

**The Neolithic « revolution » in a global perspective  
To origins of human control over nature**

**International Conference  
Auditorium of the Cité des sciences et de l'industrie  
October 2, 3, 4, 2008**

The Neolithic revolution is among the most important events in human history. The domestication of animal and plant species occurred independently in several parts of the world and allowed an unprecedented control over food resources. In a few thousand years, the resulting demographic increase brought about the formation of unequal and violent societies and the appearance of cities and States.

Throughout this conference, archaeologists, anthropologists, linguists, geneticists, agronomists and others will discuss the causes of this “revolution”, drawing on new evidence available on this period.

Social, economical and cultural consequences will be analysed, as well as the influence of agriculture and domestication on ecology and demography: events which may well have been the first signs of a loss of balance between humans and their environment.

**Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> October**

- 2 :00 Opening session by François d'Aubert, Cité des sciences et de l'industrie and Jean-Paul Jacob, Inrap
- 2:30 Introduction by Jean-Paul Demoule, université de Paris I- Sorbonne

**Rise of Neolithic**

How did the Neolithic come about in major parts of the world such as Near East, Africa, China, Americas, Oceania? On the other hand how did region such as Japan maintain populations of sedentary of hunters-gatherers?

Chairman : Jean Guilaine, Collège de France, Paris

- 3:00 The Jômon Counter-example in Japan, by Laurent Nespoulous, Inalco
- 3:30 The Neolithic in the Near-East, by Olivier Aurenche, Maison de l'Orient et de la Méditerranée, Lyon
- 4:00 The Beginnings of Agriculture in Africa, by Augustin Holl, Museum of Anthropology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
- 4:30 The Rise of Agriculture and Herding in China, by Li Liu, La Trobe University, Melbourne
- 5:00 The Birth of Agriculture and Herding in America, by Karen E. Stothert, University of Texas, El Paso (to be confirmed)
- 5:30 How France Became Neolithic, by Françoise Bostyn, Inrap
- 6:00 Debate

**Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> October**

### **Techniques and environment**

Which plant and animal species were domesticated? What new techniques appeared? How were the relationships between societies and their environments modified? What were the consequences of agriculture on the landscape?

Chairman: Roland Schaer, Cité des sciences et de l'industrie

- 9:30 Interactions between humans and Climate during the Neolithic, by Jean-François Berger, CNRS
- 10:00 The Beginnings of Domestication in the Old World: Interactions between Societies and Biodiversity, by Jean-Denis Vigne, CNRS
- 10:30 The Ways of Domestication, by Jean-Pierre Digard, CNRS
- 11:00 Domestication and Social Organisations, by François Sigaut, EHESS
- 11:30 Herding, Hunting and Society in France during the Neolithic, by Lamys Hachem, Inrap, UMR 7041
- 12:00 Architecture and Social Organisation in Neolithic times, by Anick Coudart, CNRS and Arizona State University, Tempe
- 12:30 Debate

### **Demography, migrations, language**

Better control over of animals and plants led to a demographic increase and to movements of colonisation which progressively eradicated hunter-gatherer populations

What are the signs of this demographic increase? What are the links between the population, genetics and the distribution of languages across the world?

Chairman: André Langaney, MNHN

- 2:30 The Demographic Expansion of Early Agricultural Populations on a Global Scale, by Peter Bellwood, Australian National University, Canberra
- 3:00 Greece and the Balkans: two Different Routes into Europe for the Neolithic? by Catherine Perlès, université de Paris X
- 3:30 The Relationship between Hunters-Gatherers and Farmers: Trading as a Way of "Neolithisation"? by Grégor Marchand, CNRS
- 4:00 Demographic Change during the Neolithic, by Jean-Pierre Bocquet-Appel, CNRS, EHESS
- 4:30 The Relationship between Genetics and Linguistics, by Alicia Sanchez-Mazas, université de Genève
- 5:00 The Limits of Linguistic Reconstructions, by Sylvain Auroux, CNRS
- 5:30 Debate

## **Saturday, October 4**

### **Ideologies and Power**

How did the spread of the Neolithic cultures lead to the development of unequal societies and to the birth of States? What ideologies and rituals are linked to these changes?

Chairman : Catherine Perlès, université de Paris X

- 9:30 Diversity of Agrarian Patterns at the End of the Neolithic Period, by Marcel Mazoyer, AgroParisRech et chaire Francqui internationale des universités francophones belges
- 10:00 Megalithic Sanctuaries in Anatolia, by Harald Hauptmann, Academy of Sciences, Heidelberg
- 10:30 The Belz Megaliths, by Stéphan Hinguant, Inrap
- 11:00 Large Enclosures and Funeral Rites during the Middle Neolithic, by Anne Augereau, Inrap
- 11:30 Rise of Inequalities and Birth of the State, by Jean-Paul Demoule
- 12:00 Imaginary and Symbolic Conditions for the Creation of Caste or Class Systems, by Maurice Godelier, EHESS
- 12:30 Debate

### **The Neolithic Heritage**

Are the Neolithic inventions – and notably plant and animal selection and the first hybrids – distance first step to the technological breakthrough and DNA manipulations? Are we entering a post Neolithic world in our relationship with the other living beings.

Chairman : Jean-Paul Demoule

- 2:30 From the Tree of the Explorer Primate to the Human Network: Filiations and migrations, by André Langaney
- 3:00 The Neolithic Revolution and the Mythologies of the Fault, by Roland Schaer
- 3:30 From Domestication to Biotechnology: Prometheus or Dedalus, by Pierre-Henri Gouyon, muséum national d'Histoire naturelle
- 4:00 Sharing a World with the Animals, by Dominique Lestel, École normale supérieure, Paris
- 4:30 Debate
- 5:30 Conclusion, by Jean Guilaine

International Conference organized by the Cité des sciences et de l'industrie, Paris and the Institut national de recherches archéologiques préventives, France  
Scientific adviser: Jean-Paul Demoule, université de Paris I-Sorbonne

Free entrance

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