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Dating the Paleolithic record of Greece: research challenges and perspectives

Abstract:

Time and space are the two main axes upon which archaeological reasoning and interpretation are founded and built. In this paper I cast a historical view on the Paleolithic Archaeology conducted in Greece in order to discuss approaches and challenges to dating sediments, finds and events. The record placed under my magnifying glass begins fairly late. It spans from the second part of the Middle Pleistocene to the very end of the Upper Pleistocene. Between these two chronological boundaries much variation is encountered, in dating precision and accuracy. The aim of this overview is to discuss the main challenges encountered in dating open-air and cave sites in the temperate environments of Greece and consider future perspectives. I advocate the need for a mutual understanding and a closer collaboration between the chronostratigraphers and the archaeologists, both in the field and the lab, starting first and foremost with the respective education curricula.