
Abrasion or scraping? ...And if techniques were social life and gender indicators?

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Résumé

Technical behaviors of hunter-gatherers versus farmers are compared here through two different case studies lying in two very different universes: Eastern Arctic, European and Near Eastern Neolithic. In Eastern Arctic, the abrading technique is little applied compared with scraping. The reverse is observed during the Near-East and European Neolithic. This communication will stress the link between technical choices and social behaviors, in the aim of labor task distribution between men and women. Looking at an anthropological point of view, technological choices for the manufacturing processes depend on animal exploitation and representation. The social network and technical activities should be analyzed through a holistic system of interpretation to better understand why a technique in particular has been preferred for obtaining a result, which should have been similar with another one. Studying abrading versus scraping techniques raises true problematics.

Mots-Clés: Bone technology, Arctic, European and Near Eastern Neolithic, gender archaeology

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