

5 this site existed continuously from the end of the 6th millennium until the mid-5th millennium BC. The settlement continuity is also verified by on-site detections – mutual respecting of individual settlement features (houses, households), joint (long-term) use of clay pits, backfilling of the settlement pits with common garbage. An evidence might also be the frequent reutilization of stone tools – for example, the transformation of LBK shoe-last celts (adzes) into the LgK tools, or the production of ceramic spatulas of the LgK from fragments of handled vessels of the LBK. Petrographic analyses of pottery proved that all three Neolithic cultures in this settlement used the same sources of potting clay. The contribution will thus try to use the model example of Hulin-Pravčice to verify the thesis that Neolithic communities intentionally created long-term settlement areas.

**ATH “ LES HALEURS “, TWO VILLAGES LBK AND BLICQUY/VILLENEUVE-SAINT-GERMAIN: SEARCH FOR TRANSITION MECHANISMS THROUGH THE INTEGRATED STUDY OF PRODUCTIONS**  
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**Abstract format:** Oral  
At the turn of the sixth to the fifth millennium BC, a historical turning point occurred in continental neolithization of Europe as the Linear Pottery culture broke up into a mosaic of cultural entities. The northern half of France and Belgium were occupied by the Blicquy/Villeneuve-Saint-Germain culture (BQY/VSG). The recently discovered site of Ath “Les Haleurs” in the west of Belgium (Hainaut Province) represents a key site for exploring in detail the mechanisms of the cultural transition between these two cultural spheres. Indeed, established along the eastern branch of the Dender river, the “Les Haleurs” site has the particularity of offering the remains of the two successive Early Neolithic cultures, i.e. Linear Pottery Culture (LBK) and Blicquy/Villeneuve-Saint-Germain. This proximity is exceptional: sites with houses of the two cultures are rare (three sites in Hainaut and two in Hesbaye, the Belgian Liège province) especially when they show such a high closeness (less than 3 meters). Thus, this communication will present the first results of the technological and integrated study of all the artifacts found at the site of Ath “Les Haleurs”. We propose to cross-reference the origin of raw materials, typo-technology, and use-wear analysis of ceramic productions, lithic industry, macrolithic tools, and stone ornaments. The rhythms of change in the different technical sub-systems will then be compared and questioned.

**6 EXPLORING THE SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE LBK/POST-LBK TRANSITION IN EASTERN BELGIUM THROUGH THE INTERGENERATIONAL TRANSMISSION OF CERAMIC AND LITHIC KNOW-HOWS**  
**Abstract author(s):** Gomart, Louise (French National Centre for Scientific Research) - Denis, Solène (Masaryk University, Department of Archaeology and Museology; Université de Namur, Laboratoire Interuniversitaire d’Anthropologie des TECHniques LIATEC)

**Abstract format:** Oral  
In this communication, we will present the results of an integrated technological analysis performed on the ceramic and lithic assemblages from the early Neolithic villages of Verlaine and Vaux-et-Borset (Hesbaye, Belgium), both characterised by a double LBK and post-LBK (i.e. Blicquy/Villeneuve-Saint-Germain, abbreviated BQY/VSG) occupation. Our study, centred on the reconstruction of the manufacturing chaînes opératoires, aims to identify technical traditions, revealing learning networks that are specific to producer groups. Tracking these technical traditions in time and space at the larger scale of Belgium and north-eastern France enables us to assess (1) continuity and ruptures in know-hows in Hesbaye during the transition from LBK to BQY/VSG; (2) the mobility patterns of producers; (3) possible processes of interaction between producer groups. The detailed reconstruction of lithic and ceramic technical know-hows during the transition between LBK and BQY/VSG in Hesbaye reveals distinct producer groups whose spatial trajectories and socio-economic behaviours seem to have changed profoundly at the turning point of the 6th and 5th millennia BC. Our systemic study shows the potential of the chaîne opératoire approach to apprehend the sociological relationships between these two cultural entities and to propose a scenario of historical transition, taking into account the cultural, social and economic dynamics that led to the fragmentation and disintegration of the LBK system.

**7 FARMER-FORAGER INTERACTIONS AND THE NEOLITHIC TRANSITION IN NORTHERN BELGIUM: RESULTS OF AN INTEGRATED STUDY OF HUNTER-GATHERER POTTERY AND LITHIC MATERIAL**  
**Abstract author(s):** Teetaert, Dimitri - Messiaen, Liesbeth - Halbrucker, Éva - Crombé, Philippe (Ghent University, Department of Archaeology)

**Abstract format:** Oral  
During the 5th millennium BC, the last hunter-gatherers (Swifterbant Culture) of northern Belgium and the Netherlands gradually adopted the knowledge of pottery production, animal husbandry and crop cultivation from farmers of the NW European loess areas. The social mechanisms behind this transition are still poorly understood. So far, there was no clear indication as to which farming populations were responsible for these knowledge transfers. Recently, all pottery and lithic remains from five transitional sites in the Scheldt river valley were studied in detail. The pottery technology and changes in the lithic industry of the hunter-gatherers in northern Belgium indicate that they had strong social relations with farmers of the Blicquy/Villeneuve-Saint-Germain Culture in central Belgium and northern France. This paper presents the main results of these studies. It combines information on pottery/

lithic technology, raw materials and use with archaeobotanical/-zoological data and radiocarbon dates. It is suggested that the hunter-gatherers of the Scheldt river valley adopted the knowledge of pottery production from BVSG potters, and possibly had their first direct contact with domestic animals as well as cereals through interactions with the BVSG Culture, between c. 4800 – 4600 cal BC.

**8 NEOLITHIC TRANSITION IN THE EASTERN ADRIATIC: NETWORKS, CULTURAL TRADITIONS AND TECHNOLOGICAL TRANSMISSIONS**

**Abstract author(s):** Kacar, Sonja (TRACES, UMR-5608 University of Toulouse)  
**Abstract format:** Oral  
This presentation focuses on the Eastern Adriatic, were beginning of the Neolithic dates back to ca. 6000 cal BC and is associate with the Impressed Ware Culture. However, this cultural uniformity seems to be only apparent, i.e. limited to the same ceramic style. Indeed, the lithic assemblages show obvious regional differences in the organisation of lithic production systems and variable chaîne opératoires, clearly distinguishing two different cultural zones: Dalmatia and Istria. The Impressed Ware lithic assemblages from Dalmatia are characterized by the complex pressure blade production techniques on exogenous south Italian (Gargano) cherts reflecting important socio-economic and technical mutations that are specific to the Neolithic. The technical systems from Istria, however, can be described as local since the locally available cherts were used in on-site expedient production. The bladelets and bladelet-like flakes were obtained by direct and indirect percussion, possibly reflecting some Late Mesolithic (Castelnovian) features.

This difference in technical systems probably reveals different technological traditions in the production of stone tools. Besides, while the Gargano cherts continue to be used in Dalmatia during the Middle and Late Neolithic, it seems that Istria and Northern Adriatic were excluded from this south Italian chert distribution network. In these regions, from the Early/Middle Neolithic (Danilo culture; after ca. 5500 cal BC), finished products (blank or retouched blades, pressure-flaked arrowheads) on the high-quality exogenous cherts were recorded, but it seems that they were originating from the Northern Italy (Alpine foothills).

In this presentation we aim to understand social mechanisms behind the Neolithic transition by combining different types of data (lithics, ceramics, past subsistence, paleoenvironment...). The results suggest that during the 6th millennium BC several human groups of different origins and cultural traditions, integrated into different technological networks, were co-existing in the Eastern Adriatic.

**9 TOWARDS A MULTI-PROXIES ANALYSIS OF TECHNICAL BEHAVIOUR IN THE EARLY NEOLITHIC PERIOD IN THE RHÔNE VALLEY**  
**Abstract author(s):** Caro, Joséphine - Defranould, Elsa (UMR 5608 Traces) - Convertini, Fabien (UMR 5140 ASM; INRAP) - Manen, Claire - Perrin, Thomas (UMR 5608 Traces; CNRS) - Beeching, Alain (UMR 5133 Archéorient)

**Abstract format:** Oral  
During the 6th millennium BCE, the neolithisation of the north-western Mediterranean is marked by the development of the Impresso-Cardial Complex, which gathers several facies. The renewal of the chronometric framework and recent works of synthesis underline the complexity of the spatio-temporal dynamics and allow varied scenarios to interpret this polymorphism. The aim of our paper is to characterise the evolution of lithic and ceramic material productions through the prism of ‘chaîne opératoires’ in order to approach these facies as techno-complexes and to question their cultural reality. Our investigation concerns the second half of the 6th millennium BCE in the lower Rhone valley. This region is an ideal study area for this type of combined approach: it corresponds to a Neolithic penetration way inland and offers contrasting landscapes, conducive to the diversity of human settlements. In this context, the sites of the Baume de Montclus (Gard Department) and the Baume de Ronze (Ardèche Department) appear as key sites of Holocene prehistory in the south of France. In the Early Neolithic, the stratigraphies of these two sites record a succession of occupations over several centuries (ca. 5600-4800 BCE), attributed to two main ceramic facies: Cardial and Epicardial. Their chrono-stratigraphic articulation offers the conditions for addressing the ruptures or continuities which characterise the evolution of material productions and hence the mechanisms of change.

Thus, this presentation provide an opportunity to introduce a comparative analysis of the origin of raw materials and the ‘chaînes opératoires’, both lithic and ceramic. Several neighbouring and contemporaneous sites can be used for comparison purposes. We try to interpret the different rhythms of evolution of the production sub-systems, to question their relationships with ceramic styles, but also with the development of networks for the circulation of materials or products able to transcend (or not) “cultural” particularisms.