

12th International Symposium on Knappable Materials

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Session Proposal: Use-wear analysis of different stone raw materials:
specific features and variability

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The pioneering research of the Russian scholar S. A. Semenov on prehistoric technology (1957), introduced a particular well-argued and formulated method of functional determination of the stone tools named traceology or use-wear analysis. The present-day agenda of the use-wear research is remarkably rich and provides multilateral approaches to reliable identification and determination of prehistoric tools' function.

Despite the general and common mechanisms and principals of formation, distribution and interpretation of the complex of macro and micro use-wear traces, there is significant variation (working edge damages, topography and intensity of polishing and attrition) depending on the raw material of the prehistoric tools. Many aspects of these characteristics and variability remain still underestimated, underrepresented and insufficiently explained. The session invites papers presenting experimental and interpretive studies of use-wear on different rocks, application of various techniques and methods providing insight on the problem of the impact of stone raw materials into traceological practice and theory.