



Universiteit
Leiden
The Netherlands

Optically stimulated luminescence dating of Palaeolithic cave sites and their environmental context in the western Mediterranean

Dörschner, N.

Citation

Dörschner, N. (2018, May 3). *Optically stimulated luminescence dating of Palaeolithic cave sites and their environmental context in the western Mediterranean*. Retrieved from <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/62212>

Version: Not Applicable (or Unknown)

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

Downloaded from: <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/62212>

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

Cover Page



Universiteit Leiden



The handle <http://hdl.handle.net/1887/62087> holds various files of this Leiden University dissertation

Author: Dörschner, Nina

Title: Optically stimulated luminescence dating of Palaeolithic cave sites and their environmental context in the western Mediterranean

Date: 2018-05-03

Acknowledgements

In summer 2005, just a couple of weeks before starting my first semester at the university, I visited my grandmother, Hanna Dörschner, who made a huge effort during my stay to tentatively talk me out of studying geography, in favour of a more grounded degree programme. She never got mad at me because I refused to follow her advice back then, and although she kept being sceptical about the career path I decided to follow, she supported me unconditionally and got more and more excited about it with every little step I took on my way to this PhD. I feel sad that she wasn't given the chance to see it finally coming to this happy ending, but am more than grateful for almost thirty years of encouragement and support.

Crucial to the realisation of my dissertation and articles has been the help of my supervisors. I would like to thank Jean-Jacques Hublin for his unwavering support and his valuable advices in many aspects of my work over the past years. Kathryn Fitzsimmons guided me through the complexities of this PhD, whether it concerned field work, luminescence dating, palaeoenvironmental reconstructions or scientific writing, she always helped me make sense of my data and opened new lines of thoughts when I felt lost.

The publications featured in this dissertation could not have been realised without the support of my co-authors, who spent hours in collecting research data and in writing on and correcting these articles. Thanks so much, Ruth Blasco, Abdeljalil Bouzouggar, Peter Ditchfield, Geraldine and Clive Finlayson, Sue McLaren, Shannon McPherron, Joaquín Rodríguez-Vidal, Jordi Rosell, Teresa Steele and Christoph Zielhofer for your support during field work and for providing me with essential data in the fields of archaeology, geology, sedimentology, micromorphology and isotope analyses. My special thanks belong to Shannon McPherron who also provided much-needed assistance on the various aspects of Palaeolithic archaeology and gave critical, but always friendly, comments which significantly improved my work. Many thanks to Marion Hernandez for introducing me to the solar simulator and for valuable discussions on the setup and results of dose recovery test experiments. I would also like to acknowledge my colleagues from the Casablanca project, Jean-Paul Raynal and Abderrahim Mohib, and thank them for our fruitful cooperation, which will hopefully result in a satisfactory chronostratigraphic framework for this outstanding Palaeolithic site in the coming years.

This research was made possible financially by the Max Planck Society and greatly supported by my colleagues from the Department of Human Evolution at the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology. I would like to thank all of you for commenting on test runs of presentations or poster drafts and for helping me solve the small problems in the everyday life of a PhD student. Thank you, Vera Aldeias, for intensive geoscientific discussions. Special thanks also go to Steffi Hesse for her

invaluable help not only in the luminescence lab and to Marjolein Bosch, Debra Colarossi, Tobias Lauer, Simon Neubauer and especially Stefanie Stelzer for their moral support during spontaneous coffee breaks when my head was overloaded with work. You all became close friends over the years and it has been a great pleasure to work with you.

My family, in particular my parents, Etta and Michael Dörschner, and my close friends, Katrin Krüger, Julia Burda, Anja and Ingmar Nitze and Jens Hartwich, have always been extremely supportive during the ups and downs of this PhD, irrespective of the spatial distance that separated us from time to time.

Finally, and most importantly, I would like to thank Thorsten Dörschner, my lovely husband, for supporting me unconditionally since now more than fourteen years. You are a source of boundless patience and encouragement which helped me to never give up. You had my back at any time over the past years and gave me the strength and self-confidence to start the biggest adventure of our lives. Having a baby right in the middle of my PhD has been challenging for both of us, still neither of us has ever regretted this decision for a single moment. We were rewarded with the most beautiful and precious little gift, our beloved daughter Eliza, who joyfully brought chaos into our daily routine. Who would have thought that hours over hours of sorting beads or watching sharks in the zoo swim in circles could be such delightful and satisfying experiences? You both taught me new perspectives on life and keep inspiring me every single day.

Curriculum vitae

The author of this dissertation, Nina Dörschner, was born on the twenty-sixth of March in 1986, in Berlin, Germany. After receiving her Abitur in 2005, she followed the Bachelor of Science program in geographical sciences at the Freie Universität, Berlin, from which she graduated in 2008. Her growing interest on the chronometric dating of sediments initially aroused while working on her Bachelor thesis, which focussed on the geomorphology and timing of glacial and post-glacial landforms in north-eastern Germany, and made her decide to continue her studies at the Freie Universität. She undertook a Master program in geography specialising in terrestrial systems and obtained her degree (M.Sc.) in 2011, with a thesis on the reconstruction of the Holocene evolution of a coastal dune system, Fulong Beach, in north-eastern Taiwan using luminescence dating. Her master project was granted by the DAAD (Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst) and included beside field work in Taiwan also OSL sample preparation and dating at the LIAG (Leibniz Institute for Applied Geophysics), Hannover. The results of her master thesis were published in 2012 as part of the Special Issue “Late Quaternary morphodynamics in East Asia” in Quaternary International. In 2011 she started her PhD on the OSL dating of Palaeolithic cave sites and their environmental context in the western Mediterranean under the supervision of Dr. habil. Kathryn E. Fitzsimmons and Prof. Dr. Jean-Jacques Hublin. During her PhD she conducted active research in Morocco and Gibraltar, published her research in several peer-reviewed international journals and presented her work at archaeological, geoscientific and luminescence dating conferences.

