

INTERNATIONAL OPEN WORKSHOP

Socio-Environmental Dynamics over the Last 15,000 Years: The Creation of Landscapes VI

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Session 8

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Territoriality in Europe in the Bronze and Iron Age

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Keynote speakers: t.b.a

Territoriality has become a viral research topic, and it raises questions about the nature and (dis)continuity of settlement areas, which are the focus of our session.

Different modes of spatial occupation characterised the Bronze and Iron Age in Europe, ranging from farmsteads and groups of burial mounds to (political) territories as indicated by the 'Celtic fields', cooking-pit fields, linear structures and fortifications, as well as by palaeoenvironmental and economic proxies. This session aims to explore how different kinds of territorial organisation shape the spatial system of interaction. Do parts of the landscape represent areas of influence or even "territory" to which the (economic) activity of individuals or communities were limited? Are there aspects of landownerships and property rights detectable in the archaeological record?

We are also interested in the temporal aspects of the settlement locations. Is there a long-term, continual bond between the settlement areas and the inhabitants visible, despite some evident changes in the agricultural regime and material culture? Were there changes in land-use, such as in the intensity of crop cultivation, or a shift of economic focus from plant to animal husbandry (pasture farming), or different strategies of animal husbandry? Can these be connected to specific modes of spatial organization?

These aspects touch on social interaction shaped by territoriality (and vice versa) and we wonder whether territoriality caused conflicts, or it helped reduce/resolve them? Did territoriality emerge as a result of population growth?

We are especially interested in discussing the following aspects:

- Modelling of settlement and funerary landscapes
- Pollen data and soil morphology as a basis for the reconstruction of landscape use
- Spatial analysis in relation to regional settlement dynamics
- Small-scale/local human mobility

We invite contributions addressing case studies, indicators, models, theories and interpretations from the following, but not limited to, fields of study: material culture, archaeobotany, archaeozoology, soil science, archaeometrics, palaeoentomology, stable isotopes, modelling, spatial analysis and ethnography.