

Postdoc in lithic technology

Applications are invited from qualified and highly motivated candidates for a one-year research position (subject to renewal) as a post-doc in “Chaînes opératoires and techno-functional analysis on lithic artefacts from Middle-Upper Palaeolithic transition contexts” within the team led by Prof. Stefano Benazzi at the Department of Cultural Heritage, University of Bologna, Italy.

The candidate will join the project “Our first steps to Europe: Pleistocene *Homo sapiens* dispersals, adaptations and interactions in South-East Europe” funded by the European Research Council (ERC) under the European Union’s Horizon Europe research and innovation programme (grant agreement No 101019659- FIRSTSTEPS) to prof. Katerina Harvati and prof. Stefano Benazzi. This interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary project aims to apply novel and cutting-edge methods from the fields of scientific archaeology, zooarchaeology, paleoanthropology, paleoecology and isotope analysis to understand 1) whether the presence of early *H. sapiens* in southern Europe, as suggested by Apidima, can be supported, 2) whether the adaptations of early *H. sapiens* differ from those of penecontemporaneous *H. neanderthalensis*, 3) the role of behavioural adaptations in the Late Pleistocene *H. sapiens*, and unravel the biological and/or cultural features that allowed them to disperse and establish a sustained presence in Europe, 4) whether there is fossil / archaeological evidence of cultural/biological interactions and exchange between modern humans and Neanderthals.

Applicants should have experience in the field of Palaeolithic peopling dynamics and lithic technology or related areas and have a strong record of research productivity and publications especially in the fields of technological and techno-functional studies and related methodologies.

She/he should have research interests in the techno-economical, cultural and behavioural aspects of Palaeolithic populations. The ideal candidate is requested to have a general knowledge of Middle and Upper Palaeolithic in Italy and experience of the stratigraphy and taphonomy of Palaeolithic sites of Southern Italy; the applicant should also be able to design technological and techno-functional investigations at specific MP and UP contexts and to integrate and cooperate with a multidisciplinary environment and work directly with Paleolithic archaeologists, Zooarchaeologists, Environmental archaeologists, Paleoanthropologists and Geochronologists.

The investigator is also requested to organize a permanent lithic Laboratory at the Department of Cultural Heritage, Ravenna, with the creation of an experimental reference collection focused in MP-UP transition lithic artefacts.

The candidate will be requested to carry out: detection and interpretation of lithic chaînes opératoires and production targets; identification of different parts that form lithic tools by means of tecno-functional approach; description of techno-economic features of stone productions; reconstruction of human group mobility; syntheses of technical systems used by Palaeolithic people.