Session 5

Learning the Lithic Landscape: Exploring the Effects of Dispersal, Migration, and Colonization on Lithic Technologies, and Vice Versa

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This session explores how early humans adapted lithic technology to suit the requirements of dispersal, not just exploration but also migration, colonization, and settlement. Sample questions to be addressed include: In what ways were decisions regarding dispersal affected by lithic resources? In respective study areas, how reliable and predictable were lithic resources, and how did these parameters influence human decision-making during the dispersal process? Moreover, how did knowledge of the lithic landscape develop, and how did familiarity lead to modifications in procurement strategies and technological organization? Were there gender correlates, and what about social and ideological consequences? By taking an international perspective, we hope to explore the diversity of cultural solutions to these problems as well as further development of theory and method in the study of early human.