

8 PERCEPTION AND MIGRATION: PREHISTORIC STUDIES

Author(s): Zubrow, Ezra (University at Buffalo; University at Toronto) - Leavitt, Jay (University at Buffalo) - Diachenko, Oleksandr (Institute of Archaeology)

Presentation Format: Oral

This paper considers the role of perception in prehistoric migratory decisions. It is part of a series of papers that the authors are writing on a general theory of migration and its application to prehistory.

Migratory decisions are examined from both the individual (agency) and aggregate level. Migratory decisions are considered from the perspective of the migrant (individual) and the migrant group (population); from the perspective of individuals and the community from which emigration takes place; and from the perspective of the individual and the community to which the immigrant moves.

Temporally, these perceptions may be different prior to; during; and after the migration events take place.

A simulation model has been developed and has been tested with a limited number of assumptions regarding the number of locations, migratory events, and interactions among the communities and the migrants. It has been tested using prehistoric data from Cucuteni-Trypillia settlements dated 3600 to 3700 BC.

9 SPATIAL ANALYSIS OF OBJECTS ATTRIBUTED TO THE MEZHYRICHIAN EPIGRAVETTIAN CULTURE: A MODEL OF MOBILITY

Author(s): Shydlovskiy, Pavlo (Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv) - Tsvirkun, Ostap (Institute of Archaeology NAS of Ukraine) - Péan, Stéphane (UMR 7194 HNHP, MNHN/CNRS/UPVD, Muséum national d'histoire naturelle, Paris)

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In the basin of the Middle Dnieper and its tributaries, a large number of Upper Palaeolithic sites and palaeontological deposits have been uncovered. The archaeological settlements are attributed to various chrono-cultural facies: Gravettian, Epigravettian, and Final Palaeolithic. A part of Epigravettian vestiges refers to the Mezhyrichian type of industry and is dated to the rather narrow limited time span of 15,1 – 14,3 14C uncal Kyr BP. The conducted typological-technological analysis of lithic assemblages allows us to assert the unity of processing techniques within this type. Such technological, territorial and chronological unity of sites represent the remnants of one society. These objects have different functional and seasonal characteristics, which create a unique opportunity to reconstruct certain aspects of life, seasonal mobility cycle, hunting strategy of a group in a common ecological niche. The base camps were mainly settled during the cold season, while in the warm season there was a more high

activity associated with topographically higher relief areas. The logistic model of annual mobility implies the presence of base camps in the center of the movement of the group, on the one hand and short-term camps, kill-sites, gathering of flintstone places on the other.

Planigraphic features of the settlement structures indicate a sectoral use of residential areas. The center of each one is a mammoth bone dwelling structure, around which there are functionally distinct objects and areas. The design of the dwellings exhibits a rhythmical and symmetrical disposal of bones in the structure. The renewal of internal space investigation inside the preserved fourth dwelling of Mezhyrich tends to confirm a sectoral location of functionally defined areas. The spatial distribution of sites and objects indicates the presence of a centralized structure of behaviour, which manifests itself at different hierarchical levels: dwelling, residential assemblage, base camp and subsistence territory.