

## Session topics

Five thematic sessions (1 to 5) are devoted to current issues in the study of bone industries; three other sessions (6 to 8) are opened to all issues.

With the exception of session 8, which will feature short presentations or posters, papers will be limited to 15 or 20 minutes (depending on the number of participants) followed by 10 minutes of discussion with the attendees.

### Session 1 : Appropriate experimental procedures

In the last few years, the term "experimentation" has taken on a very broad meaning in research connected with hard animal material (HAM) industries, and more generally, in the general exploitation of animal resources. Based on archaeological case studies and/or examples drawn from the history of our discipline, this thematic session aims to engage a collective brainstorming to better define the meaning given to specific terms and concepts. From didactic tests (often exploratory) to large-scale experimental programs, is it possible to create and define a typology of different experimental approaches? What are their objectives, their contribution, but also their limits? Examples of unexpected or problematic results are especially welcome since failures and mistakes are also a learning experience.

The rich diversity of the WBRG meeting participants offers a framework for valuable comparisons of practices in different countries, on material from various chronological periods and various kinds of animal resources. This thematic session aims at contributing to increased consensus over what constitutes proper experimental practice and terminology. This session could contribute to a greater homogenization of our practices and terminologies, and help us to better establish our research questions in relation to the resources we mobilize to answer them, and vice versa.

In addition to these issues, this session is open to all presentations dealing with the experimental approach to understanding hard animal material processing and transformation chains (*chaînes opératoires*), or the use of equipment manufactured from these materials.

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### Session 2 – The study of raw material interactions: implementation and interpretation

This session will be devoted to research that takes a crossover approach to technical systems, by linking several materials (bone/lithic, bone/ceramic, bone/metal, bone/shell, bone/vegetal), in order to move away from our usual one "material" study. The session aims to better understand how the exploitation of one animal resource, regardless of its origin, condition the acquisition, transformation or use of another resource, and conversely?

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### Session 3 – From material productions to social structures and cultural traditions

In this session, the participants are encouraged to present case studies to discuss issues of use of animal resources as source of information about social actors, socio-economic and cultural systems of the past (nomadic vs. sedentary; experts vs. apprentices etc.). How can we identify the individual, the community behind a technical action/choice or an artifact? What criteria can be used to shed light on these aspects, based on hard animal material productions and technical procedures?

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### Session 4 – Technical change and stability

Historically, technical innovations have been used to illustrate past technical or conceptual breakthroughs considered relevant for defining or clarifying the major chrono-cultural phases of Prehistory. Phases of

stability within technical systems, as well as the *rejection* of innovation (their social implications and the reasons for acceptance or rejection) still seem to be rarely discussed in concrete terms, undoubtedly because these aspects are difficult to pinpoint.

What does it mean when a group of people rejects or ignores a potential technical (or even symbolic) innovation? Does this choice reflect a voluntary/hostile distancing from novelty (rejection of knowledge that comes from a perceived “other” or strict adherence to community standards)? A such constrained distancing (e.g., inability to integrate and perpetuate innovation) due to lack of know-how or restricted access to certain raw materials, etc.? Can researchers distinguish between rejection and “non-knowledge” of an innovation in the archaeological record?

On the other hand, technical stability can reflect social, economic and/or environmental stability, but it can also conceal the opposite when we consider all the whole material and ideal culture, including other technical systems (lithic, ceramic etc.). How could these technical arrhythmias be interpreted? Why does one system change and not another?

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### **Session 5 – Hard Animal Material industries, archaeometry and ethics: new advances?**

Archaeometric methods applied to hard animal materials (HAM) have made great strides over the last ten years. This session will provide an opportunity to take stock of these new approaches (invasive vs. non-invasive methods) and the real contribution of the analyses carried out (scientific together with their financial cost-benefit ratio). Following the example of the collective work undertaken for human remains from archaeological contexts, it is hoped that this session will initiate the development of an international ethical charter, under the umbrella of the WBRG, for a better (scientific and patrimonial) management of HAM industries, in order to avoid their destruction and the irreversible loss of information.

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### **Session 6 - Open session**

This session is opened to all topics related to, in one way or another, research on hard animal materials. Proposals that do not fit into one of the above sessions are welcomed here.

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### **Session 7 - Master and doctoral students forum under the aegis of Paris 1 university**

This session is intended for young researchers in training, Master’s and PhD students, regardless of their university or chrono-cultural field of study. Organized and coordinated by students, it is conceived as an "open" session for exchange.

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### **Session 8 - Poster session and “flash” communications**

This session is dedicated to short presentations of news in the technical exploitation of animal bone resources (latest fieldwork or laboratory developments), invitations to take part in new collaborative projects, etc). Presentations can take the form of posters\* or short oral communications (5 to 8 minutes max) with a PPT as visual support.

\* Format A1 : 594 x 841 mm