

Session Proposal

European Association of Archaeologists (EAA) 12th Annual Meeting

Krakow, Poland

19th to 24th September 2006

Organizer: Tomasz Kalicki and Bartłomiej Szmoniewski

Theme:

Archaeology and Material Culture: Interpreting the Archaeological Record

Session Title:

Human impact on Lowland, Upland and Mountain Geosystems – Similarities and Differences

Abstract:

What is the relationship between human activities and lowland, upland and mountain geosystems?

Zonality and vertical zonality of the environment are the main features of global diversity of the Earth. However, the relief induced significant differences in the structure and dynamics between lowland, upland and mountain geosystems also within one geographical zone. Old- and young glaciated areas of European lowlands with favourable relief and climatic conditions had in the same time pure post glaciated environment (pure soils as podsollic etc.). Limestone uplands were covered with loess in periglacial conditions. These were the areas with best soils for agriculture during the Holocene. Mountains with their intensive morphogenetic processes and vertical zonality created very specific and complicated areas for development of settlement and human activity. This geobiodiversity of European environment caused diachronic of human activity and joint geosystems to ecumene. The scale and time of geosystems reaction on anthropopression as were different. They were caused by natural conditions.

The mentioned geosystems are also very different from the archeological point of view, i.e. settlement density has been very high in the Polish uplands and very low in the Carpathians since Stone Age. However, present-day investigations have shown more complicated picture of the human activity in mountain geosystems.

The aim of this session will be to compare lowland, upland and mountain geosystems under anthropogenic stress:

- 1) The differences and similarities between human activities in the lowland, upland and mountain geosystems
- 2) The relation between settlement pattern and geosystems on regional and local scale
- 3) Time (delay) and force of reaction of geosystems to human impact

Contact details:

Tomasz Kalicki

Institute of Geography and Spatial Organization Polish academy of Sciences, Cracow

E-mail: kalicki@zg.pan.krakow.pl

Bartłomiej Szmoniewski
Institute of Archeology and Ethnology
Polish Academy of Sciences
Cracow Branch
ul. Sławkowska 17
31-016 Krakow, Poland
E-mail: bartheque@yahoo.fr
barthequeszmoniewski-iaepan@yahoo.fr