

11th International SYMPOSIUM on Knappable Materials

“FROM TOOLSTONE to Stone Tools”



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IMHICIHU



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SESSION 2

PRODUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF STONE TOOLS: HOW WERE STONE TOOLS MADE AND MAINTAINED?

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This session proposes presentation and discussion regarding the processing and maintenance of stone tools, with the aim of better understanding how prehistoric human societies conceived, produced, used, reused, and finally discarded stone tools.

One of the main areas of investigation in lithic studies is the reconstruction of methods, techniques and patterns used by prehistoric people to produce and maintain tools. Depending on the desired results, there exists a number of ways to approach a set of tools. In this regard, some researches look at the mechanics of knapping which are specially destined to characterize and identify different knapping techniques. Some investigate shapes and patterns used among certain groups and in certain periods to better understand production preferences. Others look at methods of maintaining tools (often through the study of active edges) which tackles retouch techniques, rejuvenation, or types of utilization. From this perspective, the reasons for replacement of pieces may also be considered. Thus, this session examines features of lithic technologies – including manufacturing, usage, and raw material selection perspectives - in their broader contexts, to arrive at different answers to how human groups across time and space processed and maintained stone tools to facilitate their subsistence.

Our aim, therefore, is to draw a better understanding of how people in the past thought about their tools and planned their work. Considering these ways of approaching the issue, the presentations in this session may be theoretical, be based on anthropological analogies with modern societies, come from archaeological assemblage studies, or may also be based purely on methods used by modern knappers today. Presentations may focus on relevant segments of the *chaînes opératoires*, reduction sequence, or on other aspects of the production and maintenance of stone tools.

UNDERSTANDING CONTINUITY AND QUARRIES EXPLOITATION: LITHIC PRODUCTION AT RIO LAS SALINAS 2, TUCUMAN, ARGENTINA

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The goal of this paper is to present and discuss stone tool production through the analysis of a lithic assemblage recovered at Rio Las Salinas 2 (RLS2), an open-air archaeological locality in the semi-arid western piedmont of Cumbres Calchaquies, northwestern Argentina. From a methodological standpoint, the lithic material was analyzed as a whole, factoring in the evaluation of lithic raw material use, variability, and toolkit composition. Typological analysis followed the guidelines put forward by Aschero (1975; 1983) and Aschero and Hocsmán (2004). The lithic assemblage breaks up into sub-assemblages based on raw material used and 4 tool classes (i.e. cores; tools;

artifacts with tips, edges and surfaces with added traces; and debitage), after which the set of specimens is analyzed based on specific variables for each typological class. Among the results, the selection of locally available raw material (andesite) for tool production is prevalent. Amongst uniface edges, notched flakes, denticulates, choppers, side-scrapers and natural working edges are prevalent. Production of these edges may have been achieved without involving significant costs. The total assemblage shows a low rate of maintenance and discarding that is probably due to being at the sources, meaning high availability of raw materials in various forms.