

GIANTS IN
THE LANDSCAPE:
MONUMENTALITY AND
TERRITORIES IN THE
EUROPEAN NEOLITHIC

PROCEEDINGS OF THE XVII UISPP WORLD
CONGRESS (1–7 SEPTEMBER, BURGOS, SPAIN)

Volume 3 / Session A25d

Edited by

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ARCHAEOPRESS ARCHAEOLOGY

ARCHAEOPRESS PUBLISHING LTD

Gordon House
276 Banbury Road
Oxford OX2 7ED

www.archaeopress.com

ISBN 978 1 78491 285 7
ISBN 978 1 78491 286 4 (e-Pdf)
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VOLUME EDITORS: Vincent Ard and Lucile Pillot

SERIES EDITOR: The board of UISPP

SERIES PROPERTY: UISPP – International Union of Prehistoric and Protohistoric Sciences

The editing of this volume was funded by the Instituto Terra e Memória, Centro de Geociências UID/Multi/00073/2013, with the support of the Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia FCT/MEC)

KEY-WORDS IN THIS VOLUME: Neolithic – Landscape – Territory – Organization

UISPP PROCEEDINGS SERIES is a print on demand and an open access publication,
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Foreword to the XVII UISPP Congress Proceedings Series Edition

Luiz OOSTERBEEK
Secretary-General

UISPP has a long history, starting with the old International Association of Anthropology and Archaeology, back in 1865, until the foundation of UISPP itself in Bern, in 1931, and its growing relevance after WWII, from the 1950's. We also became members of the International Council of Philosophy and Human Sciences, associate of UNESCO, in 1955.

In its XIVth world congress in 2001, in Liège, UISPP started a reorganization process that was deepened in the congresses of Lisbon (2006) and Florianópolis (2011), leading to its current structure, solidly anchored in more than twenty-five international scientific commissions, each coordinating a major cluster of research within six major chapters: Historiography, methods and theories; Culture, economy and environments; Archaeology of specific environments; Art and culture; Technology and economy; Archaeology and societies.

The XVIIth world congress of 2014, in Burgos, with the strong support of Fundación Atapuerca and other institutions, involved over 1700 papers from almost 60 countries of all continents. The proceedings, edited in this series but also as special issues of specialized scientific journals, will remain as the most important outcome of the congress.

Research faces growing threats all over the planet, due to lack of funding, repressive behavior and other constraints. UISPP moves ahead in this context with a strictly scientific programme, focused on the origins and evolution of humans, without conceding any room to short term agendas that are not root in the interest of knowledge.

In the long run, which is the terrain of knowledge and science, not much will remain from the contextual political constraints, as severe or dramatic as they may be, but the new advances into understanding the human past and its cultural diversity will last, this being a relevant contribution for contemporary and future societies.

This is what UISPP is for, and this is also why we are currently engaged in contributing for the relaunching of Human Sciences in their relations with social and natural sciences, namely collaborating with the International Year of Global Understanding, in 2016, and with the World Conference of the Humanities, in 2017.

The next two congresses of UISPP, in Melbourn (2017) and in Geneva (2020), will confirm this route.

Introduction

Vincent ARD and Lucile PILLOT

In many European areas, the Neolithic period corresponds to the development of architectural monumentality which left important marks in the landscape, as well as the land clearing and the cultivation by the first agro-pastoral societies. This monumentality can be observed in the domestic sphere, particularly by the edification of enclosures with various functions and surfaces, and in the funeral and ritual sphere, by the development of many megalithic or non megalithic tombs.

It's noteworthy that the concomitant or non concomitant development of these monumental sites reveals the complexity of cultural, symbolic and socio-economic practices of Neolithic societies.

These monumental sites probably reflect socio-cultural dynamic systems in which the notion of territory seems to be a fundamental concept. Obviously, in many areas of Europe, Neolithic people have appropriated their surrounding landscape, exploited or not, by the edification of these monumental sites. In this way, they probably sustain their control over a definite territory. That's why burial, domestic or even defensive monumental sites, must be jointly analyzed in order to understand the organization of these Neolithic spaces.

Part of the XVII World UISPP Congress, held in Burgos (Spain), the 4th September 2014, our session untitled '*Monumentality and territory: relationship between enclosures and necropolis in the European Neolithic*' examined different questions:

1. The various manifestations of the relationship between Neolithic enclosures and tombs in different contexts of Europe, notably through spatial analysis.
2. The concept of landscape appropriation, combining domestic, symbolic, economic or natural spaces.
3. The patterns of territorial organization, in which enclosures and tombs have a fundamental role in some Neolithic contexts.

The present proceedings give an overview of these questions with eight case studies coming from different parts of Europe. For the Northern and Eastern Europe, T. Darvill and S. Rzepecki give insights about the development of architectural monumentality and the close links between enclosures and tombs in Britain and Poland.

Then, two French case studies (C. Lietar and L. Jallot) show the state of research in Western Europe where the development of monumental sites is non synchronic and participate to the appropriation of landscape and the construction of territories.

Finally, examples from Southern Europe (Spain and Portugal), give by V Jiménez-Jáimez and J. E. Márquez-Romero, A. C. Valera and N. Salazar Ortiz, explain the complexity of the symbolic and spatial relation between enclosures and the world of the death.

Acknowledgments

We would like to thank the local organizers of the UISPP Congress, particularly Luiz Oosterbeek who follow the preparation of these proceedings, and Archaeopress for the edition of this book. We are also grateful to Rui Boaventura, Karim Gernigon and Juan F. Gibaja Bao for the reviewing of some of these papers.