

Title: *“Waterscapes: Traces of Interaction between People and Water in Neolithic and Bronze Age Europe”*

Abstract: Oceans, rivers, lakes are not motionless entities. Earth Sciences have been studying how coastline fluctuations of seashores and transformation of river flows constantly create new opportunities for human groups, but also how these changes can trigger a wide range of interactions and transformations.

In this session we will focus on approaches that explore a wide array of archaeological evidence of sustained interactions between European human groups and water, from the Neolithic to the Bronze Age. This includes traces of interactions where the cultural and the natural are entangled in the same places: from resources exploitation to sea/river/water use; activities linked to traditions, social organizations, beliefs, or ideological meanings; the use as a border, or simply marking a special place; possessing magic properties or simply blessing life; the unfolding of regional or supra-regional contacts or the negotiation of power relations. All these interactions contribute to the creation of waterscapes (“seascapes”, “riverscapes”, “lakescapes”), which were part of daily perception, interaction, and cognition of human life beyond (dry) land.

Keywords: ancientscapes, landscape perception and construction, borders and limits, supra-regional contacts.

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