Session 6

The study of Knappable Materials in Historical Contexts. State of the Art and Analytical Perspectives

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Since the beginning of humanity rocks have been used to manufacture artifacts and structures necessary not only to ensure coping with the inhabited environments, but also to fulfill various social and symbolic functions. In historical contexts, the use of rocks has been heterogeneous, both from an artifactual and an architectural point of view. Studies on knappable materials recovered from historic archaeological sites are less frequent, although the variability of raw materials incorporated during this time span is broader; e.g. lithic, bones, glass, stoneware.

The goal of this session is to account for the state of the art on knappable materials’ studies recovered from historical sites. In doing so we will discuss manufacturing techniques, uses, circulation, and social meanings of knapped materials, among them artifacts and/or structures of premodern and modern contexts. Debates on changes and continuities related to the use of knappable materials, theoretical frameworks, methodological approaches and current issues are also encouraged. This will allow for a dialogue and discussion among all those who participate in the session.