

Session Proposal

European Association of Archaeologists (EAA) 12th Annual Meeting
Krakow, Poland
19th to 24th September 2006

Organizer: Tobias Kienlin, Benedicte Quilliec, Ben Roberts

Theme:

Archaeology and Material Culture: Interpreting the Archaeological Record

Session Title:

**Beyond types, composition and production techniques:
what insights can studying metal provide into the social
dynamics of prehistoric communities in Europe?**

Abstract:

The evidence of metal objects and metal production has been drawn upon by many generations of European prehistorians. Over the years an extensive body of metal objects have been catalogued, many production sites and mines have been excavated, and a range of archaeometallurgical laboratory techniques developed and extensively applied. This research has created a dataset that is arguably unparalleled in prehistoric research. However, the interpretation of this evidence has rarely addressed issues beyond chronology, provenance, and purely technical aspects of production – a somewhat limited approach. The purpose of this session is to investigate further possibilities such as the cognitive and social aspects of metal production, the dynamics underlying the transmission of metal objects and metallurgical knowledge, and the nature of craft specialisation.

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