

15:25 Erica Priestley, Independent researcher

Waste Not - A Re-examination of Neanderthal Hunting Strategies and their Relationships with Animals

Research increasingly supports the notion that humans and Neanderthals are more alike than originally believed. Features such as ideology and ritual, previously lauded as the defining hallmarks of humanity, are more likely shared, derived traits. Shipman (2010) proposed an additional hallmark, the animal connection, where the intensified interaction with fauna has influenced the evolution of Homo.

Zooarchaeology should therefore offer insight into Neanderthal ideologies, as hunting is rarely just a means to an end (Overton and Hamilkas 2013). However research continues to interpret evidence in terms of subsistence, perpetuating the Occidental bias that animals are passive players in an anthropogenic world. This has been criticised by Overton and Hamilakis (2013), who argue that other ontologies, not just Cartesian dualism, must be engaged in order to understand past reflexive relationships.

This author will argue that ethnography can be partnered with zooarchaeology in order to achieve this goal. The taphonomic and zooarchaeological evidence from a selection of Middle Palaeolithic open-air sites will first be presented. The hunting modi operandi at these sites have been presented solely in economic terms and, at a few, appear to have been superficially wasteful. This evidence will then be compared to the Khanty and the Yukaghir, who are two animistic societies who believe that human-animal boundaries are blurred and certain animals have personhood. In the latter society, the act of hunting itself encourages soul regeneration, thereby satisfying cosmological requirements. These analogies are thus useful for offering fresh insight into previously uncharted territory of Neanderthal ideology.

15:45 Erin Crowley, University of Minnesota

Commensal Feasts with Commensal Beasts

Archaeological remains from late Iron Age and Early Medieval Irish sites (dated to ~1-1000 AD) demonstrate a strong relationshipp

16:45 Janna Lawrence, University of Cambridge; Discussion
Andrew Reid, UCL; Claire Ratican, University of
Cambridge; Laerke Recht, University of
Cambridge

17:00 **END**

END

END