



Universiteit  
Leiden  
The Netherlands

## **The Early and Middle Pleistocene archaeological record of Greece : current status and future prospects**

Tourloukis, V.

### **Citation**

Tourloukis, V. (2010, November 17). *The Early and Middle Pleistocene archaeological record of Greece : current status and future prospects*. LUP Dissertations. Retrieved from <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/16150>

Version: Corrected Publisher's Version

License: [Licence agreement concerning inclusion of doctoral thesis in the Institutional Repository of the University of Leiden](#)

Downloaded from: <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/16150>

**Note:** To cite this publication please use the final published version (if applicable).

E. Tourloukis

## **PROPOSITIONS**

- 1.** Instead of indicating a former absence of hominins, the scarce and fragmented nature of the Early-Middle Pleistocene archaeological record of Greece reflects the biasing and destructive effects of Quaternary geomorphic processes.
- 2.** For most of the Early and Middle Pleistocene, the Aegean region was a refuge during periods of climatic stress and constituted not only a major corridor facilitating animal and human movements, but also a productive habitat for human occupation. Therefore, the Aegean islands are expected to contribute important evidence to research in human evolution and hominin dispersals.
- 3.** In Mediterranean landscapes, well-preserved and archaeologically visible/accessible Lower Palaeolithic sites are most likely to be found in basin settings, which were uplifted and inverted in the late Pleistocene.
- 4.** In Mediterranean landscapes, the 500/600 m contour largely defines a geomorphological threshold between areas of erosion and areas of sedimentation. Excluding upland plateaus, possible evidence of sustained occupation below and above this altitude in the Lower and Middle Palaeolithic, cannot be linked with behavioral constraints until it is proven that such a 'threshold' does not reflect geomorphic biases.
- 5.** Large-scale archaeological patterns and developments within the Early and Middle Pleistocene are bound to be masked and filtered by the effects of geological and climatic parameters acting upon the formation of the regional archaeological records.
- 6.** In identifying patterns of early Pleistocene human occupation, research should take into consideration that the potential for human remains and artefacts to be preserved up to the present may be in cases inversely related to the degree of geodiversity of the region under study.
- 7.** There are numerous behavioral and cognitive innovations that cannot 'fossilize' in stone-tool technological traits and are largely undetectable by the available methodological approaches in current typo-technological systematics.
- 8.** On current evidence, crucial biological and socio-cultural developments in human evolution (e.g. second brain expansion, Aiello and Dunbar 1993; manipulation of fire, Preece *et al.* 2006) appear to emerge and/or become solidified in the late Lower Palaeolithic period (after ca. 600 ka). It will be interesting to see how the 'Middle Pleistocene Transition' influenced the aforementioned developments, e.g. in relation to the opening of the landscapes or the mammalian faunal complexes.

**9.** In “Mutual aid: a factor of evolution”, Peter Kropotkin disproved the view that the ‘war of each against all’ is a ‘law of nature’ and demonstrated that competition among individuals is *not* the rule in the animal world, including humankind. Depending on the ecological circumstances, cooperation (Foster and Xavier 2007) and reciprocal altruism (Fehr and Fischbacher 2003) will be selected for. Kropotkin’s work and the research of modern theorists in the social ecology movement (e.g. Bookchin 1997) can be most beneficial to current sociobiological approaches in human evolution (e.g. Dubreuil 2010).

[Bookchin, M. 1997. *The politics of social ecology: libertarian municipalism*. Montreal: Black Rose Books

Dubreuil, B. 2010. Paleolithic public goods games: why human culture and cooperation did not evolve in one step. *Biology and Philosophy* 25, 53-73

Fehr, E. and Fischbacher, U. 2003. The nature of human altruism. *Nature* 425, 785-91

Foster, K.R. and Xavier, J.B. 2007. Cooperation: bridging Ecology and Sociobiology. *Current Biology* 17, 319-21

Kropotkin, P. 1998 (reprint). *Mutual aid: a factor of evolution*. London: Freedom Press]

**10.** There are no ‘illegal’ people crossing borders, there are only borders crossing peoples.