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**Author:** Zwyns, Nicolas

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## Curriculum vitae

Nicolas Zwyns graduated from the University of Liège, Belgium, in 2004 with a degree in Art History and Archeology. His thesis was entitled *Les steppes nord-pontiques durant le Pléniglaciaire supérieur: Réflexions sur la variabilité des industries et sur la problématique des ensembles aurignacoïdes* and was supervised by Prof. Marcel Otte. In 2006, he successfully completed a Master of Arts in Archeology at University College of London, England, with a thesis entitled *Bladelet production during the Middle-Upper Palaeolithic transition in the Altai region (Siberia): Critical, theoretical and methodological reflections on the contribution of technological analyses* under the supervision of Ignacio de la Torre. In 2007, he received a fellowship from the Department of Human Evolution at the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig, Germany. During this period, he continued his studies as a PhD researcher under the supervision of Jean-Jacques Hublin and Shannon P. McPherron. His main interest is in the processes that led to the expansion of modern humans into central and eastern Eurasia in the late Pleistocene. He submitted his PhD dissertation in December, 2011. It was supervised by Jean-Jacques Hublin and Shannon McPherron and this book is the outcome of this PhD research.

Since January, 2012, Nicolas has been a post-doctoral researcher at UMR 5608-TRACES – *travaux et recherches archeologiques sur les cultures, les espaces et les sociétés*, at the University of Toulouse-Mirail in Toulouse, France.

As a field archeologist, Nicolas Zwyns participated in numerous Paleolithic excavations from Western Europe to the Tian-shan, including sites in western Russia, in Iran and in Uzbekistan. Since 2011, he has been co-director of an international team excavating the Paleolithic site of Tolbor 16, in northern Mongolia. He has participated in international conferences and published on the beginning of the Upper Paleolithic in Western and Eastern Europe and in Central and North-east Asia. He also participated in studies of the Neolithic/Mesolithic shift in Belgium and collaborated with specialists from other scientific fields, such as ancient DNA. His research is grounded in a multi-disciplinary approach that integrates the results of paleogenetics and of physical anthropology and that views these late Pleistocene hominins as mobile hunter-gatherers responding to a complex and changing physical geography and paleoenvironment.

