

The MileStone_Age

Meeting, 22-25 September 2025, Les Plantiers, France



Participants :

Barbotin Gaëlle
Beauvais Pierre-Antoine
Brown Dione
Claverie Fanny
Cnuts Dries
Conard Nicholas
Gally Asmodée
Kong Xiangmei
Igreja Marina
Longet Benoit
Mercier Norbert
Oberholzer Roné
Parkington John
Pécheyras Christophe
Porraz Guillaume
Presnyakova Darya
Rots Veerle
Schmid Viola
Taipale Noora
Tribolo Chantal

General Time Table

Monday 22		arrivals	
		19h30	diner
Tuesday 23		8h00-8h30	breakfast
		8h45-10h30	working session
		10h30-10h45	pause
		10h45-12h30	working session
		12h30-14h00	lunch
		14h00-16h00	working session
		16h00-16h15	pause
		16h15-...	working session
		19h30	diner
Wednesday 24		8h00-8h30	breakfast
		8h45-10h30	working session
		10h30-10h45	pause
		10h45-12h30	working session
		12h30-14h00	lunch
		14h00-16h00	working session
		16h00-16h15	pause
		16h15-...	working session
		19h30	diner
Thursday 25		8h00-8h30	breakfast
		8h30	departures (except early peoples)

Scientific program

Introduction

Guillaume Porraz and Chantal Tribolo: *Objectives, current state.*

Western cape: Diepkloof/Elands Bay Cave

Guillaume Porraz: *Introduction to the MSA sequences of Diepkloof and Elands Bay Cave.*

Chantal Tribolo et al.: *Chronology of Diepkloof rock shelter: at the heart of the controversy.*

Darya Presnyakova: *Bifacial Technologies in the Middle Stone Age of Southern Africa: Enduring Questions and Fresh Insights from the Still Bay phase at Diepkloof Rockshelter, Western Cape.*

Pierre-Antoine Beauvais: *Beyond Diepkloof: Reconsidering the Early Howiesons Poort.*

Ronè Oberholzer : *Baked and Flaked: the crescents of Diepkloof Rock Shelter.*

John Parkington: *Elands Bay Cave and Diepkloof Rock Shelter: two eyes on the past, persistent places* .

Kwazulu: Sibhudu

Nicholas Conard : *Sibhudu 2012-2025*

Xiangmei Kong: *MSA dynamics in high resolution: evidence from Sibhudu.*

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Chantal Tribolo et al. : *Optical dating at Sibhudu: an update.*

Dries Cnats, Lauren Lien, Veerle Rots: *Stone tool residue analysis at Sibhudu cave: methodological and taphonomic considerations.*

Free state : Rose Cottage Cave

Viola Schmid: *The chrono-cultural sequence of Rose Cottage Cave – a view from the interior on technological change and cultural developments.*

Limpopo : Bushman Rock Shelter /Heuningkneskrans

Viola Schmid: *Charting a new course for the southern African Middle Stone Age (MSA) during Marine Isotope Stage 5 – the case studies of Bushman Rock Shelter and Sibhudu Cave.*

Guillaume Porraz: *Bushman and Heugneskrans side by side.*

Chantal Tribolo et al.: *Bushman Rock Shelter and Heuningkneskrans chronology: success and doubts.*

Benoit Longet: *The generic Middle Stone Age: A viewpoint from the early MIS5 lithic technology of Bushman Rock Shelter (Limpopo, SA).*

Giulia Ricci, Guillaume Porraz: *The SU Cilo at Heugnineskrans: focus on a Robberg occupation*

Marina Igreja, Guillaume Porraz, Viola Schmid: *First Functional Insights from Oakhurst Macro Tool Use-Wear at BRS*

Giulia Ricci, Guillaume Porraz: *The Oakhurst end-scrapers from Bushman Rock Shelter.*

Dione Brown: *Investigating ostrich eggshell beads as cultural makers.*

Matopos

Guillaume Porraz: *Pomongwe, in the Matobos.*

Chantal tribolo et al.: *High dose rates, low accuracy: optical dating in the Matopos*

Geochronology : methodological research

Norbert Mercier: *Attempts to determine variations in beta dose rate using a pixelated detector.*

Christophe Pécheyrán, Asmodée Galy, Gaëlle Barbotin, Fanny Claverie: *U-series dating of biominerals from Middle et Late Stone age using Isotope Imaging: Progress, results and outlook.*

Syntheses, discussions

Noora Taipale, Veerle Rots: *Building up frames of reference for use-wear studies in South Africa: raw material variability and trace formation.*

Veerle Rots, Noora Taipale, Justin Coppe, Marcel Schemmel: *Projectiles in South Africa in perspective.* .