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RAIKO KRAUSS / HARALD FLOSS (eds), *Southeast Europe before Neolithisation*. Proceedings of the International Workshop within the Collaborative Research Centres SFB 1070 “RessourcenKulturen”, Schloss Hohentübingen, 9th of May 2014. RessourcenKulturen volume 1. Universität Tübingen, Tübingen 2016. € 35.00. ISBN 978-3-946552-01-7. 222 pages, numerous figures in b/w and colour.

The book *Southeast Europe before Neolithisation* is the first volume in the “RessourcenKulturen” series published under the aegis of the Tübingen University’s Collaborative Research Centre (*Sonderforschungsbereich*) SFB 1070, funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG). This series aims to disseminate results of the Centre’s research projects as peer reviewed monographs, conference proceedings, and dissertations.

The editors Raiko Krauss and Harald Floss explain in the introduction (pp. 9–11) that this volume brings together two projects of the Collaborative Research Centre about the utilisation of available resources during major turning points in European prehistory: one focuses on the Middle to Upper Palaeolithic transition in Burgundy and the Swabian Jura, and the other on the process of Neolithisation in Southeastern Europe, particularly in the Banat and at the Bulgarian Black Sea coast. The Danube valley is a common ground where these two projects’ research overlap. A need was recognised ‘to bridge the gap between a very good state of research on the Neolithic [in Southeast Europe] while the Mesolithic, in comparison with adjacent regions, was much neglected, with notable exception of the Iron Gates’ (p. 11). Unfortunately, the research in Epirus and Albania remained out of this volume’s geographical scope.

A workshop was therefore organised at Tübingen in 2014 which ultimately resulted in the publication of this volume consisting of eleven contributions. The volume is available both as a PDF in open access (<https://dx.doi.org/10.15496/publikation-10762>) and in print on demand.

Harald Floss, Simon Fröhle, and Stefan Wettengl deliver an exhaustive report (pp. 13–39) on the current state of research on modern humans’ arrival to Europe focusing on the Danube corridor as a two-fold (Transalpine and Cisalpine) passageway in their spread from Southeastern Europe to the north and northwest. After comparing density of the Aurignacian sites to the availability of raw material resources along the Danube, they argue that a lower density of sites in the Lower Danube and Pannonian Basin rather reflects a scarcity of raw material sources in these areas than a lack of systematic archaeological research.

Janusz Kozłowski provides a thorough update of the research on the Mesolithic in the Aegean basin and highlights the role of seafaring in establishing an extended social and economic network across the region (including the Pre-Pottery Neolithic A of Cyprus and Anatolia). He further discusses the contrasting subsistence strategies in the Mesolithic of Aegean islands and the Eastern Greek mainland (pp. 41–64).

After reviewing a selection of works related to social analyses in archaeology of hunter-gatherers, Dušan Borić and Emanuela Cristiani explore their potential for studying intra- and inter-regional networks in the Balkans and Italy during the Pleistocene and Early Holocene (pp. 73–112). They chose three categories of artefacts that appear in variable quantities and contexts at archaeological sites across these two regions: shouldered points from the Last Glacial Maximum, decorative motifs on osseous artefacts from the Terminal Pleistocene and Early Holocene, and a variety of ornamental beads recorded throughout the Upper Paleolithic and Mesolithic. They further investigate analogies and distribution of each of these categories in the light of social network theories.

Three articles cover the Mesolithic and Neolithic research in the geographically adjoining regions of Northwest Anatolia, the Eastern Balkans, and the Northwestern Black Sea coast with their respective hinterlands. Ivan Gatsov and Petranka Nedelcheva (pp. 65–71) warn that evidence of Mesolithic sites in Bulgaria and Western Macedonia is missing because of the lack of systematic survey. They focus on the recent research of the Early Neolithic in Central Northwestern Anatolia and Eastern Thrace. While they state that lithic industries in Central Northwestern Anatolia are still difficult to define either as Pre-Pottery Neolithic or Pottery Neolithic due to a lack of comparable finds, they highlight the presence of bullet core technology in both the Early Neolithic of Eastern Thrace and the Mesolithic Kukrek and Grebeniki industries in the neighbouring Northwest Black Sea coast. Paolo Biagi (pp. 113–129) adds more detail on the timing of the Mesolithic and Early Neolithic of the Northwest Black Sea coast, primarily relying on the long sequences of human settlement uncovered in the Crimean rock-shelters and on the new AMS dates and recent probes from pollen cores. Commonalities that lithic industries in this region share with some Terminal Pleistocene sites in the Balkans can be demonstrated, but the situation in the Early Holocene is less clear due to a lack of information from the Balkan areas other than the Danube Iron Gates. It is notable that the new series of radiocarbon dates confirmed a significant chronological precedence of the Late Mesolithic geometric trapeze technology (Grebeniki) over the beginning of the Balkan Early Neolithic, contrary to earlier beliefs. Dmytro Kiosak (pp. 131–147) further expands a discussion about the Kukrek and Grebenyky lithic industries from the Late Mesolithic sites in Southwest Ukraine and comments at length on the problem of their correlation with the Early Neolithic of the region, represented by the Bug-Dniester (BDK), Linear Pottery (LBK) and Criş cultures. He notes that, unlike the LBK lithic industry, the lithics at BDK sites show affinity with the local Mesolithic, i. e. with the Grebenyky flintworking. However, he argues that this affinity is not so straightforward when other categories of the BDK archaeological record are compared to those at the Mesolithic sites and suggests that the BDK probably represents a riverine adaptation. The question of the exact chronology and character of BDK sites and their relation to the Late Mesolithic and / or Early Neolithic of this region is currently being addressed with small-scale excavations that could provide more information.

The Iron Gates is the main topic of three contributions (partly covered also in Borić's and Cristiani's paper mentioned above). In order to explore 'continuation and cultural unitary entity' (sic!) of the Terminal Pleistocene sites in the Iron Gates, Clive Bonsall and Adina Boroneanţ (pp. 149–164) review stratigraphic, faunal, and radiocarbon evidence from these sites and conclude that, while there is an evidence that humans were frequenting the Danube Gorges during the Bølling-Allerød warm oscillation, more evidence is needed to confirm their presence during the Younger Dryas cooling. They note that the use of dissimilar classifications of material culture and artefact categories in the research of this region makes evaluating the continuity and synchronicity of the archaeological record during the Terminal Pleistocene difficult. Petru Ciocani (pp. 165–183) reviews the sequence of environmental and cultural adaptations and transformations in the Iron Gates from the Epipalaeolithic to the Late Neolithic based on the published reports. He notes that the under-exploration of the pre-Neolithic settlement of the Central Balkans and Lower Danube may be a factor that affects better understanding of these transformations. Aurelian Rusu (pp. 185–192) contemplates semantics of the term 'Lepenski Vir-Schela Cladovei Culture' and examines its emergence as a 'paradigm' of the Meso- / Neolithic transition in the region, its context at the time of discovery, and how it changed later on, including the effects of educational background and personal biographies of researchers, the ongoing debates, and the possibilities of comparison with similar periods in the adjacent areas.

The Carpathian Basin is yet another under-explored portion of Southeast Europe in regard to the Meso-Neolithic transition. Raiko Krauss (pp. 193–222) assesses the reasons for scarce Meso-

lithic evidence in this area and summarises the distribution and context of the existing finds. He further reviews the Neolithisation process in the Carpathian Basin, especially in respect to the location of the ‘Central-European-Balkan Agroecological-Barrier’, which marks the limit of insolation intensity and duration necessary for practising agriculture and stock breeding, and clarifies why the earliest Neolithic in the area, preceding 5500 calBC, is found only south of that barrier.

This volume contains valuable reviews of the current state of research of the periods preceding the Neolithic in Southeast Europe, including the debates about the process of Neolithisation and the new research results. It must be noted that a number of reports about Southeast European palaeogenomics and paleogenetics were published in recent years, contributing to better understanding of the population dynamics during the transition periods in the Danube Basin and beyond (e.g. C. BONSAILL / A. BORONEANT, The Iron Gates Mesolithic – a brief review of recent developments. *Anthropologie* [Paris] 122,2, 2018, 264–280. doi: <https://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.anthro.2018.03.003>; L. LOOG ET AL., Estimating mobility using sparse data: Application to human genetic variation. *Proc. Nat. Acad. Scien.* 114,46, 2017, 12213–12218. doi: <https://dx.doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1703642114>; I. MATHIESON ET AL., The genomic history of southeastern Europe. *Nature* 555,7695, 2018, 197–203). Consequently, some claims in this volume’s contributions would require an update, but some issues that seriously affect archaeological discussions about the process of Neolithisation remain current. Those that are mentioned in this volume are: under-exploration of the Palaeolithic and Mesolithic in certain regions of Southeast Europe, incompatible terminologies, and inadequate sampling, collecting and recording of certain categories of archaeological evidence (a problem related not only to the ‘old’ excavations). There is a necessity not so much to abandon culture historical terms and definitions when studying archaeological evidence, but to delve beyond them and explore other ways to advance archaeological knowledge about cultural contacts, interactions, and transmissions. Persistence of ‘progressivist’ views when interpreting material culture in some papers of this volume (although not uncommon in the archaeological practice elsewhere) restricts a fuller and more nuanced assessment of the socio-economic interactions of small-scale societies, especially hunter-gatherers (see J. ARNOLD ET AL., Entrenched disbelief: Complex hunter-gatherers and the case for inclusive cultural evolutionary thinking. *Journal Arch. Method and Theory* 23,2, 2016, 448–499; R. LAYTON / P. ROWLEY-CONWY, Wild things in the north? Hunter-gatherers and the tyranny of the colonial perspective. *Anthropologie* [Brno] 51,2, 2013, 213–230).

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ALASDAIR WHITTLE, The Times of Their Lives. Hunting History in the Archaeology of Neolithic Europe. Oxbow Books, Oxford 2018. £ 40,-. ISBN 978-1-78570-668-4. 320 Seiten mit zahlreichen Abbildungen.

Das Buch von Alasdair Whittle basiert auf einem vom European Research Council finanzierten Projekt unter dem selbigen Titel („The Times of Their Lives“), in dem es um die Anwendung Bayesianischer (oder Bayesscher) Kalibration auf Serien von Radiokarbonaten von verschiedenen Fundorten quer durch Europa ging. Die von ihm untersuchten Fundstellen erstrecken sich von den Orkney-Inseln im Norden bis Andalusien im Süden und von der portugiesischen Atlantikküste im Westen bis in den Schwarzmeerraum im Osten, nehmen also ganz Europa in den Blick, wobei sich Schwerpunkte auf den Britischen Inseln sowie in Mitteleuropa und im Karpatenbecken