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EAA 2025  
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# 31<sup>st</sup> EAA Annual Meeting 2–6 September 2025 Belgrade Virtual

## Abstract Book

### 31<sup>st</sup> EAA Annual Meeting (Belgrade Virtual, 2025) - Abstract Book

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Technical editing: Magdalena Karabáš (EAA)  
Design and layout: Magdalena Karabáš (EAA)  
Cover design: Miross Travel Agency

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<https://www.e-a-a.org>

ISBN: 978-80-88441-10-6  
31st EAA Belgrade Virtual Annual Meeting — Abstract Book (online PDF)

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# Abstracts

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Abstracts are organised according to the ID of the session which they are associated with. Each entry contains the session abstract, followed by the abstracts of related oral presentations and posters. Oral presentations appear in the order they are scheduled in the conference programme, while poster abstracts are listed at the end of each session.



**1220. VARIOUS ASPECTS OF TRANSITION, ASSESSED ON THE BASIS OF EXAMPLES OF CHANGING MEANINGS AND USE OF OCHRE****Contribution format:** Oral**Contribution authors:** Julia Kosciuk-Zalupka (Jagiellonian University)

Ochre has been identified in a variety of archaeological contexts worldwide, suggesting its utilisation across diverse cultural and temporal contexts. Its application encompasses a range of purposes, including its use in burial contexts as grave goods, in the decoration of artefacts (such as e.g. pottery) and in the processing of hides. Therefore, it could be argued that it is a significant cultural factor. It is noteworthy that the patterns of ochre use and its application are subject to change over time, thus facilitating the analysis of cultural behaviours. For the purposes of this presentation, the terrains of the Central and Eastern Balkans and part of the Carpathian Basin during the Mesolithic and Early Neolithic have been selected to illustrate these transitions. Under juxtaposition would be patterns observed at: nine Mesolithic sites, five sites presenting both Mesolithic and Neolithic layers, and 17 of the Starčevo-Körös-Criş cultural horizon. It is interesting to note that during the SCK horizon, the artifact form of the painted pebble with a hollow, which was previously observed to be quite popular at earlier sites, disappears. Furthermore, it appears that the significance of ochre as a grave good increases over time. Furthermore, it is possible to deliberate on the issues of general perception of ochre, its cultural enhanced value and attached meanings based on the observed changes.

**2033. FROM SOCIETY TO ROCKS: CHANGES IN THE LITHIC TRADITIONS OF THE LATE NEOLITHIC TO CHALCOLITHIC IN NORTHEAST IBERIA****Contribution format:** Oral**Contribution authors:** Cynthia González-Olivares (SERP - Universitat de Barcelona | Institut of Archaeology - Universitat de Barcelona | Palarq Foundation)

The Middle Neolithic tradition in the northeast of the Iberian Peninsula has been the subject of numerous studies due to its key role in the network of trade routes for prestigious materials in Western Europe. During the 4th millennium BC, this territory was a center of intense interaction, where objects of high symbolic value were exchanged on a large scale. These exchanges connected the northeast of Iberia with regions such as the south of France, the northwestern Mediterranean, and the Italian peninsula (e.g. Chassey-Lagozza-Cortailloil traditions), promoting fluid communication and a constant flow of goods and knowledge. However, with the arrival of the third millennium BC, this classical tradition underwent some significant changes. In this period, we observe a series of changes in the socio-economic and cultural structures of Neolithic communities. The economy, based on the exchange of prestige materials, facilitated the implementation of new ideologies of power, forms of social organization, and new objects of prestige. Likewise, funeral practices began to reflect external influences, incorporating new foreign elements into their rituals and grave goods. These changes not only affected the symbolic and funerary sphere but also the organization of daily life and the configuration of domestic space. The present study focuses on the detailed analysis of lithic materials from some sixty sites located in the northeast of the Iberian Peninsula. Using a techno-typological approach, the main characteristics of these industries in transition will be examined, identifying the raw materials used and their distribution in both domestic and funerary contexts. This analysis will shed light on the processes of change that marked the transition from the Neolithic to the Chalcolithic, providing a comprehensive view of the transformations that defined the end of an era and the beginning of new social and economic dynamics.

**589. MARKING LANDSCAPES, SHAPING IDENTITY: SHELL BEADS PRODUCTION AND SYMBOLISM ADAPTATION AT ARANGAS CAVE, NORTHERN SPAIN****Contribution format:** Oral**Contribution authors:** Claudia Finocchiaro (University of Cantabria | IIIPC)

The climatic changes marking the transition from the Pleistocene to the Holocene forced late hunter-fisher-gatherers to modify their dwelling patterns and subsistence strategies. Within these dynamics, marine resources, which had already been occasionally exploited during the Upper Palaeolithic, gained increasing importance, becoming a crucial source of sustenance for groups inhabiting the Atlantic coasts. The diversification of food resources was a response to environmental shifts that inevitably influenced other aspects of daily life, including mobility, the perception of the surrounding world, and self-identity—elements expressed by these communities through symbolism and rituals. The sea became a recurrent theme, reflected in artistic expression and funerary practices across the Atlantic coasts of Iberia and France. From this perspective, the study of shells through malacological analyses is fundamental. It not only provides insights into the climatic and environmental conditions in which they developed and their exploitation by these communities, but it may also suggest a symbolic dimension

related to mobility and landscape marking. The transport of shells collected in marine environments to different sites, including inland locations, indicates the construction of networks connecting various places, contributing to the definition of spaces with ritual significance. The selection of specific species reflects aesthetic criteria—such as color, size, and workability—guiding their choice. Shell beads symbolized a connection to the sea, which, as a primary source of sustenance, was further celebrated in funerary contexts, where marine resources adorned the deceased. The site of Arangas, located in the Cantabrian region, with its multi-layered stratigraphy, has allowed for the examination of the evolution of shell beads use and production from the Late Upper Palaeolithic to the Bronze Age. This study provides valuable insights into how these communities responded to climatic and environmental changes by adapting their aesthetic preferences and ritual practices to the use of marine resources.

**1397. CULTURAL TRANSFORMATION AND ADAPTATION IN WESTERN SERBIA DURING 5TH MILLENIUM****Contribution format:** Oral**Contribution authors:** Boban Tripkovic (Faculty of Philosophy, Department of Archaeology, University of Belgrade)

This paper examines the processes of cultural change, social transformation, and environmental adaptation during the 5th millennium in the central Balkans. That is the time of the disappearance of the Vinča cultural style and the emergence of the cultural traditions of Bubanj-Sălkuta, Tiszapolgár, Bodrogkeresztúr, Lengyel, and Lasinja cultures. Cultural changes have most often been explained by migration processes, the collapse of large settlements at the end of the Neolithic, the development of metallurgy, and changing economic practices. Other critical considerations point to internal cultural and technological development, the coexistence of Late Neolithic and Early Eneolithic cultures, the hybridization of cultural traits, and lifestyles that cannot be strictly labeled as Late Neolithic or Early Eneolithic. However, the central Balkans region has a diverse geography that requires contextualizing cultural tradition and transformation into different ecological niches. To what extent did the environment stimulate or constrain the process of cultural transformation and interaction? Based on the selected sites of western Serbia, the context of cultural change will be examined, with a special focus on the role of the wet environment in regional settlement dynamics and material culture development.

**865. TRANSITION FROM THE LATE NEOLITHIC TO EARLY CHALCOLITHIC IN SOUTHEASTERN BULGARIA: THE CASE HADZHIDIMITROVO, YAMBOL REGION****Contribution format:** Oral**Contribution authors:** Viktoria Petrova (National Archaeological Institute and Museum, Bulgarian Academy of Science)

The studies of the transition from the Late Neolithic to the Early Chalcolithic in Southeastern Bulgaria are few. They are related to the study of pottery from an archaeological site or summarizing data for a specific region or microregion. A new contribution to these studies is the results of the study of the pit site Hadzhidimitrovo, located 13 km northwest of Yambol (Bulgaria). The characteristics of its material culture illustrate a gradual development over at least 500–600 years (5350/5300–4750/4730 cal. BC), which covers the entire Late Neolithic period Karanovo IV, and the transition to the Early Chalcolithic. Along with the smooth development, the transition from the Late Neolithic to the Early Chalcolithic in Hadzhidimitrovo also presents some changes related to the location and shaping of the pits. The characteristics of the pottery outline three main accents, which determine its transitional character: simultaneous coexistence of Late Neolithic and Early Chalcolithic traits in the pottery assemblage; combination of Late Neolithic and Early Chalcolithic traits on one pottery vessel, as well as technological and stylistic changes in the ornamentation. The results of the study of the transitional stage to the Early Chalcolithic in Hadzhidimitrovo are also supported by a series of radiocarbon dates. They outline the time interval 4850/4800 – 4750/4730 cal BC, which refines the chronological position of this still poorly known period in the context of prehistoric phenomena in Southeastern Bulgaria and neighboring regions.

**820. INSIDE OUT: MONTE DA PONTE AND THE LARGER CENTRAL ALENTEJO REGION (SOUTHERN PORTUGAL) DURING THE 3RD MILLENNIUM BCE****Contribution format:** Oral**Contribution authors:** Inês Ribeiro (Universidade de Évora, CHAIA, IN2PAST) – António Diniz (Universidade de Évora, CHAIA, IN2PAST | Universidade de Évora, CIDHEUS) – Fábio Jaulino – Catarina Guinot (Universidade de Évora) – João Rocha (TerraWave Innovations, Lda) – Nuno Pereira (TerraWave Innovations, Lda | Instituto Politécnico de Beja) – Leonor Rocha (Universidade de Évora, CHAIA, IN2PAST) – Nelson Almeida (Universidade de Évora, CHAIA, IN2PAST | Universidade de Lisboa, UNIARQ)

The 3rd millennium BCE socio-cultural, ideological and environmental dynamics in Southwestern Iberian

Peninsula have been a research hot topic for several decades. During the last years, with the identification of many new ditched enclosures, the debate as resurfaced by looking comparatively at ditched and walled enclosures. Different questions regarding chronology and associated material records and other dynamics of these societies have regained impetus with the analysis of the material record still remaining among the best ways of cross-referencing information between these different types of architectures. Monte da Ponte is one of the few known enclosures for this large area that combines positive and negative features. Hence, it has been considered paradigmatic to the analysis of SW Iberia Chalcolithic. The site is located in the Évora district, in the inland Alentejo region (Southern Portugal), and while it has been subjected to archaeological research during the 90's it had a large interregnum period with a new research program only starting recently. Some information from these studies, including geophysics and archaeological excavations has been obtained. In this paper, we present the current data of the site focusing on the material record recovered. We aim to discuss how this enclosure contributes to ongoing questions on changes and transitions during the 3rd millennium BCE in SW Iberia, especially considering the strong socio-cultural, economic and social transformations that these communities faced. Our objective is to reflect upon the reality that we have on the site of Monte da Ponte by comparing it with other assemblages that compose the broader picture of the Chalcolithic on the surrounding Central Alentejo territory.

### 1039. CULTURAL TRANSFORMATION IN SOUTH AND WEST BOHEMIA DURING THE BRONZE AGE

**Contribution format:** Oral

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South and West Bohemia are the regions with a specific position in prehistoric times, given by their geographical location between the Danube regions in the south and central Bohemia in the north. The material culture and character of settlement in both these regions changed according to the nature and intensity of external influences from both directions, which is clearly evident in the Bronze Age. How are these cultural influences reflected in the archaeological record? How did the system of the cultural transmission and social organisation work and how it changed? Are we able to see cultural changes in the typology and also in the technological properties of the preserved artefacts? In our presentation, we will focus on selected artefacts from the periods of cultural transformations, specifically on different types of copper ingots from the transition of the Early and Middle Bronze Age, when the Early Bronze cultural groups gradually transformed into Tumuli cultures, or on casting cakes and ceramic vessels decorated with incised carving from the end of the Middle and beginning of the Late Bronze Age, when the Tumuli cultures changed to Urnfields. The orientation of both Czech regions towards the Danube area continues throughout the Late Bronze Age, but at the beginning of the Final Bronze Age there is a change: while Western Bohemia remains culturally strongly linked to today's South German area, the inhabitants of South Bohemia bring their material culture closer to the Central Bohemian Štítary culture. However, some manifestations in the material record continue to be preserved, such as specific trench-like features, which are known from flat settlements only in southern Germany, western and southern Bohemia.

### 507. A NEW PIECE OF THE PUZZLE: TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION IN METALMAKING AT FINAL BRONZE AGE BOZSHAKOL, C. 1200-1100 BC (NORTH KAZAKHSTAN)

**Contribution format:** Oral

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The Final Bronze Age of the Eurasian Steppe, corresponding to the end of the 2nd millennium BC, was marked by significant economic, social, and cultural transformations, including the intensification of husbandry, the expansion of settlements, and increasing craft specialisation. This period witnessed the emergence of the first proto-centres of the steppes and a surge in long-distance exchange networks of finished metal artefacts. While the movement of copper alloys across the Eurasian Steppe is well documented, the evolution of primary metal production at specific workshops, as well as their role in broader metal production and consumption networks, remain less explored. This study investigates metallurgical production at Bozshakol, a settlement and workshop site located in the Pavlodar Irtysh region (North Kazakhstan), directly associated with a major copper mining field. Bozshakol experienced long-term occupation primarily focused on exploiting the nearby ore deposit and functioned as a zone of transit and cultural contact of people, technologies, and raw materials. This is evidenced by the numerous ceramic materials unearthed, spanning the Final Bronze Age (c. 1200-1100 BC) and transitioning into the Early Iron Age. Ceramics appears linked to multiple cultural groups, including Sargary-Alekseevka, Begazy-Dandybai, Fedorovo, as well as imitations of Central Asian types from the Bactria-Margiana Archaeological Complex. In this context, questions arise regarding the transmission of metallurgical knowledge and the extent of shared technological traditions among the communities of the steppes, and beyond. We present new data on archaeometallurgical remains related to primary metal production from the workshops of Bozshakol, including

ores, slags, and technical ceramics, to investigate innovation in metalmaking technology, its adaptation, and its transmission at this site. Our results contribute to a deeper understanding of the evolution of metal production and of the interconnectedness between metal producers and consumer communities within the broader framework of the Bronze Age Eurasian Steppe.

### 1428. EXPLORING DIVERSITY WITHIN TRADITION: INDIVIDUAL EXPRESSION AND INNOVATION IN NEOLITHIC GREECE

**Contribution format:** Oral

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One of the striking aspects of the Greek Neolithic is the highly identifiable ceramic assemblage, both decorated and undecorated pottery. Ceramic change, the traditional pillar of relative chronologies in prehistory, is based on the premise of stylistic and technological change, which have traditionally been assumed to define cultural periods. This viewpoint does not, however, consider the role of individuals within their community and their choice to reinforce, experiment, or break with the orthodox cannon. Furthermore, Greek Neolithic pottery technology did not follow a linear path from simple to complex, as shown by the abandonment of a more technologically demanding painted pottery to that of simpler undecorated wares over time. Such a trajectory suggests that cultural and social pressures affected the choices potters employed in selecting materials and firing methods, rather than technological ignorance. Experimentation, innovation, and change are attested in the diversity of within ceramic assemblages, even within an identifiable tradition. The Early Neolithic site of Mavropigi-Fillotsairi in Western Macedonia, Greece provides a case study for assessing ceramic variability in relation to cultural transmission mechanisms and the processes of the transfer of knowledge at a generational level. The co-existence of several traditions and a hybridization of technological and stylistic traits is documented. This “mixed” assemblage is a good starting place for a discussion on how to approach cultural material from at site geographic crossroads during a pivotal transitional period.

### 1263. THE NETWORK OF TECHNOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE TRANSMISSION IN THE EARLY AND MIDDLE COPPER AGE CARPATHIAN BASIN

**Contribution format:** Oral

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The traditional cultural-historical approach outlines archaeological cultures and regional units based on the typological classification of the material culture. However, this methodology has always faced the difficulty of classifying certain, especially pottery assemblages within a particular archaeological culture. This was also the case for the Early and Middle Copper Age in the Carpathian Basin (4500–3650 cal BC), where several cultures were defined based on pottery typology, although many assemblages could not be unequivocally assigned to one culture or another. This approach focused on the cultural differences and diverse supraregional connections between the eastern and western parts of the Carpathian Basin (i.e. Great Hungarian Plain and Transdanubia) and highlighted the cultural difference between the Early and Middle Copper Age without the explicit consideration of the social relations and personal interactions beyond these differences and changes. Our analysis focuses on the technology of pottery making that explores the strong relationship between several vessel fabrication steps and the social link(s) of the potters. Pottery forming, and to some extent, the surface treatment reflects the continuous transmission of technical traditions between individuals in strong social relations. These steps of the pottery making were analysed with a macroscopic approach on seventee. Early and Middle Copper Age sites in three adjacent regions of the Carpathian Basin: the Great Hungarian Plain, the Transdanubia, and the Budapest region. The identified techniques are then studied using social network analysis, which enables us to reconstruct the spatial and temporal distribution and change of technological knowledge. Therefore, the spread of pottery technical traditions over space and time reveals a previously fully unknown network of social relations based on close personal contact of potters from different communities in the Carpathian Basin.