Seeing Lithics: A Middle-Range Theory for Testing for Cultural Transmission in the Pleistocene

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Anthropology

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Abstract

There is substantial debate over the extent to which the Middle to Upper Paleolithic transition and the dispersal of anatomically modern humans from Africa into Eurasia at the end of the Pleistocene were the result of the same process, related processes, or unrelated but coincident processes. The current debate shows a gap in archaeological method and theory for understanding how different cultural transmission processes create patterning in the material culture of foragers at the resolution of Paleolithic palimpsests. This research project attempts to bridge this gap with a middle-range theory connecting cultural transmission and dual inheritance theory with the archaeological study of flintknappers' flake-by-flake choices in the production of lithic assemblages. The project thus combines a new middle-range theory as well as a new approach to characterizing Paleolithic assemblages for systematic comparison of units of analysis appropriate to distinguishing forces of change in cultural evolution.

Fingerprint

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Seeing lithics; a middle-range theory for testing for cultural transmission in the Pleistocene. Traces of genetic abnormalities, such as EPF, are seen unusually often in the skulls of Pleistocene humans, from early Homo erectus to the end of the Paleolithic. Early human skull reveals signs of inbreeding. Thesaurus browser. Tostevin, GB 2012, Seeing Lithics: A Middle-Range Theory for Testing for Cultural Transmission in the Pleistocene. American School of Prehistoric Research Monograph Series, Peabody Museum, Harvard University; and Oxbow Books, Oxford, UK, & Oakville, CT. Tostevin GB. @book{16ddd90d01404b0b97e0c376c47678fe, title = "Seeing Lithics: A Middle-Range Theory for Testing for Cultural Transmission in the Pleistocene", abstract = "There is substantial debate over the extent to which the Middle to Upper Paleolithic transition and the dispersal of anatomically modern humans from Africa into Eurasia at the end of the Pleistocene were the result of the same process, related processes, or unrelated but coincident processes. A Middle-range Theory for Testing for Cultural Transmission in the Pleistocene. Author: Gilbert B. Tostevin. Publisher: Oxbow Books Limited. LITHICS IN THE LAND OF THE LIGHTNING BROTHERS skilfully integrates a wide range of data-raw-material procurement, tool design, reduction and curation, patterns of distribution and association-to reveal the major outlines of Wardaman prehistory. At the same time, the book firmly situates data and methods in broad theoretical context. In its regional scope and thorough technological approach, this book exemplifies the best of recent lithic analysis and hunter-gatherer archaeology.