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ANALYSIS RESEARCH & PLANNING FOR ARMENIA

Table ronde de l'Institut ARPA

"Les hauts plateaux arméniens et les premiers chasseurs cueilleurs aux sociétés de production alimentaire"

Panelistes : Boris Gasparyan, Phil Glauberman et Jayson Peter Gill
Modérateur : Prof. Ellery Frahm

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ARPA Institute Panel Discussion
"Armenian Highlands and Early-Hunter Gatherers to Food Producing Societies"
By Boris Gasparyan, Phil Glauberman and Jayson Peter Gill. Moderator: Ellery Frahm
Saturday, January 21, 2023 @ 10:00 am, PST

Abstract: The Armenian Highlands and the Caucasus, a glacial refugium, are a hotspot of biodiversity. The favorable climate, diversity and rich natural resources have helped define their pivotal role as an important destination and the cradle of many cultures. It is thought that for humans, during the Pleistocene it has served as a core area from which (re)colonizations of Eurasia started. Researchers working in Armenia will present archaeological records from the Lower, Middle and Upper Paleolithic periods. These records show the transition of our ancestors from nomadic hunter-gatherer to sedentary food-producing societies. The discussion will focus on the technological and social developments that occurred during this transition. The panelists will also share their ideas about landscape organization, management of life supporting resources, technology, exchange and connections, in parallel with cultural behaviors and the worldview of their ancestors. Under fluctuating climate conditions, the displacement will be discussed. During knowledge gaps, it will be shown how the people in the region developed their own local culture and interacted with other societies of the Ancient World, contributing to the shaping of the standard basis of early civilizations.

Boris Gasparyan, Ph.D. is a researcher at Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia and is Assistant Professor in the Department of Archaeology and Ethnography of Yerevan State University since 1992. He has directed and co-directed many international joint archaeological missions in Armenia since 2000. Boris is the author of numerous scientific publications regarding different aspects of the history of Armenia and the Near East. One of his most prominent projects led by Gasparyan is the Areni-1 cave, where the world's oldest shoe and wine producing facility were discovered. Among his achievements are the excavations of the Lower Paleolithic site of Haghartsin-3 in the Debed River Valley, series of important Middle Paleolithic sites in the Araks valley, the excavations of the Araks-1, Araks-2, Araks-3, Kavavaz-1 open-air and others. Gasparyan also contributed to the study of the Bronze-Iron Age, Classical Period and Medieval monuments of Armenia.

Phil Glauberman, PhD, University of Connecticut, USA, 2014, is a researcher at the Catalan Institute of Human Paleoecology and Social Evolution (IPHES) and Rovira i Virgili University in Tarragona, Spain. He also maintains affiliations at the Department of Early Prehistory and Quaternary Ecology at the University of Tübingen, Germany, and the Institute of

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Archaeology and Ethnography of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia (IAE NAS). Since 2008, he has collaborated on and co-directed several Paleolithic archaeology surveys and excavations in Armenia, including at the Lower Paleolithic site of Haghartsin-3, the Middle Paleolithic sites of Lusakert-1, Kavavaz-2, and Barozh-12, among others. He is mainly interested in learning about human behavior through the study of stone tools, their contexts, and the formation of Paleolithic sites. He seeks to improve our understanding of how Paleolithic humans addressed the challenges of living in the arid and semi-arid Armenian Highlands in the context of global climate changes. With Boris Gasparyan, Artur Petrosyan (IAE NAS), and an international research group, Phil currently co-directs a new archaeological project in the Araks valley, focused on the Lower Paleolithic artifacts and human remains at the sites of Areni 1 and 2 caves, and hopefully exploring the origins of the earliest human occupants of the Armenian Highlands.

Jayson Peter Gill, M.A. is a PhD candidate at the University of Oxford, United Kingdom. Since 2014, he has conducted multiple Paleolithic archaeology projects in Armenia, including work on the Lower Paleolithic sites of Nor Geghi-1, Haghartsin-3, and Hatz-1, as well as the Middle Paleolithic site of Lusakert-1. The focus of his doctoral work is the application of lithic analysis, including the use of quantitative lithic analysis, and traditional modes of lithic analysis to answer questions regarding human behavior change during the Lower to Middle Paleolithic transition in Eurasia. This research has been informed by fieldwork experiences that have been extremely beneficial to Levalllos to prepare core technology using both newly excavated material and museum collections. Currently, he co-directs excavations at the Middle Paleolithic site of Pighavan-4 in the Debed Gorge of northern Armenia and is collaborating on a project investigating the colonization of the Armenian Highlands by the first humans of Armenia. Jayson also works on material from the UK through a collaboration with the British Museum.

Ellery Frahm, PhD, University of Minnesota, USA, 2010, is a faculty member in the Department of Anthropology and Council on Archaeological Studies at Yale University, USA. Dr. Frahm is also affiliated with the Anthropology Division of the Yale Peabody Museum, and has published in the *Journal of Archaeological Science*. Since 2011, he has collaborated on a range of Paleolithic archaeological projects in Armenia, spanning from Lower Paleolithic sites such as Nor Geghi-1 to Upper Paleolithic sites such as Agarak-1 cave. Tracing the trajectories of obsidian artifacts in the distant past allow him to understand how different human groups made use of natural resources across the landscape, how they responded to environmental challenges, and how these factors shaped opportunities for the spread of technological innovations and social changes.

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