

Neandertal adaptations to Interglacial conditions - a case study from the Eemian site Neumark-Nord 2 (Germany)

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Propositions PhD defence E.A.L. Pop

- In order to get a better understanding of Neandertal survival in Eemian environments, it is necessary to document archaeology from Eemian localities situated outside of the main concentration in eastern Germany.
- Basin contexts like Neumark-Nord 2, small in size and with a strong gradient from sediment producing to sediment receiving areas, require large excavation sizes to document their full time-depth while the spatial analysis of fine time slices is limited by the converging character of layers upslope.
- We still do not know whether Neandertals were surviving in fully forested environments, as Eemian contexts particularly document the early phases of the Interglacial, which appear to be relatively open, especially around freshwater localities.
- There is no type of evidence that can conclusively differentiate between landscape management using fire on the one hand and natural wild fire on the other hand.
- One wooden implement can say more than a thousand lithics due to the limited preservation of wooden implements and the likely importance of this resource in Neandertal material culture.
- Advances in processing power and 3D capturing technology and the immense analytical power of refitting analysis should instigate the immediate development of morphology-based, automated lithic refitting.
- The ability to read the sedimentary matrix in which archaeological finds are encased is as important as the archaeology itself. Therefore, every student of archaeology should be intensively trained in geoarchaeology.
- Archaeological research is the icing on the cake of modern society.
- Manuscript submission systems and author guidelines of various publishing houses and scientific journals are in dire need of standardization.