies, for their introductory speeches to the conference. We are also grateful to Frédéric Séara for his introductory address, as well as for the scientific and financial assistance given by the Direction Régionale des Affaires Culturelles Grand-Est in the organisation of these two days of scientific debates. The Ethnologie Préhistorique research team (part of the UMR 7041-ArScAn) was also a great support, as was the CIERA, which provided important assistance as part of the program ‘Le Rhin, vecteur de la construction des identités préhistoriques européennes ? Echanges et formations sur l’archéologie paléolithique et les méthodes d’analyse en France et en Allemagne’ (H. Koehler [dir.]).

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