Postdoc in lithic technology

Applications are invited from qualified and highly motivated candidates for a one-year research position (subject to renewal) as a post-doc in “Chaînes opératoires and techno-functional analysis on lithic artefacts from Italian Middle-Upper Palaeolithic contexts” within the team led by Prof. Stefano Benazzi at the Department of Cultural Heritage, University of Bologna, Italy.

The candidate will join the project “The earliest migration of Homo sapiens in southern Europe: understanding the biocultural processes that define our uniqueness” funded by the European Research Council (ERC) under the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme (grant agreement No 724046). This interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary project aims to apply novel and cutting-edge methods from the fields of scientific archaeology, zooarchaeology, paleoanthropology, paleoecology and isotope analysis to understand a) when AMH reached Southern Europe, b) the socio-cultural and biological differences between AMH and Neandertals that ultimately made our species successful and unique, and c) the reason for the demise of Neandertals.

Applicants should have completed a Ph.D. in the field of Palaeolithic peopling dynamics and lithic technology or related areas and have a strong record of research productivity and publications especially in the fields of technological and techno-functional studies and relating methodologies.

She/he should have research interests in the techno-economical, cultural and behavioural aspects of Palaeolithic populations. The ideal candidate is requested to have a general knowledge of Middle and Upper Palaeolithic in Italy, experience of the stratigraphy and taphonomy of Palaeolithic sites of Southern Italy and in-depth knowledge of Laplaces’s analytic typology; the applicant should also be able to design technological and techno-functional investigations at specific MP and UP contexts and to integrate and cooperate with a multidisciplinary environment and work directly with Palaeolithic archaeologists, Zooarchaeologists, Environmental archaeologists, Physical Anthropologists and Geochronologists.

The investigator is also requested to organize a permanent lithic Laboratory at the Cultural Heritage Department, Ravenna, with the creation of an experimental reference collection focused in MP-UP transition lithic artefacts.

The candidate will be requested to carry out: detection and interpretation of lithic chaînes opératoires and production targets; identification of different parts that form lithic tools by means of tecno-functional approach; description of techno-economic features of stone productions; reconstruction of human group mobility; syntheses of technical systems used by Palaeolithic people.