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# Environmental changes in Southwestern France during the Late Glacial and their impact on hunter-gatherers' subsistence

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## Résumé

During the Late Glacial, the significant changes in plant communities relating to climate changes were responsible for faunal recompositions perceptible throughout Europe. In Southwestern France, at the end of the GI1e, the reindeer disappears and prey such as red deer or ibex were more regularly hunted by Upper Magdalenian people and later on by Azilian groups. New radiocarbon dates done on key Palaeolithic faunal species in the framework of the Magdatis project (dir. Pétilion, Laroulandie) and a Fyssen project (dir. Costamagno) show that the reindeer disappears from southwestern France at ca. 13,800 cal BP and that, as soon as GI-1e, the natural range of that species began to fragment. By the end of GI-1e, only residual reindeer populations remained in the Perigordian area (Costamagno *et al.* 2016). Continuously present in the southwest of France, red deer remained rare until the end of the HS1 Event. At this period, the western part of the Pyrenean chain provides favourable conditions for the expansion of this species. In this presentation, we will focus on these results to understand how, at a local scale, the environmental changes of the Late Glacial impacted the hunter-gatherers' subsistence in the North Aquitaine and the Pyrenean foothills. First, the relative abundance of the different mammal species found in the assemblages from the

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\*Intervenant

Middle Magdalenian, Upper Magdalenian, and Azilian will be presented to see what species were preferentially targeted in each area. The scheduling of the hunting as well as the game processing techniques will be discussed to evaluate to what extent these climatic changes drove human societies, particularly their relationships to their prey but also their mobility. COSTAMAGNO S., BARSHAY-SZMIDT C., KUNTZ D., LAROULANDIE V., PETIL-LON J.-M., BOUDADI-MALIGNE M., LANGLAIS M., MALLYE J.-B., CHEVALLIER A., 2016.- Reexamining the timing of reindeer disappearance in southwestern France in the larger context of late Glacial faunal turnover, *Quaternary International*, 414, p. 34-61.

**Mots-Clés:** Late Glacial, subsistence, southwestern France