
Multiple mobility patterns during the Late Pleistocene (Late Upper Paleolithic-Late Epipaleolithic) in the Near East and multiple ways to interpret them: Methodological considerations on a complex cultural evolution

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Résumé

The topic of mobility and settlement patterns has been particularly developed since the 1970s in the early prehistory of the Near East. Between 25,000 - 12,000 (uncal.) BP, corresponding to the Late Upper Paleolithic and the Epipaleolithic, the Near East witnessed numerous settlements. These have allowed scholars to reconstruct several mobility patterns, from whole communities movements to aggregation sites to sedentism. Yet various questions may arise from these interpretations: is sedentism at Ohalo II similar to that during the Natufian? Is Kharaneh IV a true aggregation settlement? What kind of sites are 'Ein Gev I, Neve David, 'Uyun al-Hammam? Drawing from the available data published in the literature this contribution re-interprets the diversity and evolution of settlements systems and mobility patterns within a novel framework articulating kinship, demography, and mobility.

Mots-Clés: Near East, Late Upper Paleolithic, Epipaleolithic, mobility, settlement patterns

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