

**23<sup>rd</sup> Annual EAA Meeting, Maastricht 30 August- 3 September 2017**

**CALL FOR PAPERS Session 120: *Between research history and cutting-edge analysis: Cultural taxonomies as the building blocks for the European Stone Age***

Session organizers: Felix Riede, Aarhus University (DK) & Javier Fernandez-Lopez de Pablo, Institut Català de Paleoecologia Humana i Evolució Social (ESP)

SESSION ABSTRACT: Constructing units and placing these units into taxonomies is a necessary part of archaeological practice. Without taxonomies we can neither construct nor interpret culture history, nor can we hope to build bridges across regions and time periods. However, many of the units we use – facies, cultures, technocomplexes and the like – are inherited from much earlier days of archaeology, their exact meaning and the methods used for constructing them often obscure to today's practitioners. Troublingly, contemporary explanatory concerns often do not concern themselves with such dry matters as archaeological taxonomy and hence run the risk of perpetuating the use of analytical units that may rest on less-than-robust epistemological foundations.

We fear that the potentially flawed nature of our analytical units may prevent us from correctly interpreting basic culture-historical sequences. In addition, because in Europe, the cultural taxonomical units within the Late Upper Palaeolithic and Mesolithic periods vary from region to region, it is challenging to compare and correlate changes across regional or national borders as part of broader processes of technological innovation, cultural transmission and population dynamics. In this session, we aim to foster open debate on just how archaeological analytical units and taxonomies are or should be constructed.

We invite contributions that examine such archaeological units and taxonomies in research-historical perspective, contributions that attempt to build bridges between different time periods or regions, as well as contributions suggesting new ways of constructing analytical units and frameworks.

Please submit your paper title and abstract (300 word maximum) from January 31st to 15 March 2017 directly at <http://www.eaa2017maastricht.nl/en>. For questions please write to [f.riede@cas.au.dk](mailto:f.riede@cas.au.dk) and Javier Fernandez Lopez de Pablo [jfernandez@iphes.cat](mailto:jfernandez@iphes.cat).



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