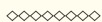


MUSEU DE LEIRIA



The Lapedo Child

20 YEARS
afterwards

December 15 and 16, 2018

-

International Conference



O Menino do Lapedo

20 ANOS
depois

15 e 16 de dezembro 2018

-

Conferência Internacional





DECEMBER 15, 2018

Welcoming of participants 09:30

Receção aos visitantes 09:30

Opening ceremony 10:00

Cerimónia de abertura 10:00

10:30 - 13:00

1. João Zilhão (10:30-11:00)

ICREA, Barcelona University; UNIARQ, University of Lisbon, Portugal

ICREA, Universidade de Barcelona; UNIARQ, Universidade de Lisboa, Portugal

Title: To Be or Not to Be: Neandertals and Humanness, Twenty Years After Lagar Velho

Título: Ser ou não ser: Neandertais e humanidade, vinte anos depois de Lagar Velho

The notion that the Lagar Velho child's mosaic of anatomic features showed that Neandertal/modern human contact had resulted in extensive admixture and, eventually, disappearance-through-assimilation of the Neandertal phenotype, is now twenty years old. At the time, these propositions were the object of intense debate, but subsequent discoveries, namely of the Oase fossils of Romania, and the advent of nuclear genomics, have now settled the issue. The fundamental implication of these developments in Physical Anthropology and Paleogenetics was that no distinction at species level existed between the two sides of these biological interactions, with all the corresponding implications for the associated issues of putative difference in language skills, cognitive ability, culture, or technology — as indeed intimated by the archeological evidence accumulated in parallel. Yet, even though the “interbreeding debate” is now essentially a thing of the past, academic resistance to the acceptance of the Neandertals’ sapient-ness remains almost as strong as ever — cf. the reactions of many scholars to the recent news that they had been the world’s first cave artists and the people among which we find the earliest evidence for body painting and personal ornamentation. I will present these results, will discuss the arguments upon which objections to them have been raised, and conclude with a reflection on whether — just like those that followed the discovery of the Lagar Velho child — current Neandertal debates may well inform us a lot more about the present than they do about the past.

Organizing Committee: Ana Cristina Araújo (Archaeosciences Laboratory (LARC) from DGPC), Ana Maria Costa (Archaeosciences Laboratory (LARC) from DGPC), Vânia Carvalho (Leiria Museum)

Comissão organizadora: Ana Cristina Araújo (Laboratório de Arqueociências (LARC) da DGPC), Ana Maria Costa (Laboratório de Arqueociências (LARC) da DGPC), Vânia Carvalho (Museu de Leiria)

Keywords: Neandertals; Modern Humans; Cave Art; Behavioral Modernity

Palavras-chave: Neandertais; Humanos Modernos; Arte das Cavernas; Comportamento Moderno

Coffee break | Pausa para café (11:00-11:30)

2. Juan Luis Arsuaga (11:30-12:00)

Complutense University of Madrid, Spain

Universidade Complutense de Madrid, Espanha

Title: Before Neanderthals

Título: Antes dos Neandertais

The caves of the Sierra de Atapuerca in Burgos (Spain) have yielded numerous human fossils in the last 40 years. Among them is a Neanderthal foot phalanx, but the other findings correspond to fossils much earlier in time. The oldest deposit, more than one million years old, is called Sima del Elefante, where a hand phalanx and a mandible have been found. We can guess from the age of the fossils that *Homo erectus* is the species. Another Atapuerca site, Gran Dolina, has provided abundant 800,000-year-old fossils that the Atapuerca researchers consider another species: *Homo antecessor*. Finally, the Sima de los Huesos deposit contains the skeletons of almost 30 individuals dated to 430,000 years, who belong to the Neanderthal lineage. All these extraordinary fossils allow us to study the evolution of Neanderthals and *Homo sapiens*. It is now clear, thanks to the Sima de los Huesos fossils that in the Neanderthal lineage the face and teeth evolved first, and later evolved the brain. The same thing seems to have happened in Africa with the origin of *Homo sapiens*.

Keywords: Atapuerca sites; Neanderthal evolution

Palavras-chave: Sítios de Atapuerca; Evolução dos Neandertais

3. Paul Pettitt (12:00-12:30)

Department of Archaeology, Durham University, United Kingdom

Departamento de Arqueologia da Universidade de Durham, Reino Unido

Title: Digging holes. Palaeolithic ‘burials’ in wider thanatological context

Título: Escavar buracos. Enterramentos paleolíticos em contexto tanatológico mais alargado

Abstract

Over the last century, Middle and Upper Palaeolithic burials have come to be central to notions of ‘modern’ human behaviour and even symbolic systems, occupying a central role in the academic and popular dissemination of human evolution. But were they that numerous, or were they that special? I review here the existing data on burials of Pleistocene Neanderthals and *Homo sapiens* in wider biological context. I argue that the Lapedo child burial and others similar to it are easily understood

in broader ethological phenomena. Drawing on research into the corpse disposal activities of several animal taxa, I hope to show that Palaeolithic burials share a very deep evolutionary inheritance. Although the term ‘burial’ is appropriate for the three-stage physical process (dig a hole; put the corpse in it; cover it up) I suggest that for the underlying reasons for it suggest that ‘Neoclaustralisation’ may be a more appropriate term, and suggest that the Lapedo Child is an exemplar of cultural elaboration of this deep rooted behaviour.

Keywords: Burial; Thanatology; Gravettian; Magdalenian

Palavras-chave: Tanatologia; Gravetense; Madalenense

Debate 12:30 - 13:00

Lunch (free) | Almoço (livre) 13:00 - 14:15

14:30 - 17:30

4. Eugénia Cunha (14:30-15:00)

INMLCF, IP; Centre for Functional Ecology, Department of Life Sciences, University of Coimbra, Portugal

INMLCF, IP; Centro de Ecologia Funcional/ Departamento de Ciências da Vida, Universidade de Coimbra, Portugal

Title: Twenty years of postgraduate teaching in Human Evolution

Título: Vinte anos de ensino graduado em Evolução Humana

Abstract

Twenty years past the launching of the Master’s degree aimed at the training and dissemination of Human Evolution & Biology at the University of Coimbra, it is now time for a retrospective. It is pertinent to make an evaluation regarding the curricular progress of the course, shaped by novel data generated by ground-breaking research, thus promoting an escalating impact and interest in Human Evolution in our society. A critical analysis of the course will be carried out including the highlighting of successful cases – e.g. thesis and papers with the highest impact – as well as least positive aspects. Forecasts of the future evolution of this Master’s degree will also be discussed.

Keywords: Human evolution; Training; Social impact

Palavras-chave: Evolução humana; Educação; Impacto social

5. Johannes Krause (15:00-15:30)

Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History, Germany

Instituto Max Planck para a Ciência da História Humana, Alemanha

Title: The genetic history of Ice Age Europe

Título: A história genética da Idade do gelo na Europa

Abstract

The application of high throughput DNA sequencing technologies to ancient human skeletal remains has revolutionized the study of human mobility patterns and population dynamics through time. Recent years have witnessed a shift from studying short mitochondrial DNA fragments to entire ancient human genomes, enabling the identification of genetic changes in modern human populations from the Pleistocene to historical time periods around the globe. The direct comparison of ancient and modern genetic data, in combination with temporal transects in various regions of the world, allows to identify genetic turnovers, to test for genetic continuity or for local extinctions of human populations. Despite the great progress and thousands of ancient human genomes published, little is currently known about the genetic history of Ice Age Europeans. So far only a few dozen individuals from Late Pleistocene Europe have been successfully analyzed. Here the genome-wide data currently available for Pleistocene European hunter gatherers will be reviewed. The data suggests that over the last 40,000 years, the proportion of Neanderthal DNA decreased from 3–6% to around 2%, consistent with natural selection against Neanderthal variants in modern humans. It will be shown that the earliest modern humans in Europe did not contribute substantially to present-day Europeans, all individuals between ~37,000 and ~14,000 years ago descended from a single founder population which forms part of the ancestry of present-day Europeans. A ~35,000-year-old individual from northwest Europe represents an early branch of this founder population which was then displaced across a broad region, before reappearing in southwest Europe during the last ice age ~19,000 years ago. During the major warming period after ~14,000 years ago, a new genetic component related to present-day Near Easterners appears in Europe. These results document how population turnover and migration have been recurring themes of European pre-history but also highlight the need for additional genomic data from Pleistocene hunter gatherers.

Keywords: Human history; Pleistocene hunter gatherers; Ancient DNA; Human mobility

Palavras-chave: História humana; Caçadores-recolectores do Pleistoceno; ADN antigo; Mobilidade humana

Coffee break | Pausa para café (15:30-16:00)

6. Erik Trinkaus (16:00-16:30)

Department of Anthropology, Washington University, Saint Louis MO 63130, USA

Departamento de Antropologia, Universidade de Washington, Saint Louis, EUA

Title: The Lagar Velho Child and Perspectives on Sex and Death in the Earlier Upper Paleolithic

Título: A criança do Lagar Velho e perspectivas sobre sexo e morte no Paleolítico Superior antigo

Abstract

The 1998 discovery of a child in the Lapedo Valley provided the first “red ochre” burial in extreme southwestern Europe, raised questions about Gravettian mortuary behavior, and reopened the discussion of Neandertal-modern human relationships.

The suggestion that it provided morphological evidence of Neandertal-modern intimate behavior generated global attention; the idea was neither novel nor revolutionary, and it has now become universally accepted. Lost in the debate was our primary conclusion: that they saw each other as appropriate mates, and hence it reinforced the humanity of the Neandertals.

Also largely lost in discussion were our thoughts on age, sex and burial patterns in the earlier Upper Paleolithic. As a single burial of a juvenile, Lagar Velho 1 remains unusual, but new discoveries and reassessments have provided a more complex and nuanced perspective. Various elaborated burials are known from neonates to the elderly. They remain late adolescent to adult and male biased. Grave goods are rare, but personal decoration is ubiquitous. The biologically unusual are over-represented, evidence of postmortem body manipulation is common, and many were not buried. From this a complex and dynamic mortuary (and hence social) milieu is emerging, far more relevant than issues of ancestral purity.

Keywords: Burial; Mortuary; Early modern humans; Neandertals

Palavras-chave: Enterramento; Mortuária; Antigos Humanos Modernos; Neandertais

Debate 16:30 - 17:00

DECEMBER 16, 2018

10:00 – 13:00

Field trip to Lagar Velho rock-shelter (Lapedo valley) and visit to the Lagar Velho Interpretation Centre (CIALV)

Excursão ao Abrigo do Lagar Velho (Vale do Lapedo) e visita ao Centro de Interpretação do Abrigo do Lagar Velho (CIALV)

With the participation of João Zilhão, Cidália Duarte and Joan Daura (Lagar Velho rockshelter); Pedro Ferreira (CIALV)

Com a participação de João Zilhão, Cidália Duarte e Joan Daura (Abrigo do Lagar Velho); Pedro Ferreira (CIALV)

ORGANIZAÇÃO



PARTICÍPEMOS

