The fact that stone artifacts, and the raw materials from which they were manufactured, were transported by humans in the past is fundamental to archaeological reconstructions of past mobility, land-use, trade and exchange, and many other patterns. Indeed, in many cases, our knowledge on such behaviors would be almost non-existent without this record in stone. Yet reconstructing past artifact transport is not easy on any scale since, archaeologically, all that often remains is a palimpsest of stone materials from related or unrelated transport events.

To address this situation, over the last 20 – 30 years, archaeologists have introduced, applied and refined an increasing number of methods and techniques capable of recognizing lithic transport in different ways. Some of these include geochemical and/or petrographic sourcing, morphometrics, retouch and assemblage composition indices (e.g. GIUR, Cortex Ratio), refitting, and many others.

This has created a fruitful dialogue within, and beyond, archaeology on the material signature(s) of transport, exactly how we might go about reconstructing it, and its place within a broader behavioral context.

With the aim of building on this corpus of research, this session calls for papers dealing with lithic raw material and artifact transport operating at any scale (i.e. intra-site, inter-site, landscape etc.). We encourage participants to submit papers presenting theoretical frameworks and discussions, methodological approaches and techniques, and case studies that illustrate the potential contribution lithic transport research can make towards improving our knowledge on other aspects of past societies worldwide. Finally, we hope this session will
provide a stimulus for further dialogue and exchange among attendees about issues connected to the human transport of stone.