

Session #50

TRACEOLOGY OF BONE ARTEFACTS: STATE OF THE ART AND RESEARCH PERSPECTIVES

Theme:

1. Widening perspectives in material culture studies

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There have been a growing number of traceological studies in recent years focused on artefacts made of osseous raw materials. They address very different research problems. Methodological work is constantly being carried out, aiming to develop an optimal method for the microscopic examination of bone products and precise classification of the technological and functional traces identified on them. Microscopic analysis is widely used for technological research, allowing the reconstruction of the chaîne opératoire of various types of artefacts from the raw materials in question. Complicated functional research is also carried out to interpret ancient bone tools' function. A complimentary aspect of traceological research is the identification of residues on bone tools, which can provide clues as to how various types of organic and inorganic raw materials were processed. These analyses are now carried out not only using optical and metallographic microscopes, but increasingly incorporate more advanced imaging techniques, such as confocal microscopy, micro-CT and OCT. The session we propose is meant to collect the latest research in all mentioned directions and determine the current state of traceological studies on bone products and research prospects for the near future.

Proposed abstracts can be submitted to the session on the following topics:

1. New methods and research tools in traceological studies of bone artefacts.
2. Technological and functional studies on collections of bone products.
3. Taphonomy in the study of ancient bone industries.
4. Residue studies in traceological studies of osseous artefacts.

Presentations in this session are not chronologically or geographically restricted.

Keywords:

traceology, bone, use-wear, technology, taphonomy, residues