



## **Leptolithic technology as a cultural marker in early European Anatomically Modern Humans dispersal and its counterpart in Late Neandertals: a further look to South-East Europe.**

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The middle MIS 3 period is labelled as the Middle to Upper Palaeolithic Transition. The major event is the arrival of Anatomically Modern Humans (AMH) in Europe and the subsequent slow disappearance of Neandertals. Technologically, this meant the replacement of a Middle Palaeolithic industries array with a virtually homogenous fully volumetric blade industry: the Aurignacian. Recently, scholars have put emphasis on the smallest Aurignacian technologic implement as the major industry cultural marker: the bladelet. Bladelets technology reassessment has allowed differing between regional productions in Western Europe, before hidden behind the typological labels. The most valued way of entrance of AMH in Europe is the one following the Danube valley and research in this geographical context led to the formulation of the Danube Corridor model, which has been recently reformulated: suggesting a two-fold AMH dispersal trajectory north and south of the Alps following the Danube (North) and the its tributary the Sava (South). On the other hand, during this period Late Neandertals related assemblages show an increase in leptolithic and even voluminar technology production. In Western France this resulted in the Chatelpéronian technocomplex, which produced an independent volumetric bladelet reduction with interesting typological similarities with the Proto-Aurignacian (AMH) one. Transitional technocomplexes traditionally related to an early AMH transgression in Europe, such as the Bohunician and the Bachokirian, are showing similarities with Late Neandertals leptolithic production. Previous studies have suggested that AMH dispersal followed preferential biomes, which differed from Transitional/Middle Palaeolithic habitation ranges. The PhD aims to a reevaluation of bladelet and blade implements, within the geographical and chronostratigraphical CRC 806 “Our Way to Europe” B1 sub-project framework, using updated and objective data to create a meaningful comparison between assemblages and detect possible differences or homogeneity. The intention is to investigate significative lithic assemblages for technocomplexes in the study area and period, such as Bacho-Kiro (BG), Kozarnika (BG), Romanesti-Dubrovita (RO), Kůlna Cave (CZ), Krems-Hundssteig (A) and Fumane Cave (IT). A technological and attributes reevaluation of these sites assemblages will help in deciphering the AMH dispersal and the Late Neandertals cultural evolution.