
Lithic resource management dynamics from the Middle Palaeolithic to the Middle Neolithic in northern Hungary: a research project

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Résumé

Natural resource management was a basic questions of adaptation along human history. Our project studies this topic with the focus on lithic raw materials resources within a time frame, from the Middle Palaeolithic to the Middle Neolithic, with important climatic-environmental changes and important economic-cultural changes. The Northern Hungarian Range, belonging to the inner Western Carpathians, is dominantly built up from Mesozoic and Tertiary rocks of sedimentary and volcanic origins. Due to its complicated formation history, there are various geogical formations which contain different types of siliceous rocks. The southern foothill regions of the Northern Hungarian Range, especially the Mátralja and the B'ukkalja areas, are rich in human occupation sites from the Stone Age. Taking into account palaeogeography, settlement strategy, access to raw material source, aptness of raw materials to knapping, and lithic economy, it will be possible to see a diachronic tendency with cultural and natural factors. Our research project use a complexe methodology. All occurences of siliceous rocks will be mapped in the regions by studying geological properties, using Fine-grained Pebble Examination (FPE) method and field surveys. They will be evaluated as raw material sources regarding exploitation possibilities and rock quality. Applying palaeogeographic reconstructions their palaeo-accessibility will be reconstructed for the study periods. Human settlements from the study periodes will be mapped in the study areas using archaeological data and field surveys. The exploited raw material spectrum in an archaeological assemblage will be identified. Based on technological analyses the modes of acquisition and processing of each raw material will be recognized. Due to the application

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of GIS based data processing on geological, geomorphological and archaeological data sets, the modelling of the dynamics of the lithic economy will be undertaken for the study time frame. The role played by the changes in the environmental and the cultural factors will be evaluated. The project is financed from the NRDIFund (K 124334).

Mots-Clés: lithic resources, raw material economy, palaeoaccessibility, Palaeolithic, Neolithic, GIS