Παλαιολιθικό Σεμινάριο

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The Acheulian site of Gesher Benot Ya'aqov, Israel: environment, hominin culture, subsistence and adaptation

Η Αχελαία θέση Gesher Benot Ya'aqov, Ισραήλ: περιβάλλον, πολιτισμός, επιβίωση και προσαρμογή

The Acheulian site of Gesher Benot Ya'aqov (GBY), located in the Hula Valley, northern sector of the Dead-Sea transform is stretching along 3.5 km of the Jordan River and its banks. The accumulation of tilted lake margin sediments interfingering with basalt flows began around 1.1 Ma and ended after 0.6 Ma. The excavations (1989-1997) exposed 34 m thick deposits at the site provide unique data sets on climate, environment, biology, culture and hominin behaviour. Hominin presence is known all long the section but the richest sites (15) occur above the M/B Boundary Chron providing information on Acheulian technology and cognition along the time trajectory. Reconstructions of paleoenvironment and habitats are based on fossil remains yielding an extremely rich typical Mediterranean biomass of diverse biogeographic origins. Identification of macro and micro organic material exhibit a typical Mediterranean environment similar to the extant flora with few extinctions. Fossil faunal is rich and include molluscs, ostracods, fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, micromammals and medium to large mammals with dominant Palearctic biogeographic origin. Hominin occupations are recorded by thousands of lithic artifacts all assigned to Large Flake Acheulian culture. These assemblages show a continuous cultural tradition of the same tool kit along the time trajectory. Various reduction sequences of tools required developed cognitive abilities and continuous communication abilities interpreted as language. Evidence of hominin subsistence includes taphonomic data of carcass processing including extraction of marrow with preference of fallow deer, elephant, hippo and fish consumption. Edible Plant remains include nuts, USO, fruits, seeds and vegetables in association with stone artifacts and animal bones. Fire, present throughput was clearly instrumental in the expansion of diet and documented spatially. The GBY analyses provide novel results on hominin adaptations to a Mediterranean environment and on prolonged Levantine Corridor occupations, illustrating the mechanisms of diffusion along the African Great Rift system.

Τετάρτη 16 Δεκεμβρίου 2015, ώρα 19.00
Αμφιθέατρο "Αλ. Αργυριάδης"
Κεντρικό κτήριο Πανεπιστημίου Αθηνών (Πανεπιστημίου 30)
Είσοδος ελεύθερη

Υπεύθυνες διοργάνωσης:
Γεωργία Κουρτέση-Φιλιππάκη, αναπλ. καθηγήτρια Εθνικού και Καποδιστριακού Πανεπιστημίου Αθηνών
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