

« MATIÈRES À PENSER » :
**RAW MATERIALS ACQUISITION AND PROCESSING IN EARLY NEOLITHIC POTTERY
PRODUCTIONS**

Workshop, University of Namur, Belgium – 29-30 May 2015



Meeting session of the French Prehistoric Society, co-organised by the University of Namur (LIATEC) and Trajectoires-University Paris 1 (UMR 8215)

Ceramics are one of the most emblematic remains left by early Neolithic farming communities in northwestern and central Europe. They have, as such, received considerable attention over the last century. Yet for a long time the focus of research has mainly been on morpho-stylistic attribute variation. Pottery manufacturing processes have, in comparison, been more rarely investigated.

Gradually however, pottery technologies, in particular raw material acquisition and processing techniques, have gained an increased interest. This is mostly due to the progressive refinement of theoretical models in ethnoarchaeology and to the extraordinary development, over the last decades, of analytical methods in archaeometry (namely in descriptive petrography, instrumental geochemistry, electron microscopy, X-ray crystallography or tomography), now enabling very fine-grained technological reconstructions. The informative potential of this type of technological approach is emphasized in a growing number of studies devoted to early Neolithic cultures. New data on exploitation territories and their management, technical performances, cultural and/or symbolic dimensions of raw materials, transmission of knowledge and know-how, and, ultimately, interaction networks linking producing and consuming communities, are indeed now becoming available.

The aim of this workshop is to sum up current research, methods and models relating to raw material acquisition and processing practices, specifically (but not exclusively) in northwestern and central European early Neolithic pottery productions (ca. 6500-4500 BC). We welcome interdisciplinary contributions addressing all aspects of the topic, from the viewpoint of archaeometry, including experimental sciences, archaeology or ethnoarchaeology. The discussions and presentations will be specifically structured around the following topics:

- > **A.** Ethnoarchaeological models and social meaning
- > **B.** Methodology and analytical tools

The workshop will be composed of oral and poster presentations as well as discussion sessions. A session of optical microscopy (OM) examination of archaeological samples will in addition be organised at the end of the workshop

□ **Abstracts:**

Abstracts should be submitted in English or in French. During submission please indicate your interest in poster or oral sessions together with your interests in participating in the OM session. More information on microworkshop.sciencesconf.org

□ **Participation fee:**

A modest contribution of 30€ is asked for the lunch and coffee breaks .

□ **Important dates:**

November 2014: Announcement of the workshop; e-mail of interest to be sent to microworkshop@sciencconf.org

15 February 2015: Deadline for online abstract submission

Proceedings:

The proceedings will be published online. If there is enough interest, a special issue in a scientific journal is planned to be arranged after the workshop.

Organising Committee:

Bosquet D. (SPW DG 04, Belgium); Burnez-Lanotte L. (University of Namur, Belgium); Goemaere E. (Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, Belgium); Livingstone Smith A. (Royal Museum for Central Africa, Belgium); van Doosselaere B. (University of Namur, Belgium)

Scientific Committee:

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□ **Venue:**

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