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# Cultural border? The Pyrenees during the Pleistocene / Holocene transition

Nicolas Valdeyron<sup>\*†</sup>, Alfonso Alday<sup>\*‡1</sup>, Rafael Domingo<sup>\*2</sup>, Celia Fat Cheung<sup>§</sup>, Xavier Mangado<sup>\*¶3</sup>, Lourdes Montes<sup>\*||2</sup>, Marta Sánchez De La Torre<sup>\*\*\*3,4,5</sup>, and Adriana Soto<sup>\*††1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University of Basque Country – Espagne

<sup>2</sup>Grupo PPVE. IUCA. Universidad de Zaragoza – Espagne

<sup>3</sup>SERP - Universitat de Barcelona – C/ Montalegre 6-8. 08001 Barcelona, Espagne

<sup>4</sup>PPVE - Universidad de Zaragoza – C/ Pedro Cerbuna 12. 50009 Zaragoza, Espagne

<sup>5</sup>Institut de Recherche sur les Archéomatériaux - Centre de Recherche en Physique appliquée à l'Archéologie (IRAMAT-CRP2A) – Université Bordeaux Montaigne, Centre national de la recherche scientifique - CNRS (France) : UMR5060, université Bordeaux Montaigne – Maison de l'Archéologie. Esplanade des Antilles. 33607 Pessac cedex, France

## Résumé

The evaluation of the Pyrenees as a natural and cultural boundary and / or a meeting place between the populations from two slopes has been a widely treated issue, being the subject of various works and projects in recent years. To what extent do the Pyrenees hinder the interaction between communities from both sides? What kinds of relationships are established?

In the present work we address these issues focusing on the Pleistocene / Holocene transition. During this period a series of profound transformations take place in prehistoric societies of Western Europe. These transformations occur in every levels of social organization: economy, technology, symbolic range... Among these changes, it is relatively common the tendency to exploit local resources, showing a lower mobility in contrast to the previous period. Did this regionalization motivate a reduction in inter-Pyrenean contacts? It would encourage the development of different cultural entities resulting from a new territoriality?

After the dismantling of the Magdalenian, it seems that the new reality that conforms in both slopes and surrounding regions, even if common general tendencies are appreciated, presents a wider range of situations. Certainly, in the current state of the art, French and Spanish studies show different cultural developments during the Late Glacial and early Holocene

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\*Intervenant

†Auteur correspondant: valdeyro@univ-tlse2.fr

‡Auteur correspondant: a.alday@ehu.es

§Auteur correspondant: fatcheung.celia@gmail.com

¶Auteur correspondant: mangado@ub.edu

||Auteur correspondant: lmontes@unizar.es

\*\*Auteur correspondant: marta.sanchez-de-la-torre@u-bordeaux-montaigne.fr

††Auteur correspondant: asoto.sebastian@yahoo.es

(ex.Epimagdalenian, Laborian, Azilian, Sauveterrian, Notches and Denticulate Mesolithic ...). In this sense, the archaeological record seems to present the Pyrenees not only as a natural border but also, apparently, as a cultural border. In this paper we address these issues by offering an integrated reading of archaeological data from both sides. We put special attention in the identification of concrete elements (particular arrowheads, raw materials, or other objects as ornaments, shells ...) that could participate in exchange activities. Also in the recognition of different styles, ways to make, that can evaluate technological influences (ideas, technical knowledge...) between regions.

**Mots-Clés:** Pyrenees, Pleistocene/Holocene transition, boundary, exchange