

BRIEFING YOU

about our

Field School for Quaternary Palaeoanthropology and Prehistory of Murcia, S.E. Spain

32nd Field Season 2023

Murcian Association for the Study of Palaeoanthropology and the Quaternary

MUPANTQUAT <http://www.mupantquat.com>

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Dates of our 2023 sessions:

SESSION 1: June 30th (Fri.) – July 21st (Fri.) 2023

at Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar

SESSION 2: July 21st (Fri.) – August 11th (Fri.) 2023

at Sima de las Palomas del Cabezo Gordo

INTRODUCTION

The 2022 field campaigns increased the finds of Pleistocene evidence of early humans and their stone tools, prehistoric animals, and use of fire, by excavation at two sites, **Cueva Negra** (*Black Cave*) del Estrecho del Río Quípar de La Encarnación and **Sima de las Palomas** (*Dove Hole*) del Cabezo Gordo de Dolores de Pacheco, where we have been excavating every summer for over thirty years, in the southeastern Spanish province of Murcia. An important goal in 2023 is to compare and contrast how Neanderthal folk and their forebears used natural resources near to the sites, which are in very different local environments. Our results are important for research into the Pleistocene inhabitants of Mediterranean Spain between 1 million and 40,000 years ago (1,000-40 kya). Fieldwork at *Sima de las Palomas* (130-40 kya) has yielded over 300 Neanderthal bones and teeth (a new bone was found in 2022), as well as Palaeolithic stone tools and many burnt animal bones, while at *Cueva Negra* (990-772 kya) it has uncovered the earliest evidence of fire at any Palaeolithic site outside Africa and the earliest bifacial hand-axe in Europe among abundant stone tools and Early Pleistocene fauna.



Neanderthal exhibition



Cueva Negra
2022



C^a Negra
handaxe



Paloma



Sima de las Palomas
2022



Neanderthal find 2022

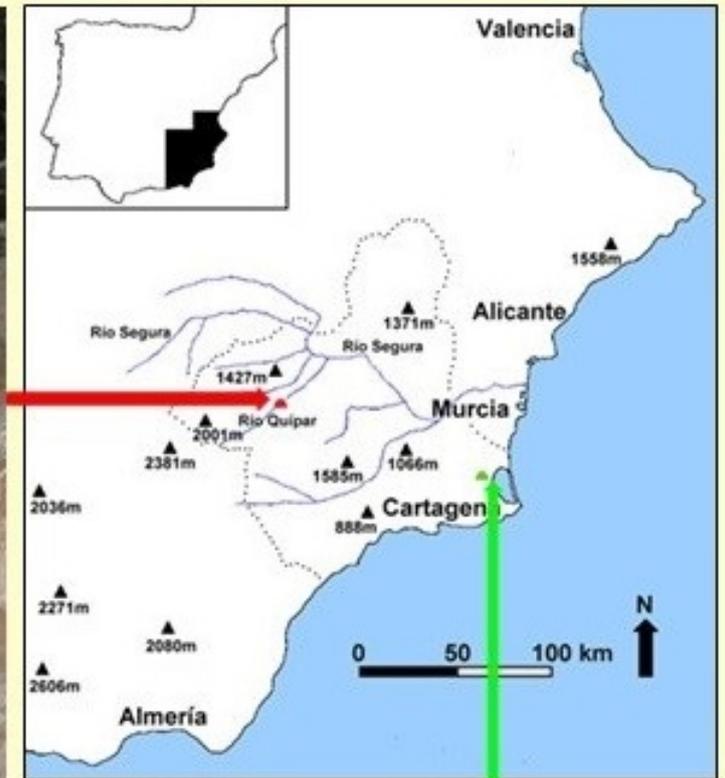


All of us at MUPANTQUAT warmly invite you to join us in our 2023 Field School at Cueva Negra and Sima de las Palomas. Some photos show what we did in 2022. MUPANTQUAT is the not-for-profit Murcian Association for the Study of Palaeoanthropology and the Quaternary at www.mupantquat.com



Neanderthal exhibition





**Cueva Negra
del Estrecho
del Río Quípar**

**Sima de las
Palomas del
Cabezo Gordo**



***Where our field school and its excavations take place in SE Spain.
We're all in it together!***

We're VERY down to earth in every sense of the words...!

WHAT WE DID IN 2022 AND WHAT WE PLAN TO DO IN 2023

MUPANTQUAT FIELD SCHOOL AND EXCAVATIONS AT

Cueva Negra (Black Cave) del Estrecho del Río Quípar (990,000-772.000 years ago)

Sima de las Palomas (Dove Hole) del Cabezo Gordo (130,000-40,000 years ago)

From: Field School Co-ordinator: Michael J. Walker, DPhil, BM, BCh, MA, Dipl.Prehist.Archaol.(Oxon), FSA, FRAI, FSAScot. (Chair MUPANTQUAT 2012-2022), Murcian Association for the Study of Palaeoanthropology and the Quaternary Honorary Emeritus Professor of Physical Anthropology, Departamento de Zoología y Antropología Física, Facultad de Biología, Universidad de Murcia email: <mjwalke@gmail.com> (As I rarely open it, please do NOT use: walker@um.es) tel.:(+34)-620-267104 cell phone [other possibilities, in extremis: (+34)-968-265608, home; (+34)966-769367, home]

January seventeenth, 2023

Dear Friends, Colleagues, and Helpers Past and Present,

On behalf of MUPANTQUAT, I wish you all, belatedly, a Happy New Year and extend a warm welcome to all who will attend the 2023 edition of our Field School, and we thank everyone who helped MUPANTQUAT's field research during the 2022 edition of our Field School, which was extremely rewarding - apart from our local members at Murcia who formed the field staff, 24 helpers came from outside Spain: one Italian, two Brits, 5 Dutch, 8 Aussies, and 8 Americans (one had been once before, and two who spent 6 weeks with us).

In 2022 we went back to work where we had left off at the end of the 2019 field season. The coronavirus covid-19 pandemic precluded us from doing any fieldwork in 2020 and 2021, so we could not hold our Field School and its associated excavations for two years. We resumed work in July 2022. Within three or four few days of starting work at Cueva Negra, I caught, or was caught by, the corona virus (despite having had 3 vaccinations). Being an elderly asthmatic with a heart-valve problem, I was admitted for observation to our university hospital which discharged me after a week, though I was too weak to return to Cueva Negra; later on, as I began to regain my strength, I gave some talks during the session at Sima de las Palomas (more recently, I have had a fourth booster vaccination against covid). Luckily, no other team members suffered much, though two or three gave a positive test for the virus, or had mild illness, and had to be isolated for a while at our Field School; otherwise, fieldwork went ahead without major mishaps, thankfully. We hope there will be no outbreaks that could interfere with our 2023 Field School. However, we live in difficult times, and therefore, to be on the safe side - with a "belt-and-braces" approach - I ask everyone who emails me about our 2023 Field School, please, to email copies to our two co-directors who are Dr Maria Haber (mariahaber@pi-ma.es) and Mariano López (marianolopez@hotmail.com), so that if one or other of us falls sick, you should get a reply from one of us!

At Sima de las Palomas in 2022 we excavated sediment in levels 6q, 6r, 6s, 6t, and 6u, within 0.5x0.5 m squares of the surface, exposed in previous field seasons, of the column of brecciated sediments that nineteenth-century miners had left standing in the Main Shaft, which over the years we have excavated to a depth of some 6 m below the top of the column that reaches the rock roof overhanging the shaft (which had filled up with brecciated sediments by 40,000 years ago). The deep levels we excavated belong to the last interglacial period. Optical sediment luminescence research by Oxford University's Dr. Jean-Luc Schwenninger dates them to 90,000-130,000 years ago. On arriving at the site in 2022 we had to sieve sediment that during 2020 and 2021 had fallen from the sides of our excavation onto the protective sheeting with which we had covered the excavated area. A Neanderthal phalangeal bone was found that must have fallen from higher levels dated to 55,000- 50,000 years ago, during the last ice age, where we have excavated Neanderthal skeletons and where further methodical excavation of remnants of the column of sediment will take place at a future date.

Excavation of the deep levels in 2022 continued to provide Middle Palaeolithic ("Mousterian") artefacts made on a variety of stone types (mainly chert or flint and limestone or marble, but also a few of quartz and quartzite) and abundant faunal remains from small animals (tortoise, rabbit) to horse, deer, ibex, aurochs, bear, rhinoceros, hyaena, wolf, porcupine, and even cave lion. Many bones show signs of burning or charring. Whereas levels excavated above 6q had been particularly rich in bones and teeth of horse, deer remains seemed to be relatively more abundant in the levels we excavated in 2022. The difference may reflect a change in environmental and climatic circumstances. During the 2022 excavation, Murcia University palaeopalynologist Dr. Juan Ochando Tomás took sediment samples for pollen analysis which may throw light on that possibility. As in previous years, all excavated sediment was washed by us over nests of stainless-steel sieves using a high-pressure jet of water at the nearby Cabezo Gordo marble factory, followed by further washing, cleaning and sorting in our temporary field laboratory at the Dolores de Pacheco public school, before being taken to our permanent laboratory at Torre Pacheco.

From Sima de las Palomas we now have bones or teeth of at least 15 different Neanderthal individuals who are represented by over three hundred skeletal items from the site. The deep sediments gave us a milk molar in 2019, part of a Neanderthal mandible in 2017, and two incisor teeth in 2016. The higher layers of 55,000-50,000 years ago contained very many cranial and postcranial elements in anatomical relation of at least 3 Neanderthals of the last ice age, the skeletons of "Paloma" and "her child" among them. Also, a few Neanderthal remains came from the highest sediments that filled the cave up to its roof by 40,000 years ago. A scholarly book about Sima de las Palomas and many scientific articles have been published in recent years, and important Neanderthal skeletal remains were on display in 2022 in a superb exhibition at Murcia's Archaeological Museum about Neanderthals in Murcia. In 2022 Sima de las Palomas Neanderthal mandibles were the basis of the article by A.Bermejo-Fenoll, A.Panchón-Ruiz & M.J.Walker, "Neanderthal, Sapiens and chimpanzee mandibles: a comparative study in relation to articulated speech," *Archaeological and Anthropological Sciences* 14:116, 2022, <https://doi.org/10.1107/s12520-22-01575-s>.

At Cueva Negra in 2022 we excavated at levels in sedimentary phases 1, 2, and 3. Phase 3 is the most recent though its fauna is still that of the late Early Pleistocene (i.e., *before* the palaeomagnetic Matuyama-Brunhes boundary at 772,000 years ago) and is represented in the uppermost part of sedimentary complex 2 where we continued our excavation in it that we had begun in 2019 in the rear part of the rock-shelter (major 3x3 m squares C0 and C1). These high-level phase 3 sediments have yielded stone artefacts, a bear tooth (*Ursus cf. deningeri* or *dolinensis*), teeth and part of the ulna of a hyaena (*Crocuta*), two large antler beams and the brain-case of an extinct giant deer (*Megaloceros novocarthaginiensis*), an enormous rib of probably the extinct rhino, *Stephanorhinus etruscus* (or perhaps of a small mammoth, *Mammuthus*), a radius and an ulna probably of an extinct bison (or perhaps of a precursor of the aurochs), teeth of the extinct horse *Equus altidens*, and numerous tortoise remains (*Testudo*). While some bones were marked by gnawing (for instance, by hyaenas), others show signs of percussion by stone artefacts. Hyaenas may have scavenged rubbish and brought carrion into the rock-shelter during periods when humans were infrequent visitors. As in previous years, all excavated sediment was washed by us over nests of stainless-steel sieves using water that we pump up to the cave from the river that runs 40 m vertically below it, followed by further washing, cleaning and sorting in our field laboratory at Ascrúz public school for special educational needs at Caravaca.

The sediments in the cave are 5 metres deep and fundamentally homogeneous from the standpoint of sedimentology. They probably were laid down by sporadic overflow from the swampy margin of a lake (long vanished) that was fed by the river and lay in front of the cave during the late Early Pleistocene at a time when mild, temperate

conditions prevailed – no doubt an interglacial period, most likely that between 868,000 and 814,000 years ago (known to palaeoclimatologists as marine isotope stadial MIS-21). In 2022, excavation continued in deep parts of sedimentary complexes 2 and 3 explored in 3x3 m squares C2 and C3, including (in 1x1 m squares C2e and C2h) the deepest sediment of complex 3 that lies between the deeply-lying (at -4.5 m) layer with many traces of burning and the bed-rock of the cave at -5m. In the very deep sediment, we have excavated stone artefacts (including chert flakes and fragments) and faunal remains of horse, rhino, tortoise. Cut-marks on bone attest to human activity.

Above the layer with evidence of combustion, deep Complex 2 sediments are rich in faunal remains and Palaeolithic artefacts that include a bifacially-flaked (“Acheulian”) hand-axe. Microstratigraphical analysis shows that there were several brief periods of sedimentation, characterised by alternation of very thin bands of sediment containing evidence (stone artefacts) of human frequentation with very thin bands of sediment that is either sterile or contains only faunal fragments. In 2022 an article about this new field research was published in 2022 in the international journal *L'Anthropologie* (vol. 126 pt.1, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.anthro.2021.102995>); it includes the research on microstratigraphy by Norman Fernández Ruiz (a doctoral student at Murcia University), and on bone taphonomy by Gonzalo Linares Matás (who after his doctorate at Oxford University has taken up a 3-year research fellowship in Archaeology at Cambridge University's Emmanuel College in October 2022); Gonzalo and Norman are active committee members of MUPANTQUAT and the principal authors of another detailed paper on the bone taphonomy and stratigraphy at Cueva Negra that was published lately in *Scientific Reports* (vol. 11: 24036 <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-021-03547-7>).

A noteworthy finding 4.5 metres down at Cueva Negra is an extensive ashy layer containing burnt remains (published in *Antiquity* in 2016). The bifacially-flaked hand-axe and the evidence of fire are the earliest known instances of either from Europe. Palaeomagnetic research showed the sediments to be older than 772,000 years ago (published in *Nature* in 2009). In 2020 there was published in the *Journal of Palaeolithic Archaeology* (vol. 3, pt. 4, pp. 816-855) the electron spin resonance and closed-series uranium-series (ESR-User) geophysical range of 990,000-772,000 years ago for a dental sample taken from a fossil horse (*Equus altidens*) tooth by collaborating scientists Professor Rainer Grün and Dr. Mathieu Duval, who have more horse teeth from our site for dating in their lab at Australia's Griffith University. Sediment samples were taken at Cueva Negra by Dr. Duval for analysis of the background irradiation. Dr. Duval also belongs to Spain's National Centre for Human Evolution Research (CENIEH) at Burgos, and hopes to return to Cueva Negra during 2023 with Dr. J.M. Parés of CENIEH to undertake magnetic susceptibility research on the sediments. The 990,000-772,000-year range is wholly appropriate for the large-mammal palaeontology, published in the same article, which was determined by Dr. Jan van der Made of Spain's National Museum of Natural Science at Madrid. Moreover, it is wholly appropriate also for the small-mammal palaeontology that was carried out on rodent teeth by MUPANTQUAT Treasurer and high-school Biology teacher Antonio López Jiménez and published in *Historical Biology* in 2020. Dr. Van der Made and Antonio López identified fossil species that became extinct by, or soon after, 772,000 years ago. Mild, temperate conditions, suggestive of MIS-21, are demonstrated not only by pollen from the sediment analysed by Murcia University's palaeopalynologists Professor José Carrión and Drs. Santiago Jiménez and Juan Ochoa, but also by the aforementioned mammalian fauna, and 66 species of birds identified by palaeontologists Ann Eastham and Dr. Anna Rufá, which include 9 species of waterfowl and waders.

Sima de las Palomas Neanderthal teeth are among teeth from which dental plaque was analysed for a 2021 article in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the U.S.A.* vol. 118, pt. 20, e2021655118 (Fellows Yates and 50 authors including myself) that compared the dental microbial biome of anthropoid Primates, Neanderthals, and modern humans, and found that, unlike apes, Neanderthals (*Homo neanderthalensis*) shared with modern humans (*Homo sapiens*) an evolutionary adaptation to reduce *starch* that is possessed by a microbe whose signature is detectable in dental plaque. This implies that *both* species of *Homo* were adapted to eating and digesting foodstuff from plants containing *starch* which affords us a rich and relatively concentrated source of energy. It implies that this human adaptation dates from perhaps around 750,000 years ago when Neanderthals and *Homo sapiens* shared a common ancestor. This refutes a widely-held opinion that only the ancestors of *Homo sapiens* ate *starch*-rich plant foodstuffs as well as animal meat and fat, whereas Neanderthal diets supposedly were based fundamentally on the meat and fat of animals - despite well-known medical knowledge that such an unbalanced diet has harmful outcomes. (The DOI of the article is <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2021655118> but the article does not name any of the sites from which dental plaque was analysed; to find the reference to the sites, including Sima de las Palomas, you have to go on-line to the *link* to the article's Supplementary Information that is <https://www.pnas.org/lookup/suppl/doi:10.1073/pnas.2021655118/-/DCSupplemental>).

An article about the Sima de las Palomas mandibles was published in 2022 (*Archaeological and Anthropological Sciences* vol. 14 e116, <https://doi.org/10.1107/s12520-22-01575-s9>). Among publications in Spanish are a chapter about Cueva Negra and Sima de las Palomas in the book *Paleolítico* (2021) and one about Cueva Negra in the book *Caravaca inedita* (2022). On September 24th 2021 I gave an invited lecture in English about the two sites, entitled “Neanderthals and their background: thirty years of research in Murcia”, during the 25th *Calpe Congress*, “CALPE-21 Iberian Neanderthals”, held at the University of Gibraltar.

It is in order to mention here that despite covid-19 some members of our MUPANTQUAT society were able to undertake fieldwork at other sites during the pandemic by using locally-available labour. Our new Chair, Dr. María Haber of Murcia University's Prehistory and Archaeology Department was able to excavate Spanish Civil War burials at Alicante with workmen provided by that city, helped by our Secretary, archaeologist Mariano López, who also oversaw archaeological excavation in the central market place at Valencia preparatory to its renovation. María Haber also has been involved with excavating and studying mediaeval Islamic burials in Murcia city and Roman burials near the Murcian town of Mula. I want to mention here that, after chairing our MUPANTQUAT Association from its foundation in 2012, I resigned this year (I have had health problems), and María is now our Chair; formerly she was Vice-Chair who now is Dr. Ignacio Martín of Murcia University's Prehistory and Archaeology Department who excavated the important Palaeolithic site of Cueva del Arco in Murcia and in 2022 published the entertaining paperback book *La Prehistoria en la mochila: Diario de viaje de un neandertal* (Madrid, Aguilar) and coordinated a superb exhibition at Murcia Archaeological Museum about *Neanderthals in Murcia* (it closes at the end of 2022). I am continuing to coordinate the field school applications and to co-direct its excavations with María Haber and Mariano López.

Publications of research at various sites which have been co-authored by our MUPANTQUAT members include an important study of European prehistoric DNA in which María Haber and our committee member biologist Azucena Avilés collaborated by providing samples from the impressive Copper Age burial chamber at Caravaca that contained remains of 1,300 individuals from the third millennium B.C., and who are among the 35 authors of the 2021 article by Villalba-Mouco *et al.* in *Scientific Advances* 7, eabi7038. In like vein, the MUPANTQUAT member who is the distinguished pollen analyst Murcia University's Professor José Carrión has authored several articles in major international journals of Quaternary studies in 2021 and 2022 (*Quaternary Science Reviews*, *Palaeogeography*, *Palaeoclimatology*, *Palaeoecology*, *Review of Palaeobotany and Palynology*, *Journal of Quaternary Science*, etc.).

Other MUPANTQUAT members, notably Caravaca's husband-and-wife team of Pedro Lucas and Teresa Fernández have been involved in various projects of archaeological restoration and public information in Murcia as well as continuing their research on prehistoric rock art in Murcia on which they published a book about a new site in 2021 (the Abrigo de Justo de Yéchar), and they also have undertaken useful orthophotographical collages of the deep exposed stratigraphical sections (profiles) at Cueva Negra and Sima de las Palomas where they were helped by Michigan University-trained anthropologist Melody Gorishek who spent six weeks in 2021 helping in our nearby lab at Torre Pacheco with cleaning fossil remains. Also, sediment samples were taken under sterile conditions at Sima de las Palomas and sent to Dr. Viviane Slon at Tel-Aviv University who looks for traces of Neanderthal DNA in sediment at Neanderthal sites; she informs me that the work is advancing well at her lab. Last but not least, in September 2021 and again in October 2022 brief visits to see the latest Neanderthal fossils at the lab was made by our palaeoanthropologist friends from the University of Zürich Professor Christopher Zollikofer and his wife Dr. Marcia Ponce de León who are carrying out virtual reconstruction of the Neanderthal skeletons from the computer-assisted tomography that they have undertaken with us here at Murcia, and they promise to return for a longer visit. In spite of everything, covid-19 has not prevented the onward march of research here!

Although unease about travelling during the covid-19 pandemic kept me here at Murcia, nevertheless I gave a brief presentation via internet ("Gather") about the Cueva Negra microstratigraphy in April 2022 at the 62nd annual meeting of the international *Hugo Obermaier Society for Quaternary Research and Archaeology of the Stone Age*, to which I belong, held at Berlin, and I sent a poster to the annual meeting in September at Tübingen of the European Society for the Study of Human Evolution of which I am a member.

We welcome helpers, new and old, at our Field School which at last in 2022 will celebrate its 31st Field Season at Cueva Negra and 29th at Sima de las Palomas. Please pass the following information around to all who may be interested. I'm sure all helpers in 2022 will have an interesting time, especially those with an interest in human evolution. Applicants do not need to have previous excavation experience. Keeness is what we value most of all in our helpers! All our helpers become members of our MUPANTQUAT association by virtue of their presence. We regard our helpers as fellow members (not as cannon-fodder, condemned to donkey-work!).

There is no application form: just send me an email to mjwalke@gmail.com with cc. to my codirectors Dr. María Haber mariahaber@um.es and Mariano López marianolopez@hotmail.com. First-time applicants MUST attach a 1-page (brief) c.v. which MUST include (1) full name, (2) date of birth, (3) nationality and passport number, (4) permanent home address, (5) address for correspondence, (6) contact phone number(s) and email address(es), (7) certification of at least 3 vaccinations for covid. First-time applicants will get a reply only after all of those 7 pieces of information have been received. Interested helpers should go to our web-site <http://www.mupantquat.com> where you will find, and should open, study, and save, a long document entitled **BRIEFING YOU** which explains how the Project got started and where we're at right now.

The dates when we shall *meet/pick up* and say *Adios* to our helpers and set them down, are as follows:

SESSION 1: June 30th (Friday) 2023 – July 21st (Friday) 2023: Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quipar (Caravaca de la Cruz, Murcia). Accommodation: full board & lodging at the "Ascrúz" Residential School which is a public (*i.e.*, state) school for children with special needs, Caravaca de la Cruz

SESSION 2: July 21st (Friday) 2023 – August 11th (Friday) 2023: Sima de las Palomas del Cabezo Gordo (Torre Pacheco, Murcia). Accommodation: full board & lodging at Dolores de Pacheco Public School "Nuestra Señora de los Dolores" which is a public (*i.e.*, state) school.

The best thing anyone interested in helping us can do now is to read **BRIEFING YOU** very carefully, and then make up your mind. If you or your friends have any queries, please don't hesitate to write to me.

Very important! Anyone who is coming to help in 2023, should please send us, as soon as possible, details about your route, place, date, and time of arrival so that we know you are definitely arriving and can put you on our list of people to be picked up at Murcia-Corvera International Airport (for Sessions 1 and 2) or at a the bus stations at Caravaca (for Session 1) or Torre Pacheco (for Session 2) or at Balsicas-Mar Menor railway station (for Session 2).

I and the MUPANTQUAT field tea, look forward to seeing many keen helpers and new MUPANTQUAT members at our 2023 Field School. I like to keep in touch with all our helpers, so please let me know what you're doing and enjoy 2023!

Yours truly

Michael Walker

Postscript:

MUPANTQUAT is largely self-funding and very rarely gets financial help from the governmental or regional authorities here. We are grateful for help we receive from the municipalities where we excavate (Torre Pacheco and Caravaca de la Cruz). However, the truth of the matter is that we rely on the contributions of our members and field helpers to keep the fieldwork going. For attendance at one full 21-day session your contribution is rated at 50 euros a day for bed, light breakfast, mid-morning sandwich, cooked lunch, cooked supper, laundry, instruction, transport between base camp and site, excursions, transport between Murcia Airport to our base on official pick-up and set-down dates, 2023 membership of **MUPANTQUAT**. Attendance at both sessions entitles helpers to a reduction to 45 euros a day, and it is also 45 euros a day for helpers from previous years who return; first-time attendance for less than a full 21-day session is rated at 60 euros a day. On a case-by-case basis, and provided it does not produce numerical imbalance of helpers within a session, consideration may be given to allowing youngsters, who can justify impecunious circumstances and are first-time participants, to take part for 450 euros during a 10-day period (45 euros per day) corresponding either to the *first* or the *second* half of *either* session 1 or session 2 (though such participation implies they will miss half of the 20-day programme of the session). In order to guarantee reservation of a place at our Field School a non-returnable deposit is required by June 1st 2023, and because of that helpers might want to take out holiday insurance in case of last-minute inability to come. Deposits have to be non-returnable, alas, because we are in a holiday-resort area with flights that are heavily booked well in advance of the July-August high summer season. So even if we have someone on a waiting-list when you drop out, that person might not be able to book a flight only a very few weeks before the session begins. This means we might well have to use money deposited with us by a helper unable to come in order to tempt one of our local undergrads to take that person's place instead of taking a vacation job in a bar or restaurant beside the packed beaches or at one of the many golf resorts beside the coast, because, in order to have adequate help on site at all times so that we can carry out our excavations efficiently we need always to have on site a basic minimum number of people, below which we cannot work well.

I wish I had time write to everybody and respond to everyone who writes to me with specific enquiries about the progress of our research. Hundreds of people have attended our Field School over the past three decades, and because I have no secretary I cannot answer scores of letters separately alas, which is the reason for this round-robin letter: one size will just have to fit all, I am sorry to say. You will appreciate, I feel sure, that it is one thing for me to correspond about ongoing unpublished research with the handful of established scientists who collaborate with our project, but that it would be improper for me (or them) to give details about unpublished scientific findings with people (including our field helpers) who are not directly involved in the ongoing scientific development and elaboration of those particular research matters - their eventual publication must be awaited with your patience, even though it may have to last for a few years. This **BRIEFING YOU** gives you an overview of the state of play. All the same, I do try to go out of my way to answer enquiries from those graduate helpers who are now doctoral candidates at universities around the world, when from time to time they write to me enquiring about highly specific scientific matters concerning their own research which have occurred to them in relation to knowledge they acquired when working at our sites.

Also, when undergraduate students want to come as helpers, and enquire about how to use their experience to gain credit from their own colleges or universities, because we ourselves have no structure for giving them such credit, I do want you to know that if your own college professors are willing to give you college credit for a paper or report you present to them on your return, then I will collaborate with your college professors who write directly to me to ask about appropriate topics for papers or reports you might present to them, and I will offer you advice during your stay here (but not afterwards); you may use photographs you have taken and, indeed, we always encourage you to take photographs provided that you give us copies to use and publish as we choose. You should inform your faculty that each one of our Field School's 3-week sessions involves 160 hours of training, divided into about 80 of supervised excavation and retrieval of finds both by your own manual excavation and by wet-sieving (wet-screening) of excavated Pleistocene sediment, and about 80 hours of supervised preliminary sorting of finds in our field-lab, attendance at talks and seminars and visits to sites of archaeological relevance or historical interest.

For those universities that require certificates of attendance as requisites for completion of undergraduate degrees (especially in Archaeology, in the UK and Commonwealth countries, and a few others), I will sign their forms provided you bring them with you (I can't guarantee always to do so if you forget to bring them and try to send them to me afterwards!). However, we always issue our own Field School certificates of attendance to every helper (whereas some universities – e.g. London - only accept their own completed forms, others – e.g. Oxford – regard ours as an acceptable substitute should you forget to bring their own forms).

I'm often asked to write in support of helpers who apply for graduate study. It is time-consuming and because I am extremely busy with other paperwork, especially in December and January, I will write such support only provided that I have received any forms I have to fill in for you before October 31st, thereby giving me November to fill them in and send them of (usually graduate-study applications that have to be submitted by you by the following February). Moreover, I will only fill out **paper forms** which then can be scanned and sent as pdf or by airmail (whether to you or the institution you are applying to, depending on its requirements) – whether the forms are applications for graduate-study or any other applications or requests on your behalf. Please take good note that I **absolutely refuse to do on-line form-filling**; so I shall **not** help you where an institution gives me no other option than to fill out its **on-line** form. I refuse point-blank to go on-line to institutions and fill in their forms by computer, because the procedure is very often clunky, slow, and takes up far too much of my time, especially when IT systems crash, requiring me to begin all over again. Moreover, on-line forms are constraining and often do not let me say all those things I might want to say, but which, on the other hand, I can easily add or annexe to a paper form that I can scan, and send as a pdf.

The policy of MUPANTQUAT with regard to responsibility towards its members is indicated in our registered Statutes of Association (which are in the public domain and freely available from our Secretary on request). The following comments are relevant to the particular activity of MUPANTQUAT which is the 32nd edition of its Field School for Quaternary Palaeoanthropology and Prehistory of Murcia and associated archaeological excavations (June 30th-July 21st 2023, Session 1) at Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quipar near Caravaca, Murcia, and (July 21st -August 11th 2023, Session 2) at Sima de las Palomas del Cabezo Gordo near Torre Pacheco, Murcia. MUPANTQUAT extends *invitations* to successful applicants so that they may participate in the field school and help at the excavations of one or both sessions.

Successful applicants are afforded membership for the current year of MUPANTQUAT provided their annual subscription has been satisfied within that year. Their contribution as MUPANTQUAT members to the largely self-funding MUPANTQUAT field school and excavations for the year of their participation involves placing a deposit with MUPANTQUAT in order to reserve a place in the team, from which is deducted their subscription as full members (20€ euros) or student/non-voting members (10€). Members are free to make annual renewal of their subscription. In the case of first-time helpers from outside Spain the contribution of a new member of MUPANTQUAT in 2023 is 1,050.00 € for one session or 1,890.00 € for two sessions; in either case a deposit of 750.00 € per session is required to reserve a place.

Until the deposit has been received MUPANTQUAT has no responsibility to invited applicants, because its responsibility commences only *after* their admittance as *members* of the Association, which, in turn, depends on their having completed the fulfilment of membership requirements. Only after the deposit has been received, is an applicant considered to have fulfilled the basic requirement, and then, and only then, does MUPANTQUAT have responsibilities towards its new member (which are the same as those to any other member, as defined in MUPANTQUAT's Statutes of Association). For the past thirty years our successful annual field school and associated excavations have received participants from most Member States of the European Union, and several countries further afield, including Russia, Uruguay, China, Indonesia, Ceylon, Australia, Argentina, Mexico, USA, Canada, Norway, northern Cyprus, Kazakhstan, Vietnam, etc.. We are very happy to say that the Spanish consular services in those countries have **never** requested a document that might imply MUPANTQUAT's responsibility towards an applicant who, being a new member in consequence of having deposited the aforementioned financial contribution with MUPANTQUAT, presents MUPANTQUAT's **written invitation** to participate in the Field School to the Spanish consular services. Members who are successful applicants should bear in mind that MUPANTQUAT's **invitation** to a member to participate does **not** imply MUPANTQUAT's sponsorship of that member's travel to, or stay in, Spain: **MUPANTQUAT cannot and does not sponsor** travellers or would-be immigrants.

Field School for Quaternary Palaeoanthropology and Prehistory of Murcia, S.E. Spain, 32nd Field Season 2023

Murcian Association for the Study of Palaeoanthropology and the Quaternary, MUPANTQUAT, <http://www.mupantquat.com>

Session 1: June 30th-July 21st 2023 at Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar

Session 2: July 21st-August 11th 2023 at Sima de las Palomas del Cabezo Gordo

Coordinated and directed by

Dr. Michael Walker, DPhil, BM, BCh, MA, DipPreArch (Oxon), FSA, FRAI, FSAScot
Former Chair (2010-2022) of MUPANTQUAT; archaeologist and physical anthropologist,
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Dr María Haber Uriarte, archaeologist, Murcia University Dept. of Prehistory & Archaeology,
Current Chair (from 2022) of MUPANTQUAT, mariahaber@pi-ma.es, mariahaber@um.es;
and archaeologist Mariano López Martínez, Hon. Sec. of MUPANTQUAT,
marianolopez@hotmail.com, info@mupantquat.com



Cueva Negra hand-axe



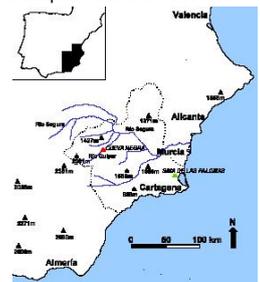
Sima de las Palomas Neanderthal child skull

Excavation has been ongoing for 30 years at both sites. Cueva Negra has abundant evidence of fire, a final Early (i.e. Lower) Pleistocene fauna, a final Early (i.e. Lower) Pleistocene fauna, an "Acheulian" hand-axe, numerous flake-tools, and extinct fauna in sediments laid down between 990,000 and 772,000 years ago (likely during an interglacial period 868,000-814,000 years ago), according to biostratigraphy, palaeomagnetism, and geophysical dating. Sima de las Palomas has >300 skeletal parts (teeth, bones) of 15 Neanderthal individuals, including 3 articulated skeletons one of which is 85% complete 55,000-50,000 years ago, an early Late (i.e., Upper) Pleistocene fauna, and Mousterian Palaeolithic artifacts, dated by ¹⁴C, U-ser, OSL and ESR, with new finds of Neanderthals teeth and mandible, fauna, and Mousterian artefacts in deep layers dated to 130,000-90,000 years ago.

We invite applicants to take part in our 2023 summer field season. Covid vaccination certification is obligatory. Thanks to vaccines, covid-19 will have abated enough in 2023 to allow our fieldwork as in 2022 (suspended in 2020 and 2021 because of the pandemic). All applicants are considered sympathetically; prior archaeological experience is less important than keenness. To apply, send an email with brief cv after going to our MUPANTQUAT web-page, clicking there on FIELD SCHOOL and then on "BRIEFING YOU" (there's no application form to fill in; we keep paperwork to a minimum). MUPANTQUAT (Murcian Association for the Study of Palaeoanthropology and the Quaternary) coordinates the Field School and excavations, issues your Certificate of Attendance, and makes you a member for the current year (we also sign forms you bring from your university).

While at Cueva Negra (Session 1) we stay at the residential Ascruz school (which has its own kitchen staff) at Caravaca de la Cruz. While at Sima de las Palomas (Session 2) we put bunks in the public school at Dolores de Pacheco and take our meals in the restaurant of the nearby Social Centre. Both schools have showers, cleaning staff, and concierges. We organise laundry at both places. Both schools give us some access (often erratic, alas) to wifi and internet. We can use the municipal public swimming pools at Caravaca and Dolores (which is also near the beach). At both places, you must bring sheets, pillow-slip, towel, soap and shower-gel. Summer is hot in Murcia: you'll get a chance to swim. Bring light work clothes and flat-soled light footwear for Cueva Negra but bring work boots for Sima de las Palomas. Bring sun-hats, sun-glasses, sun-cream, swimmers. If you've an EU driver's licence (or otherwise an International Driving Permit), please bring it. Your contribution includes all meals and laundry.

We do not meet or set down helpers on days other than the start and finish dates of each session (Fridays). On those 3 Fridays we meet our helpers at Murcia-Corvera International Airport on the first day of each session and set them down on the last. Budget airlines fly to it from the UK and other countries. For Sima de las Palomas we can meet helpers at the Balsicas-Mar Menor railway station where trains stop that go to Cartagena; however, the newly-opened (December 20th, 2022), costly, high-speed "Ave" train service from Madrid ends at Murcia where you'll need to change to a train to Cartagena. The service of cheaper, slower, through trains from Madrid to Cartagena that call at Murcia and Balsicas-Mar Menor has been suspended temporarily: it may resume in 2023. Be aware that on all long-distance trains in Spain you must book a seat in advance (e.g., on-line at the RENFE website), and that Spanish railway time-tables usually change in May for the Summer. We do not meet rail travellers at Murcia "El Carmen" railway station that often is far too crowded for us to be able to guarantee finding you! So, if you arrive at it, take a taxi to Murcia "San Andrés" bus station (as walking to it with luggage takes about forty-five minutes) and then buses to Caravaca bus station for Session 1 or Torre Pacheco bus station for Session 2. If you arrive by plane at Madrid's Barajas Airport you can get a direct "Alsa" coach from the airport that leaves at 8.30 a.m. daily (you must book on-line beforehand at the ALSA website) and stops at Murcia bus station and then at Torre Pacheco bus station (alas, not at Caravaca bus station). Because air passengers arrive in great floods at Alicante International Airport (and, moreover, because flights arriving there are delayed often) we refuse to meet helpers there, as we are unable to guarantee finding you in the throng! You must buy a ticket at a stand in Alicante airport for the fast, frequent, coach service from it to Murcia bus station where then you must go to its ticket office and buy a ticket for the cheap service buses to the bus stations at Caravaca for Session 1 or Torre Pacheco for Session 2. Once you are on a bus from Murcia to either Caravaca or Torre Pacheco, phone us so that we can meet you at those bus stations. Buses leave Murcia for Caravaca hourly between 06.10 and 21.10 hours; the journey takes about an hour. Buses leave Murcia for Torre Pacheco roughly every 2 hours from 08.30 to 20.30 hours; the journey takes about 30 minutes.



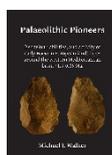
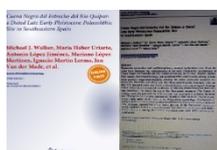
Your contribution of 50€ (euros) per day for a complete 21-day session (1,050€ altogether) includes board, meals, instruction, local travel from pick-up point and back, daily travel between our base and site, official excursions, and your registration as a MUPANTQUAT member for the year 2023. If you come for two complete sessions your contribution is reduced to 45€ per day (1,890€ altogether). If you come for less than a complete session your contribution is 60€ per day. All former participants contribute at 45€ per day for whatever length of stay. Exceptionally, on a case-by-case basis, and provided that it does not produce numerical imbalance of helpers within a session, consideration may be given on occasions to allowing youngsters, who must justify impecunious circumstances and be first-time participants, to take part for 45€ per day (450€ altogether) during the first or second 10-day period of one session only (June30-July 9/10; July 9/10-July 21; July 21-July30/Aug1; July30/Aug1-August 11), though such participation means missing half of the 20-day programme of the session. All participants must pay for their own air/rail/coach/bus/taxi fares to our pick-up/set-down points and for their personal expenses.

Daily routine: we rise at 7 a.m. and after a light breakfast we excavate from 8 a.m. till 2 p.m. with a mid-morning sandwich. A cooked lunch at 3 p.m. is followed by a nap. We sort finds from 5 p.m. till 9 p.m. when we have a hot dinner. In each 3-week period, there are talks and seminars about our work and human evolution, and we also visit local places of interest. The programme is thus based on a 3-week Session (if you stay for a shorter time, you'll miss part of the programme). The normal contribution from helpers staying for a full Session corresponds to €50 euros (€50) a day; covering instruction, board, lodging, and local transportation, or €45 a day when both full sessions are attended (first-time participants staying for less than one full session should contribute €60 a day). To guarantee a place you must send a non-returnable deposit, preferably by June 1st 2023, of €250 (euros) per each 7 days of intended stay. You pay the balance on arrival. You must arrange your own health and personal accident insurance cover beforehand, holiday/travel insurance if desired. EU residents should bring the EU card from their country entitling them to public health care in other EU Member States.

Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar



Cabezo Gordo and Sima de las Palomas



<p>Field School for Quaternary Palaeoanthropology and Prehistory of Murcia, S.E. Spain.</p> <p>BASIC INFORMATION</p> <p>Organisation: Murcian Association for the Study of Palaeoanthropology and the Quaternary, MUPANTQUAT Asociación Murciana para el Estudio de la Paleontología y el Cuaternario, MUPANTQUAT</p> <p>Session 1: Friday June 30th – Friday July 21st 2023, at Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar (Caravaca de la Cruz, Murcia, Spain). Session 2: Friday July 21st – Friday August 11th, 2023, at Sima de las Palomas del Cabezo Gordo (Torre Pacheco, Murcia, Spain). Contact: Hon. Emeritus Professor Michael J. Walker, Murcia University, Biology Faculty; Chair MUPANTQUAT Emails mjwalke@gmail.com; info@mupantquat.com Further information : http://www.mupantquat.com</p>	
Description	Excavation and instruction at Pleistocene Palaeolithic sites with hominid remains: Cueva Negra: final Early (i.e. Lower) Pleistocene (990-772,000 years ago); with evidence of fire, abundant Palaeolithic artefacts (including a hand-axe), and a rich palaeontological assemblage. Sima de las Palomas: early Late (i.e. Upper) Pleistocene (130,000-40,000 years ago), with abundant <i>Homo neanderthalensis</i> skeletal remains, Mousterian Palaeolithic artefacts and abundant faunal remains.
Periods	Session 1, June 30 – July 21, 2023; Session 2, July 21 – August 11, 2023.
Country	Spain
Locality	Session 1: Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar (Caravaca, Murcia, Spain); Session 2: Sima de las Palomas del Cabezo Gordo (Torre Pacheco, Murcia, Spain)
Travel	2023: Fridays June 30, July 21, August 11: Only on these dates and days are participants picked up/set down by our staff at <i>Murcia-Corvera International Airport</i> . For coach or rail travel, consult <i>BRIEFING YOU</i> . We ask Session 1 helpers to try to book flights that land at <i>Murcia-Corvera Airport</i> before 7 pm and depart <i>after</i> 10 am. Participants wishing to make alternative travel arrangements should consult us beforehand, though it may not be possible to meet you and you may have to make your own way to our bases.
Duration	Two 3-week sessions. In order to get the most out of their stay we strongly recommend participants come for one full session at least.
Age	Minimum 18 years on July 1 st 2023
Qualifications	Previous experience is not essential though preference is given to undergraduates and graduates in appropriate subject areas.
Work	All participants take part in excavation and cleaning and sorting finds, and will receive both practical instruction and talks about our research and about human evolution and Palaeolithic archaeology in the Pleistocene.
Language	English (any knowledge of Spanish is also useful).
Accom.	Bunks in schools with showers etc. Light breakfast, mid-morning sandwich, cooked lunch, cooked evening meal. Vegan, halal, and kosher menus are NOT available. Bring your own sheets and towel.
Contribution	FOR A COMPLETE SESSION: 50€ euros per day includes bed, meals, instruction, local travel from pick-up and back, daily travel between our base and site, official excursions. You must pay for your own travel to the pick-up points and personal expenses. FOR TWO COMPLETE SESSIONS: 45€ euros per day. FOR LESS THAN 21 days: 60€ euros per day. Former helpers who return: 45€ euros per day. On a case-by-case basis, and provided it does not produce numerical imbalance of helpers within a session, consideration may be given to allowing youngsters, who can justify impecunious circumstances and are first-time participants, to take part for 450€ euros during a 10-day period (45€ euros per day) corresponding either to the <i>first</i> or the <i>second</i> half of <i>either</i> session 1 or session 2 (though such participation implies they will miss half of the 20-day programme of the session).
Application	<i>There is no application form: just send an email to mjwalke@gmail.com (with cc. to our codirectors Dr.Maria.Haber@um.es and Mariano López marianolopez@hotmail.com) and you MUST attach a 1-page (brief) c.v. as a simple WORD document without inserts or special features, which MUST include (1) your full name, (2) date of birth, (3) nationality and passport number, (4) copy of certification of at least 2 doses of vaccine against covid-19, (5) permanent home address, (6) address for correspondence, (7) contact phone number(s) and email address(es) - until we have received all 7 pieces of information, we do not respond to an enquiry.</i> Visit our web-site http://mupantquat.com , save or print out a long download called <i>BRIEFING YOU</i> and read it carefully. A non-returnable deposit in advance is required of 250€ euros per each 7-day period of intended stay (750€ for one session), with balance payable on arrival. Preference is given to applicants wishing to stay for a full 3-week session whose deposits are received before June 1 st 2023.
Notes	You must bring an internationally valid, up to date "covid passport" certifying you have had at least 2 doses, preferably 3, of the vaccine against the coronavirus. Each session includes one full-day excursion to other nearby sites of archaeological interest. At both sites set meals are provided only (so as to keep costs down). Strict halal, kosher, and vegan menus cannot be prepared, though salads, fruit, and eggs are always available. Participants with particular medical conditions involving specific intolerance (e.g., to gluten, lactose, shell-fish, etc.) should inform us so that our kitchen staff can make due provision. We issue attendance certificates with number of hours of practical experience and instruction. (Although US college credit is NOT available from us, undergrad US college students often can arrange beforehand with their faculty professors to gain credit for participation by presenting papers about it on return home and we are willing to assist in orientating them during their period on site.) We regard all of you as <i>field helpers</i> and in 2023 your contribution will include automatic 2023 membership of MUPANTQUAT.

HEALTH, SAFETY, AND INSURANCE

The Murcian Association for the Study of Palaeoanthropology and the Quaternary (MUPANTQUAT) is a non-profit organisation that promotes the study and diffusion of the Quaternary and Palaeoanthropology. It is registered with the governmental authorities of the Region of Murcia. Our members are our most valuable asset. Their welfare, health and safety are our main concern. Membership of MUPANTQUAT is given automatically to all participants in our annual Field School and its associated archaeological excavations. **All participants are insured by us for accident and third-person liability** (required by legislation applying to excavations) during their participation, thanks to a formal agreement of cooperation signed between the University of Murcia and MUPANTQUAT to which the University extends its insurance cover for those aspects under the same terms as those that apply to all students and staff of the university.

COVID-19

You must bring an internationally-valid, up to date covid certificate showing you have had at least 3 doses of the vaccine against the coronavirus and preferably a fourth. We cannot offer self-isolation or quarantine facilities should our helpers or members be required to undergo self-isolation or quarantine by national, regional, local or municipal authorities in Spain, so make sure that you bring requisite health or vaccination certificates that are up to date and cover your stay, and that your health insurance will cover you for any costs the aforementioned matters might incur together with costs involved in PCR or other coronavirus testing procedures, treatment, admissions to hospital, unforeseen travel expenditure incurred by those matters, etcetera.

Health & Safety Plan for Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar and Sima de las Palomas del Cabezo Gordo

SGite Locations, Accessibility, Daily Schedule

Cueva Negra is a large rock-shelter at 740 m above sea level, near the village of La Encarnación and 10 km S of the municipality of Caravaca de la Cruz (Murcia, SE Spain; Site: lat 38.03679/38°02'12.5"N, long -1.88494/1°53'5.8"W). Cueva Negra is in an escarpment of Miocene calcarenite on the right bank above the River Quípar where it flows northwards out of the Quípar Gorge (Estrecho del Río Quípar) on its way to join the River Segura. Caravaca town council allows the MUPANTQUAT Field School to use the town's "Ascruz" public residential school for pupils with special needs during school holidays in July. The facilities include bedrooms, separate showers for men and women, kitchen and laundry with authorised hired staff who provide breakfast, cooked lunch and cooked dinner in the dining room and can cater for food allergies (though halal, kosher, and full vegan diets are not available). Helpers must bring towel, sheets, pillowslip. We can use the municipal swimming pool. Transportation between the school and the site is provided by drivers with suitable licenses. Reaching the site involves a 10-minute uphill walk which is undemanding and trainers are adequate footwear for the walk, though once inside the rock-shelter we change into flat-soled light footwear without a tread or pattern to avoid footprints in the sediment. The town council installs a portaloos below the site. Work on site starts at 8 a.m.. There is a mid-morning break for a sandwich at 11 a.m.. Work on site ends about 1.30-2 p.m. when we return to the school to shower before taking for lunch at 3 p.m. followed by a rest until 5 p.m. when lab work and seminars occupy our time until dinner at 9 p.m.. Excavation of the 5 m depth of sediment in the rock-shelter takes place in a step-wise fashion. Safety helmets are worn when working in the deepest layers. Excavated sediment is washed over sieves on the terrace in front of the site with water pumped up from the river 40 m below the site.

Sima de las Palomas is a natural karstic shaft at 125 m above sea level, in the Permo-Triassic marble hill of Cabezo Gordo, overlooking the Mediterranean lagoon of the Mar Menor and the village of Dolores de Pacheco in the municipality of Torre Pacheco (Murcia, SE Spain; Site: lat 37.793508/37°47'59"N, long -1.859436/0°53'45"W). In July-August, the Torre Pacheco town council allows the MUPANTQUAT Field School to use the Dolores de Pacheco Public School, installing beds in classrooms, and there are separate showers for men and women. Helpers must bring towel, sheets, pillowslip. We can use the municipal swimming pool. We take our meals (breakfast, cooked lunch, cooked dinner) at the nearby municipal Civic Centre which also organises our laundry. The cooks can cater for food allergies (though halal, kosher, and full vegan diets are not available). Transportation between the school and the site is provided by drivers with suitable licenses. The town council installs a portaloos below the site. Work on site starts at 8 a.m.. There is a mid-morning break for a sandwich at 11 a.m.. Work on site ends about 1.30-2 p.m. when we return to the school to shower before taking lunch at 3 p.m. followed by a rest until 5 p.m. when lab work and seminars occupy our time until dinner at 9 p.m..

Working Safely on our Sites

All participants receive a safety briefing during their first day on site and given information on how to recognise and control potential hazardous situations, and shown the basic First Aid kit that is present on site and contains supplies appropriate for dealing with blisters, abrasions, cuts, and insect bites. All accidents or incidents must be reported to supervisory staff for appropriate remedy and action to prevent recurrence. Supervisory staff are present on site at all times. The Cueva Negra rock-shelter shades the excavators throughout the morning, though after mid-day, when the sun is high in the sky, participants should use sun-block lotion when undertaking wet-sieving on the terrace in front of the rock-shelter (which is in the shade before mid-day). Because drinking water is available at all times, dehydration is never a problem. Daily use of mosquito repellent is recommended to avoid mild discomfort from bites. Trowels, shovels, buckets, hand-picks, hammers and other small tools are maintained and provided by the research staff, and used for designated purposes as instructed by the staff who supervise work at all times. The total station and such heavier tools as a pick-axe or sledge-hammer that may be required on occasions are kept away from the edge of the cutting. Participants can bring their own suitable digging equipment, such as trowels. Light work gloves are advisable. Hard hats are provided for wear when excavating deeper levels.

At **Cueva Negra** the maximum depth of sediment is 5 m down to bedrock. The excavation strategy ensures a safe working environment by following a series of stepped levels in a single open wide cutting. They minimise the risk of section collapse, enable excavation to take place in conditions of natural daylight, and facilitate removal of excavated sediment. Step-ladders assist access from the surface and between levels. Rotation between digging and sieving sediments ensures that participants are not required to kneel for long stretches of time, and short breaks or activity changes are permitted if required by participants. Most heavy lifting is limited to no more than a bucket of soil. Staff supervise wet sieving and give appropriate instruction on use and maintenance of the equipment involved. There are no wild animals that might attack participants. Electrical and gas supplies or hazardous compounds are not present within or near the working area, and no biological, chemical or radioactive contamination has ever been documented in the area. No area of the site encompasses a confined or enclosed space with an oxygen-deficient atmosphere.

At **Sima de las Palomas** a secure scaffolding tower was constructed within the 18-m deep natural shaft (by the Spanish *ULMA* engineering company which carries out inspections and makes adjustments when appropriate or necessary). The scaffolding tower is extremely stable because its base is very much wider and broader than its topmost part. The natural shaft is like an upside-down funnel, narrowing upwardly where horizontal scaffolding tubes extend outwards to reach the rock wall until at the top they fill the narrow shaft thereby ensuring the stability and rigidity of the tower. From the hillside access at the mouth of the natural shaft is by a short fixed ladder that takes excavators down to the platform at the top of the scaffolding tower. There is a lower access from the hillside to the base of the tower via a 20-m long horizontal tunnel (made by miners over 100 years ago) through which we bring out, on a wheelbarrow, excavated sediment that is lowered down the shaft in buckets steadied by a pulley on an aerial ropeway. (Presence of two entrances from the hillside should facilitate any possible rescue that ever might be incurred; we have regular contact with the regional speleological training team at Murcia and I have myself taken part in

cave rescue operations in England and Australia, having been a caver since my teenage years). Since first it was erected in 1994 the scaffolding has never presented problems and there have never been accidents or incidents affecting the safety of excavators or endangering them. Nobody is allowed to climb up or down the scaffolding tower. Safety helmets are worn at all times. All our helpers are given clear instructions about how to enter the cave and access the platform and excavation area. These are given in an introductory session on site on the first day of the field school session. At the top of the tower the reduced space, which the scaffolding platforms fills almost entirely, provides a very safe working area for excavators. The platform is fenced around by horizontal tubes of the scaffolding tower so that no one can possibly fall from the platform. The platform adjoins the surface of the sediment under excavation (an L-shaped area the limbs of which are 2 metres long). Once lowered to the base of the tower, excavated sediment is taken outside on a wheelbarrow through the tunnel and down the footpath to the carpark. Whereas the footpath from the carpark to the tunnel is a gentle 15-minute uphill walk, from the mouth of the tunnel to the mouth of the shaft where we excavate involves a difficult 15-minute scramble up a steep rocky slope, for which boots or firm trainers must be worn to lessen the chance of a sprained ankle. Team members daunted by the ascent can be excused excavation and given other duties, such as wheelbarrowing the sediment down the footpath, washing it, and sorting finds. The sediment is taken to a nearby marble factory where we wash it with a hosepipe over our sieves. Gumboots are available. Team members are rotated between excavation and sieving. Most heavy lifting is limited to no more than a bucket of soil. Staff supervise wet sieving and give appropriate instruction on use and maintenance of the equipment involved. Electrical and gas supplies or hazardous compounds are not present within or near the working areas, and no biological, chemical or radioactive contamination has ever been documented in the areas. No area of the site encompasses a confined or enclosed space with an oxygen-deficient atmosphere. There are no wild animals that might attack participants. By working Safety First we have avoided accidents.

Health Recommendation

Field School Director Prof. Michael Walker, D.Phil.,B.M.,B.Ch.,M.A.,Dipl.Prehist.Archaeol.(Oxon) (cell phone +34-620-257104) is an Oxford University medical graduate, with experience in general practice in Australia, and strongly recommends all intending participants to ensure their anti-tetanus vaccination is up to date, and that, if they are asthmatic, diabetic, or suffer from allergic disorders, they bring with them their customary medications. Those with back or knee problems should bring with them appropriate corsets, girdles or elastic athletic supports. Sun-block, sun-glasses, sun-hats and light clothing are necessary. Dr. Walker maintains a First Aid box with medical supplies that is more comprehensive than the basic First Aid kit on site. Health and safety are of the greatest importance to our annual Field School and associated excavations at Cueva Negra and Sima de las Palomas, which have been run for 30 years without experiencing major health problems or safety incidents. Gastrointestinal affections and others owing to heat (temperatures can reach 40°C) such as sun-burn may occur from time to time but are easily treated with routine medication. We advise our helpers to bring suitable creams and sun-hats which in any case can be purchased by them in the nearby village where we stay in its public school. **Participants who are European Union residents are entitled to free public health care in Spain provided they present the EU Health Card issued in their name in their EU country of residence. Those from outside the E.U. are advised to arrange private medical insurance.** There are well-equipped modern public hospitals with 24-hour attention 7 days a week, about 15 minutes' drive from each of our sites: namely, near Cueva Negra, *Hospital Comarcal del Noroeste* (address: Avenida Miguel Espinosa 1, 30400 Caravaca de la Cruz; tel +34-968-709100), and, near Sima de las Palomas, *Hospital General Universitario de Los Arcos del Mar Menor* (address: Paraje Torre Octavio 54, 30739 Pozo Aledo, San Javier; tel. +34-968-565000). Murcia city has 3 large, modern, university teaching hospitals about an hour's drive from our sites. Should a medical emergency arise, it will be dealt with speedily and efficiently. Dr. Walker enjoys a good relationship with various medical practitioners at Murcia, and university colleagues in Murcia University's Medical Faculty and its several associated teaching hospitals in the administrative Region of Murcia. The health and welfare of Field School participants are of paramount concern.

SOME PUBLICATIONS ABOUT WORK AT OUR SITES AND RELEVANT ASPECTS (pdfs may be available on request):

- 2022 M.J.Walker, M.Haber Uriarte, M.López Martínez, I.Martín Lerma, "La Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar en La Encarnación de Caravaca Cruz." In: F.Brotos Yagüe, Coord., *Caravaca inédita. Un viaje de la prehistoria hasta nuestros días*. Caravaca de la Cruz, Ediciones Gollarin, pp. 79-95 (ISBN 9788412219630).
- 2022 A.Bermejo-Fenoll, A.Panchón-Ruiz, M.J.Walker, "Neanderthal, Sapiens and chimpanzee mandibles: a comparative study in relation to articulated speech." *Archaeological and Anthropological Sciences* 14:116 <https://doi.org/10.1107/s12520-22-01575-s> (ISSN: 1866-9565).
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- 2021 G.J.Linares Matás, N.Fernández Ruiz, M.Haber Uriarte, M.López Martínez, M.J.Walker: "Hyaenas and early humans in the latest Early Pleistocene of South-Western Europe" *Scientific Reports* 11:24036 <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-021-03547-7> (ISSN 2045-2322).
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- 2021 J.A.Fellows Yates, I.M.Velsko, F.Aron, C.Posth, C.A.Hofman, R.M.Austin, C.E.Parker, A.E.Mann, K.Nägel, K.W.Arthur, J.W.Arthur, C.C.Bauer, I.Crèvecœur, C.Cupillard, M.C.Curtis, L.Dalé, M.Díaz-Zorita Bonilla, J.C.Díez Fernández-Lomana, D.G.Drucker, E.Escribano Escrivá, M.Francken, V.E.Gibbon, M.R.González Morales, A.Grande Mateu, K.Harvati, A.G.Henry, L.Humphrey, M.Menéndez, D.Mihailovic, M.Peresani, S.Rodríguez Moroder, M.Roksandic, H.Rougier, S.Sázelová, J.T.Stock, L.G.Straus, J.Svoboda, B.Teßmann, M.J.Walker, R.C.Power, C.M.Lewis, K.Sankaranarayan, K.Guschanski, R.W.Wrangham, F.E.Dewhurst, D.C.Salazar-García, J.Krause, A.Herbig, C.Warinner, 2021. The evolution and changing ecology of the African hominid oral microbiome. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences USA*, 118 (20), e2021655118. <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2021655118> (ISSN 1091-6490). (N.B. To find a reference to the Sima de las Palomas teeth that contributed to this article, because the sites are not named in it, you have to go on-line to the link to the article's Supplementary Information: <https://www.pnas.org/lookup/suppl/> doi:10.1073/pnas.2021655118/-DCSupplemental).
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Published in 2020 in *Journal of Paleolithic Archaeology* 3 (4), 816-855 (pdf available on request). In this important article the antiquity of the sediments is determined as being between 990,000 and 772,000 years ago by electron spin resonance and uranium series dating of an *Equus altidens* tooth, and this late Early Pleistocene period is the same as that to which the large mammalian fauna is shown to belong in the same article, as well as corresponding to that of the small mammalian fauna published in *Historical Biology* (2020) and magnetostratigraphy published in *Nature* (2009).

Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar: a Dated Late Early Pleistocene Palaeolithic Site in Southeastern Spain

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Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar: a Dated Late Early Pleistocene Palaeolithic Site in Southeastern Spain

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Abstract
 Systematic excavation and multidisciplinary research undertaken over three decades have deepened our understanding of the early Palaeolithic archaeology at Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar (Caravaca de la Cruz, Murcia, Spain). New results from biochronology and combined ESR and U-series dating corroborate previous magnetostratigraphy, placing the entire excavated sequence between the Jaramillo sub-chron and the Matuyama-Brunhes boundary (i.e. ca. 990–772 thousand years ago (ka)); palaeontological and palynological findings reflect temperate environmental conditions. A bifacially flaked limestone hand axe was excavated 1 m below the top of the Pleistocene sequence. The *Equus cf. altidens* tooth that provided the ESR estimate was excavated 1 m below the hand axe. Throughout its 5-m-deep sedimentary sequence, small nodules, fragments and struck flakes make up the bulk of the Palaeolithic assemblage. Stratigraphical analysis points to undisturbed continuous sedimentary deposition above a layer of ashy sediment, encountered 4.5 m below the top of the Pleistocene sequence, which contained thermally altered bone and heat-shattered chert cores and flakes. Cueva Negra is among the earliest European sites with firm evidence of combustion.

Keywords Spain · Late Early Pleistocene · Palaeolithic · ESR · U-series dating · Palaeontology

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Microstratigraphical sampling at the late Early Pleistocene Palaeolithic site of Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar (Caravaca de la Cruz, Murcia, SE Spain) Norman Fernández Ruiz, Gonzalo J. Linares Matás, María Haber Uriarte, Mariano López Martínez, Michael J. Walker

Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar is a large, N-facing rock-shelter at 70 m a.s.l. in the right flank of the Río Quípar gorge, 10 km S of Caravaca de la Cruz (Murcia, SE Spain). It contains Palaeolithic artefacts^{1,2,3,4} ranging from a hand-axe to retouched small flakes, made on a wide range of locally available rocks^{4,5}, a deep sealed layer (phase 1) containing burnt chert and bone^{6,7}, and a high superficial layer (phase 2) containing important carnivore and large herbivore remains^{8,9,10} and traces of Palaeolithic activity. The gorge lies on the active Quípar Fault and it is likely that neotectonic uplift, plausibly in the early Middle Pleistocene, preserved the cave sediments from fluvial erosion and drained a swampy lake that had contributed to their formation.



Here we consider microstratigraphical aspects, especially of the intervening sediments (phase 2)^{9,11}. From a sedimentological standpoint¹², all three phases reflect the fundamentally uniform, homogeneous nature of a sedimentary process whereby low-energy fluvial transport, causing minimal horizontal displacement of finds, likely owed to sporadic, maybe seasonal, overflow of the erstwhile adjacent swampy lake, home to the 8 species of waterfowl and 2 of waders identified among the bones of 66 bird species excavated in the cave^{4,13,14,15}. Palaeomagnetic reverse polarity throughout the entire 5-m depth of sedimentary deposits¹⁶, micromammalian biostratigraphy¹⁷, macromammalian biostratigraphy¹², and ESR-dating¹, coincide in assigning all three phases to the late Early Pleistocene after the Jaramillo sub-chron had ended ~0.99 Ma, though before the ~0.772 Ma Matuyama-Brunhes boundary. Palaeopalynology¹⁸ implies existence of gallery woodland and temperate conditions. Therefore the sediments likely were laid down during one or more of the following palaeoclimatological periods: MIS-23, MIS-21, or MIS-19 pre-0.772 - perhaps especially in MIS-21, ~0.865-0.815 Ma^{1,17,19}. Palaeobiological and palaeoecological considerations of the excavated assemblages imply their accumulation from 4 or 5 biotopes that converged near the cave.

Across 15 m² of phase 2 sediments, sampled within a depth of 0.5 m (upper red bar in the photograph), stratigraphical analyses indicate repeated vertical alternation between thin layers, ~20-30 mm thick, containing, respectively, mainly evidence of Palaeolithic activity, mainly faunal remains lacking Palaeolithic impingement, and sterile thin bands of sediment deposited by fluvialacustrine overflow or thin calcareous laminar crusts caused by desiccation. The observations reflect a chronological palimpsest within phase 2. In stark contrast, no palimpsest was detected in phase 1 sediments from which samples were taken across 6 m² within a depth of 0.3 m (lower red bar in the photograph).

Our data are derived from georeferential registration of all lithic artefacts ≥ 20 mm in size, bones ≥ 30 mm, and stones, clasts and geofacts ≥ 10 mm, with recording of their 3-D coordinates, orientation, azimuth, and dip angle of their major axes. The analyses take account of measurements on items, technomorphology, refitting, taphonomy, and frequency-analyses of horizontal and vertical distributions of items, referred to their probability densities. This allows investigation of spatiotemporal relations whilst taking account of sedimentary facies, their fabric analyses, and the dispersal or accumulation of items. Statistical analyses include Poisson

and Gaussian distribution, Student's *t*, chi-square, Fisher's test, Shapiro-Wilk tests of normality, Jaque-Bera test for kurtosis, ANOVA significance tests, Wilcoxon rank tests, Mann-Whitney sum rank tests, Cochran's Q test for heterogeneity, Pearson, Spearman and RV analyses of correlation coefficients, and, at the level of multidimensional analysis, Wiener-Kolmogorov prediction, Ripley's K function, nearest-neighbour analysis, Moran's I for spatial autocorrelation, kernel density estimation, and principal component pattern analysis of sedimentary elements (e.g., PGI pore-geometry and CGI cluster-girdle indices) with regard to the 3 main eigenvectors which allow visualisation as triangular diagrams that offer the relative contributions of isotropic, planar, and linear sedimentary fabric, thereby illuminating spatiotemporal site-formation processes. Initial findings suggest heterogeneous orientation of lithic and bone items, though some clusters show statistical significance (with Moran's I: $z > 2.58$; $p < 0.01$), and a low E-W tendency to maximal density $\sim 68^\circ$ (Fisher distribution), within a somewhat planar ($K=0.52$; $C=4.80$) or planar-cum-linear sedimentary fabric; Benn's CGI index puts it between planar and linear formation, whilst Vollmer's PGI index shows grouped and planar patterns ($P=0.916$; $G=0.061$; $R=0.021$) and low isotropy. The eigenvalues highlight the feeble planar nature of the sedimentary fabric ($S1=S2 \gg S3$).

Hitherto, similar methods have been employed at French and Spanish Palaeolithic cave sites of the Middle and Upper Pleistocene. Here we highlight their applicability to Palaeolithic research at an Early Pleistocene cave site in Mediterranean SE Spain. Microstratigraphical contrasts in phase 2 imply alternation (with sporadic brief sterile interludes) between Palaeolithic predominance and that of carnivores: stratigraphical facies containing several Palaeolithic artefacts and bones showing cut-marks and percussive stigmata alternate with facies characterised by sparse evidence of Palaeolithic activity but which have numerous bones gnawed by carnivores, to which testify fossils of hyaena, bear and lynx (particularly in phase 1 sediments), though Cueva Negra lacks human remains (contrary to early claims based on misidentification of a few fossils^{1,20}).

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“Snakes and Ladders” in Palaeoanthropology: From cognitive surprise to skillfulness a million years ago.

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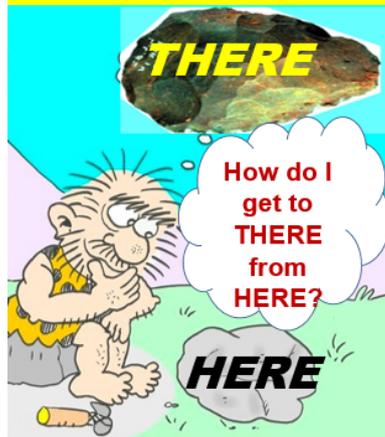
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Our proposal is methodologically significant for the study of the evolution of early *Homo* by introducing the **Free Energy Principle (FEP)** as an aid not only to inquiry into some behavioural **continuities and discontinuities** seemingly detectable in the Pleistocene record, but also most particularly to understanding **how** they may happen.

What is it that may provoke cognitive awareness of a possibility of fashioning bifacial stone handaxes in relation to the affordances of raw materials and potential advantages for minimising bioenergetic effort? What does this say about the irregular appearance of this regular technique in the Pleistocene spatiotemporal record? (Likewise, might sporadic traces of combustion at early sites hint at cognitive awareness of similar potential advantages from exploiting backfires present in the wake of wildfires?)

How we do spontaneous enactment with stuff



According to **Bayesian cognitive science**, sensory inputs about our surroundings underpin generative statistical models whose probability densities form prior beliefs that undergo continual updating for recognition as posterior beliefs inferred from posterior probability distributions. When we react (active inference) we implicitly effect approximate Bayesian (variational) inference by the statistical (generative) model of our sensory exchanges with our econiche, thereby realising a dynamic that bounds **variational free energy**, as determined by the **FEP** that now adays has proved its worth in advancing neuroscientific understanding. Two aspects merit special mention:

1. Perception and action often merge as **spontaneous enactment with our econiche**;
2. The default position is to **avoid untoward surprises**.

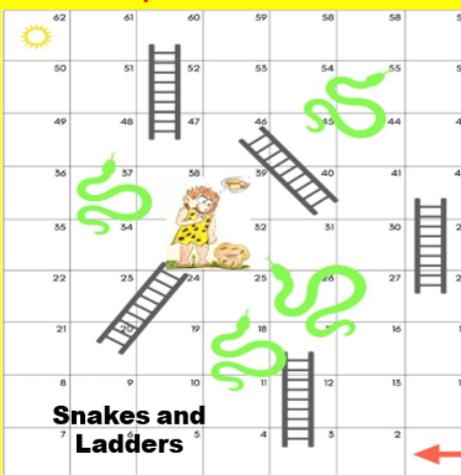
Snakes and Ladders

Cognitive surprises (e.g. bifacial flaking

of stone) favouring anomalous behavioural propensities to **sporadic expression**, can explain “snakes-and-ladders” appearances and disappearances of Palaeolithic behaviours in the Early Pleistocene record, such as bifacial flaking of **handaxes and cleavers** (likewise burnt remains, hinting at opportunistic availment of glowing embers left by wild fires). We apply the **principle of stationary action**, which underpins the **FEP**, to self-organising systems, e.g. early *Homo* taxa, at an evolutionary time-scale.

Often interpreted by invoking progressive “ascent” of evolutionary phylogenetic “**ladders**” of cognitive and technical abilities, idiosyncratic enactments likely were **disregarded** by a community unable to envisage, articulate or communicate any advantage by promoting their repetition.

Such disregard, as well as diverse fortuitous demographical accidents, likely erased from collective memory all recollection of exceptional individual conduct. It disappeared down a “**snake**” in a seemingly puzzling Pleistocene record... **BUT in it handaxes came and went more than once**



The matter discomfords some palaeoanthropologists who try explaining it **away** with a self-justifying assertion that separate palaeospecies of *Homo* differentially possessed cognitive abilities that allegedly underlay the differential presence or absence in the distant Palaeolithic record of traces of behavioural outcomes (e.g. handaxes; combustion).

We propose an alternative methodological perspective, grounded in fundamentally **coherent biophysical and neurobiological relationships** between creatures and their environments, which allows for a parsimonious, prosaic, deflationary account for appearances and disappearances in the Early Pleistocene record of behavioural outcomes and skills of *Homo*.

A HOARY PALAEOANTHROPOLOGICAL MYTH IS THAT BY 1Ma HOMO (cf. erectus) DISPERSALS SPREAD THE GOOD NEWS ABOUT HANDAXES (? FIRE TOO?) FAR AND WIDE.....



New chronological constraints for the Lower Palaeolithic site of Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar (Caravaca de la Cruz, Murcia, S.E. Spain): Preliminary ESR dating of the late Early Pleistocene site.

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RESULTS ARE COMPATIBLE WITH A CHRONOLOGICAL AGE BETWEEN 0.99 – 0.772 Ma



Combined closed system uranium-series electron spin resonance dating is being applied currently to a series of fossil herbivore teeth (*Equus cf. altidens* and *Stephanorhinus etruscus*.) from several stratigraphical units of the final Early Pleistocene 5 m-deep sedimentary sequence at the Palaeolithic site of Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar, in the Segura drainage basin, in SE Spain.

Two samples were taken from specimen CN1511, a left maxillary 1st or 2nd molar of *Equus cf. altidens* (ID: CN-09152) excavated in sedimentary stratigraphical Complex 3-1, about half-way down the 5 m-deep sedimentary sequence. Tooth samples were pre-screened using high-resolution laser ablation inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry (LA-ICP-MS). These uranium-series analyses showed no evidence of uranium leaching from the dental tissues, suggesting the suitability of the samples for ESR dating. Employing both Combined U-series-ESR (US-ESR) and Combined closed system U-series-ESR (CSUS-ESR) approaches¹, the age of the samples lies between the Combined US-ESR age of **406±40 ka** and the Combined CSUS-ESR age of **1446±310 ka**².

Magnetostratigraphy³ found reversed polarity throughout the sedimentary deposits, providing a minimum age constraint of **772 ka** (when the reverse polarity of the Matuyama chron, **2.558-0.772 Ma**, gave way to Brunhes normal polarity). Biochronological considerations are consistent with a final Early Pleistocene age because the palaeontological assemblage includes both characteristic large fauna e.g., the cervids *Dama cf. vallonnetensi*, *Megaloceros novocarthaginiensis*, *Stephanorhinus etruscus*, and small mammals (*Victoriamys chalinei*, *Iberomys uescarensis*, *Miomys savini*, *Pliomys episcopalis*, *Stenocranium gregaloides*, *Terricola arvalidens*)⁴. They indicate a time **after the 1.07-0.99 Ma Jaramillo subchron**. They occur throughout the 5 m-deep undisturbed sedimentary sequence which was deposited by intermittent fluviolacustrine alluviation, during a short period of geological time⁵ (plausibly MIS21) and has provided herpetological, avifaunal, and pollen evidence indicating moist, temperate environmental conditions. Magnetostratigraphy, biochronology and numerical dating are compatible with a **late or final Early Pleistocene age** for Cueva Negra, between **0.99 and 0.772 Ma**. Ongoing Combined US-ESR and Combined CSUS-ESR of other fossil herbivore teeth will enable further definition of chronological constraints at Cueva Negra.

Excavation at Cueva Negra has uncovered a bifacially-flaked Acheulian handaxe, a complex industry of small artefacts, including flakes removed by repetitive flaking of small cores and pieces with retouched edges, as well as evidence of combustion in a deep level⁶. There are no hominin fossils (anterior teeth of a small bear found in loose surface sediment in the 1990's were mistaken for Neanderthal teeth and wrongly appear as such in some publications, but excavation in 2019 of a typically ursid lateral 3rd incisor indicates that all the teeth are ursid). Given contemporaneity of the Cueva Negra sedimentary deposits with *Homo antecessor*, dated to ca. **0.95-0.772 Ma**⁷ at the Gran Dolina in the Sierra de Atapuerca in northern Spain, an intriguing question is whether we owe the Palaeolithic assemblage and combustion at Cueva Negra to that species.



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Sharing shelter: Hyaenas and early humans in the late Early Pleistocene Palaeolithic site of Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar (Caravaca de la Cruz, Murcia, S.E. Spain).

Gonzalo Linares-Matás^{1,2}, Norman Fernández Ruiz¹, María Haber-Uriarte^{1,3}, Mariano López-Martínez¹, Antonio López-Jiménez¹, Michael J. Walker^{1,4}

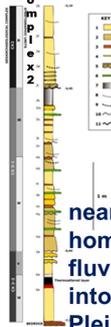
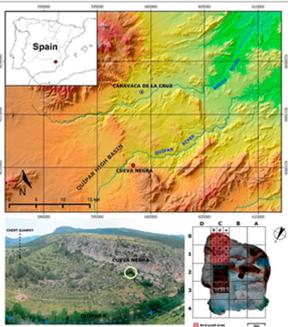
1 - Murcian Association for the Study of Palaeoanthropology and the Quaternary (MUPANTQUAT). 2 - St. Hugh's College, Oxford. 3 - Dept. of Prehistory, Archaeology, Ancient History, Mediaeval History and Historiographical Sciences, Faculty of Letters, Murcia University, Spain. 4 - Dept. of Zoology and Physical Anthropology, Faculty of Biology, Murcia University, Spain. Illustrations are by courtesy of members of MUPANTQUAT.

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Pleistocene humans and carnivores frequented caves and rock-shelters, often generating bone accumulations. The well-preserved late Early Pleistocene (0.99-0.772 Ma) sedimentary sequence at Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar (CNERQ) provides abundant evidence of early human behavioural and adaptive skills, use of fire; making hand-axes and flake tools (below) whilst also attesting to the bone-altering activities of carnivores^{1,2}.



CNERQ Complex 2: Hyaena (*Crocota* sp.) mandible; *Megaloceros* antlers



Cueva Negra is a N-facing rock-shelter in the Río Quípar gorge near Caravaca de la Cruz, Murcia, Spain). Uniform homogeneous sediments reflect low-energy fluvial transport, caused by intermittent overflow into the cave of a swampy lake (later on drained by Pleistocene tectonic activity of the Quípar Fault that defines the gorge). Palaeomagnetic reverse polarity throughout the 5-m depth of sedimentary deposits³, micro-mammalian biostratigraphy⁴, and CSUS-ESR dating^{1,5} indicate their late Early Pleistocene age (between the end, ~0.99 Ma, of the Jaramillo subchron and the Matuyama-Brunhes boundary ~0.772 Ma). Palaeoenvironmental studies indicate temperate humid conditions (? MIS21 ?). The sequence is close in time to TD6 in northern Spain⁶.

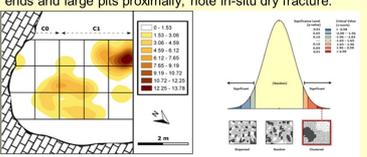
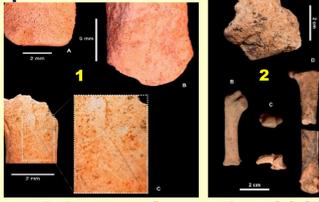


Gnawed *Megaloceros* antler and large herbivore rib with gnawed ends and large pits proximally; note in-situ dry fracture.



Recent fieldwork has allowed re-examination of the spatial and taphonomical nature of the macrofaunal assemblage from the upper Complex 2 (representing ~30cm of internally-homogeneous stratigraphical depth). This last phase of sedimentary accumulation encompasses a truncated alluvial sequence with low porosity and good sedimentary organisation that reflects predominantly low-energy sedimentary dynamics⁷.

- A: pit on a digested compact bone. B: Large score on a tibia diaphysary fragment from a medium-sized herbivore. C: Oblique, cross-cutting cut-marks on the diaphysis of an upper limb bone (humerus) from a large-sized herbivore.
- A: Carnivore coprolite from upper complex 2. B, C, D: Hyaena remains from levels 2d-2f of Complex 2; left: fifth metacarpal with unfused distal epiphysis; centre: P, tooth germ; bottom: third phalanx; right: fourth metatarsal broken during excavation.



Intrasite spatial analysis for the carnivore-altered faunal assemblage of the upper layers Kernel density map. B: Moran's I spatial autocorrelation of the Cueva Negra Complex 2, carried out using Arcmap's Spatial Analyst Tools and Geostatistical Analyst Tools. A: PCA analysis (clustering, p-value < 0.01). C: Ripley's K Function analysis. D: Vertical distribution histogram, showing an asymmetric, bimodal Gaussian curve.

The fragmented bones from the 2019 Complex 2 study (n=~1700) reflect an attritional skeletal profile, dominated by medium- and large-size mammals, including *Megaloceros novocarthaginiensis* antlers. Hyaena remains (*Crocota* sp.), coprolites, and tooth-marked bones, suggest a hyaena den. Axial and upper appendicular bones with percussion and cut-marks near to several hammerstones imply a clear, albeit limited, anthropogenic input.

Abundance of dry fractures and presence of weathering and rodent gnawing in the upper levels of Complex 2 are in stark contrast to the pattern found in deeper levels. Slower sedimentation rates, alongside some degree of bioturbation, detected by sediment micromorphology⁷, compatible with hyaenas burrowing in their dens, likely favoured generation of an archaeological palimpsest.

We interpret the taphonomical and spatial evidence from the upper layers as reflecting a dual-patterned palimpsest, owing to alternating use of the site for shelter by early humans and hyaenas in their hunting or breeding seasons during the final phase of sedimentation in the cave.

Hyaenas and humans no doubt coexisted alongside smaller predators responsible for accumulation of micromammal, herpetological and avian remains excavated.

The spread of the social hunters *Crocota* and *Homo* towards the close of the Early Pleistocene correlates with the decline in western Europe of late Villafranchian solitary hypercarnivores and large scavengers, e.g., sabre-toothed *Megantereon whitei*, Pleistocene Eurasian jaguar (*Panthera gombaszoegensis*), and the large hyaenid *Pachycrocuta brevirostris*. Therefore, the CNERQ sequence has relevant implications for understanding the biogeographical configuration of late Early Pleistocene landscapes in south-western Europe.

CNERQ complex 2: gnawed mandible of *Stephanorhinus etruscus*



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Editorial

Research

Combustion at the late Early Pleistocene site of Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar (Murcia, Spain) 571
 M.J. Walker, D. Anesin, D.E. Angelucci, A. Avilés-Fernández, F. Berna, A.T. Buitrago-López, Y. Fernández-Jalvo, M. Haber-Uriarte, A. López-Jiménez, M. López-Martínez, I. Martín-Lerma, J. Ortega-Rodríguez, J.-L. Polo-Camacho, S.E. Rhodes, D. Richter, T. Rodríguez-Estrella, J.-L. Schwenninger & A.R. Skinner

Modelling the diffusion of pottery technologies across Afro-Eurasia: emerging insights and future research 590
 Peter Jordan, Kevin Gibbs, Peter Hommel, Henny Piezonka, Fabio Silva & James Steele

The transition to agriculture in south-western Europe: new isotopic insights from Portugal's Atlantic coast 604
 Eric J. Guiry, Maria Hillier, Rui Boaventura, Ana Maria Silva, Luiz Oosterbeek, Tiago Tomé, António Valera, João Luís Cardoso, Joseph C. Hepburn & Michael P. Richards

New information on Melides stable isotopes 617
 Mary Jackes & David Lubell

Beaker people in Britain: migration, mobility and diet 620
 Mike Parker Pearson, Andrew Chamberlain, Mandy Jay, Mike Richards, Alison Sheridan, Neil Curtis, Jane Evans, Alex Gibson, Margaret Hutchison, Patrick Mahoney, Peter Marshall, Janet Montgomery, Stuart Needham, Sandra O'Mahoney, Maura Pellegrini & Neil Wilkin

El Niño and second-millennium BC monument building at Huaca Cortada (Moche Valley, Peru) 638
 Jason Nesbitt

Rome in the Bronze Age: late second-millennium BC radiocarbon dates from the Forum Boarium 654
 Andrea L. Brock & Nicola Terrenato

Indigenous production and interregional exchange: late second-millennium BC bronzes from the Hanzhong basin, China 665
 Kunlong Chen, Jianjun Mei, Thilo Rehren & Congcang Zhao

Pastoralists and mobility in the Oglakhty cemetery of southern Siberia: new evidence from stable isotopes 679
 N. Shishlina, S. Pankova, V. Sevastyanov, O. Kuznetsova & Yu. Demidenko

The settlement mound of Birnin Lafiya: new evidence from the eastern arc of the Niger River 695
 A. Haour, S. Nixon, D. N'Dah, C. Magnavita & A. Livingstone Smith

Combustion at the late Early Pleistocene site of Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar (Murcia, Spain)

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Control of fire was a hallmark of developing human cognition and an essential technology for the colonisation of cooler latitudes. In Europe, the earliest evidence comes from recent work at the site of Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar in south-eastern Spain. Charred and calcined bone and thermally altered chert were recovered from a deep, 0.8-million-year-old sedimentary deposit. A combination of analyses indicated that these had been heated to 400–600°C, compatible with burning. Inspection of the sediment and hydroxyapatite also suggests combustion and degradation of the bone. The results provide new insight into Early Palaeolithic use of fire and its significance for human evolution.

Keywords: Early Pleistocene, Palaeolithic, Acheulean, combustion, cognitive evolution

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(pdf available on request)

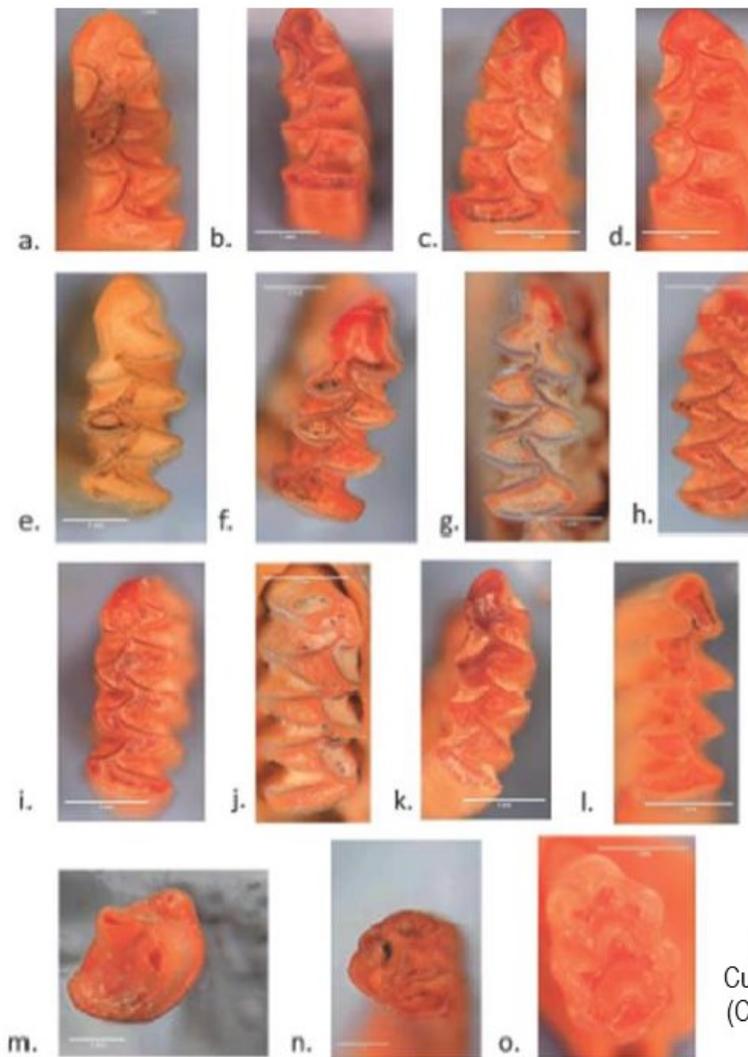


CUEVA NEGRA DEL
ESTRECHO DEL RÍO QUÍPAR
>780,000 <990,000
MIS 21: 812,000-867,000
Excavation in situ of
calcined bones and
chert shattered by thermal shock
that had been heated to
500-600°C (ESR, FTIRS, TL)



**Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar:
Teeth of small mammals**

(occlusal surfaces)



- a,b,c,d *Victoriamys chalinei* (m1)
- e,f,g *Mimomys savini* (m1)
- h,i, *Iberomys huescarensis* (m1)
- k *Stenocranius gregaloides* (m1)
- l *Pliomys episcopalis* (m1)
- m *Erinaceus* cf. *europaeus* (m3)
- n *Prolagus calpensis* (p3)
- o *Apodemus sylvaticus* (M1)

m1 = lower first molar

m3 = lower third molar

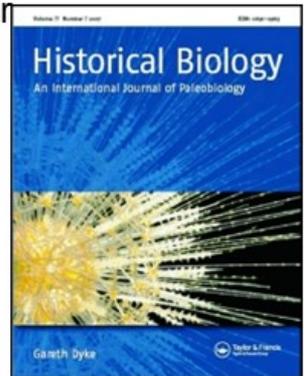
p3 = lower third premolar

M1 = upper first molar

A.López Jiménez et al, 2018, Small-mammal indicators of biochronology at Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar (Caravaca de la Cruz, Murcia, SE Spain), *Historical Biology*

doi: 10.1080/08912963.2018.1462804

Hist.Biol. vol. 32, pp. 18-33, 2020 (pdf available on request)



Palaeolithic Pioneers

Behaviour, abilities, and activity of
early *Homo* in European landscapes
around the western Mediterranean
basin ~1.3-0.05 Ma.



Michael J. Walker

Archaeopress, Oxford, 2017 (pdf available)



Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar: Above: Big arrow marks the cave, small arrow marks nearest chert source. Below left-to-right: ge archaeologist Dr Diego Angelucci sampling sediment; team excavating; Drs Jean-Luc Schwenninger (OSL-dating specialist), Yanni Gunnell, Marc Calvet and Régis Braucher (cosmogenic nuclide expert) sampling in 2011 - foreground arrow shows burnt layer and upper arrow shows a small erosive feature; far right, Drs. Gary Scott and Lluís Gibert conducting palaeomagnetic research in 2008 which showed the entire depth of sediment to be older than 772,000 years ago (0.772 Ma).

New chronological constraints for the Lower Palaeolithic site of Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar, Caravaca de la Cruz, Murcia, Spain: Preliminary ESR dating of the late Early Pleistocene fauna.

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890,000 ± 136,000 BP

CSUS-ESR age = 890 ± 136 ka = 0.89 ± 0.136 Ma (1.03-0.78 Ma)

Combined uranium-series electron spin resonance dating is being applied currently to a series of fossil herbivore teeth (*Equus cf. altidens* and *Stephanorhinus* sp.) from several stratigraphical units of the final Early Pleistocene 5 m-deep sedimentary sequence at the Palaeolithic site of Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar, situated at 740 m above sea level in the Segura drainage basin, in southeastern Spain.

The tooth samples first were pre-screened using high-resolution laser ablation inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry (LA-ICP-MS). Interestingly, these uranium-series analyses showed no evidence of uranium leaching from the dental tissues, thus suggesting the suitability of the samples for ESR dating. A mean apparent U-series age of 300±112 ka was derived from all dental tissues sampled (n=78). This must be regarded as a *minimum* age constraint for these fossil teeth, as uranium uptake may be delayed significantly after death of an organism. Combined uranium-series and electron spin resonance age results are obtained using both the US (U-series) and CSUS (Closed system U-series) uptake models [1]. The latter typically provides a *maximum* age constraint for a given sample. For instance, a preliminary initial result points to a CSUS-ESR age of 890±136 ka (ca. 0.89 Ma) for equid tooth CN-1511 from Cueva Negra. The chronology of the site is supported by two independent methods [2]. Magnetostratigraphical findings imply correlation of the entire sedimentary infilling with the Matuyama Chron, and therefore an inferred age >0.78 Ma.

Biochronological considerations are consistent with a final Early Pleistocene age because the palaeontological assemblage includes both characteristic large fauna (e.g., the cervids *Dama cf. vallonetensis* and *Megaloceros novocarhaginiensis*) and small mammals (*Iberomys huescarensis*, *Miomys savini*, *Pliomys episcopalis*, *Prolagus capensis*, *Stenocranius gregaloides*, *Terricola arvalidens*, *Victoriomys chalinei*). The fossils occur throughout a 5 m-deep undisturbed sedimentary sequence which was deposited by intermittent fluvio-lacustrine alluviation, during a short period of geological time [3] (plausibly MIS-21, ca. 0.87-0.81 Ma), and has provided pollen typical of temperate environmental conditions. Consequently, magnetostratigraphy, biochronology and numerical dating consistently support a late Early Pleistocene age for Cueva Negra, most likely between ca. 1.03 and 0.78 Ma when considering the 1-sigma upper range of the preliminary CSUS-ESR age available for CN-1511. Ongoing combined U-series/ESR dating of other fossil teeth will enable further definition of chronological constraints.

Excavation at Cueva Negra has uncovered a bifacially-flaked Acheulian handaxe, a complex industry of small artefacts, including flakes removed by repetitive flaking of small cores and pieces with retouched edges, as well as evidence of combustion in a deep level [4].

There are no hominin fossils (anterior teeth of a small *Ursus deningeri*, perhaps a female, were mistaken for Neanderthal teeth and wrongly appear as such in some publications). Given contemporaneity of the Cueva Negra sedimentary deposits with *Homo antecessor*, dated to ca. 0.95-0.78 Ma [5] at the Gran Dolina in the Sierra de Atapuerca in northern Spain, an intriguing question is whether we owe the Palaeolithic assemblage and combustion at Cueva Negra to that hominin species.

Acknowledgements: Drs. J. van der Made of the Museo Nacional de Ciencias Naturales at Madrid and G. Rabeder of the University of Vienna are thanked for palaeontological assistance and advice. Aspects of the ESR dating study have been funded by the ARC Future Fellowship Grant FT150100215.

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Cueva Negra handaxe



Cueva Negra excavation



Excavating at a depth near the handaxe



Cueva Negra stone artefacts classified by Shea's Modes A-I



Equid tooth CN-1511 dated to 0.89 Ma



Mathieu Duval sampling at Cueva Negra



Depth of handaxe and dated horse tooth CN-1511



Cueva Negra vertical profile



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Ayuntamiento de Caravaca de la Cruz



Cueva Negra over the River Quípar

Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar (Caravaca de la Cruz, Murcia, SE Spain): Intrasite analysis of a late Early Pleistocene Palaeolithic palimpsest 

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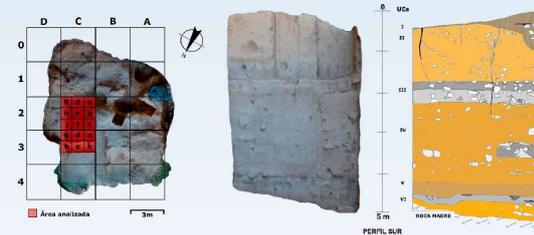
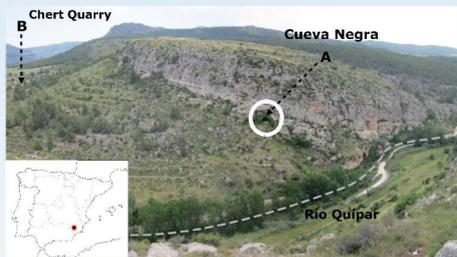
All rights reserved, Copyright © MUPANTQUAT 2018.

INTRODUCTION

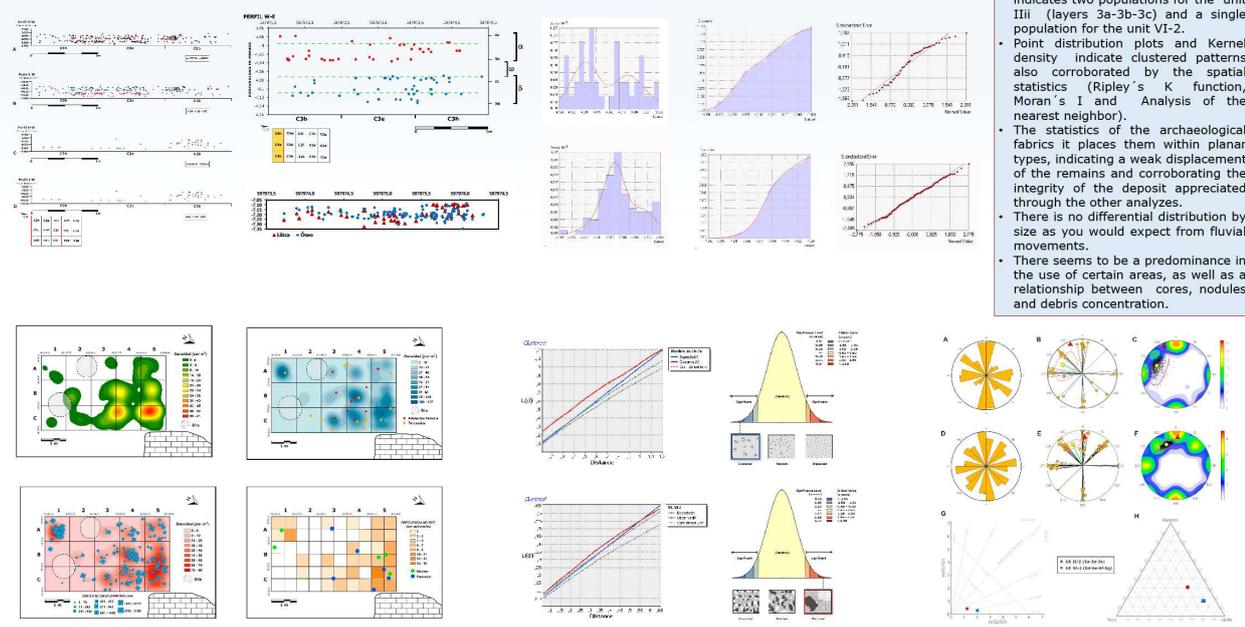
Preliminary analysis indicates a stratigraphical palimpsest at Cueva Negra, a large rockshelter located in the southeast of Spain, near the city of Caravaca de la Cruz at 740 m.a.s.l. next to the river Quípar. Contains 5m-deep fluviolacustrine sediments deposited intermittently from nearby lake [1] during the final Early Pleistocene (0.78-0.99 Ma) according to magnetostratigraphy [2] and biochronology [3]. The lithic assemblage consist of a handaxe and a large number of elements <6 cm, mainly of chert, limestone, quartzite, or quartz. Most excavated material came from nearby outcrops, though a little may derive from 30 km away [4]. Unipolar, bipolar, multipolar, orthogonal and centripetal removals occurred, including repetitive flaking preceding flake-removal. Secondary knapping (mainly unifacial retouch) occurs on flakes and fragments (notched, denticulate, pointed pieces and scrapers); a few retouched pieces are "microlithic" (<3cm) [5].

METHODOLOGY

A grid of 1x1m squares allows excavation of their 0.5x0.5m subdivisions in ≤5cm-deep spits until sedimentary discontinuity is encountered when a new unit is assigned as a precaution. A stepwise excavation strategy is followed. A total station provides geolocational recording of 3D coordinates and orientation, dip and azimuth of major axes of all lithics ≥2cm, bones ≥3cm and stones ≥10cm. We present preliminary intrasite analyses of lithic data from units II (15m2) and VI (6m2), respectively near the top and bottom of the sequence. Here we use lithic technomorphology, metrical measures, taphonomy, raw material characteristics, horizontal and vertical distributions, and refitting possibilities. Our aim is to explore spatiotemporal relations taking into account sedimentary facies and accumulation or dispersal of finds. The data-base allows a multidimensional GIS approach to their archaeostratigraphical analysis with spatiotemporal resolution good enough for detection of micropalimpsests and discrete episodes of occupation. Statistical methods used include Gaussian distribution analysis, Wiener-Kolmogorov prediction, Ripley's K function, nearest-neighbour analysis, Moran's I for spatial autocorrelation, and kernel PCA pattern analysis; multivariate analyses of lithic orientation and dip could throw light on knapping procedures.



RESULTS



- The archaeostratigraphic analysis indicates two populations for the unit III (layers 3a-3b-3c) and a single population for the unit VI-2.
- Point distribution plots and Kernel density indicate clustered patterns also corroborated by the spatial statistics (Ripley's K function, Moran's I and Analysis of the nearest neighbor).
- The statistics of the archaeological fabrics it places them within planar types, indicating a weak displacement of the remains and corroborating the integrity of the deposit appreciated through the other analyses.
- There is no differential distribution by size as you would expect from fluvial movements.
- There seems to be a predominance in the use of certain areas, as well as a relationship between cores, nodules and debris concentration.

CONCLUSIONS

Demonstrable differences between assemblages imply distinct sedimentary and occupational episodes; thus in unit II (which is high up) we have identified two occupational horizons, corresponding to distinct sedimentary inputs, demonstrating a palimpsest of discrete activities. By contrast, much lower down, no indications of a palimpsest structure were detectable in unit VI where the oldest Palaeolithic finds come from, though the small area excavated to date cautions against overinterpretation. Nevertheless, statistical data for the two units seem robust, notably as regards grouped patterns, appropriate for sediments showing little alteration, and minimal postdepositional disturbance permitted most lithics to remain lying flat; our observations agree with geochronological evidence of fluvial sedimentation deposited with low transport energy in a geologically short time.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

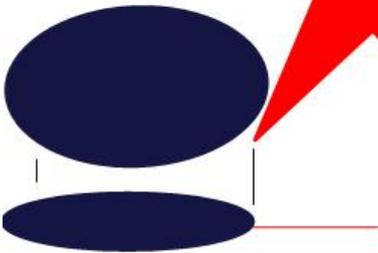
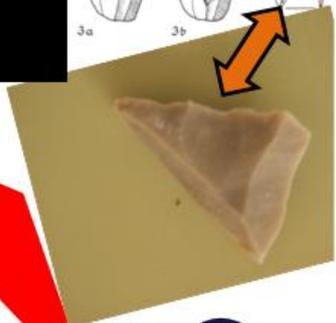
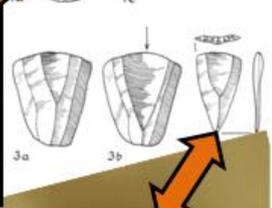
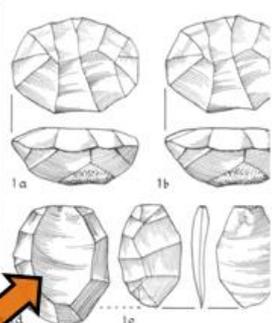
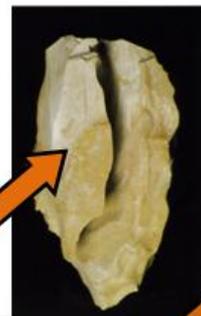
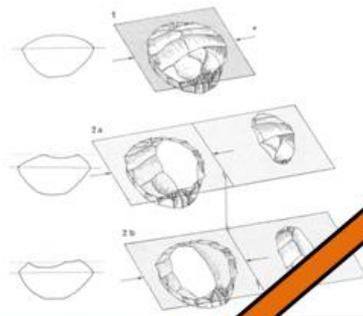
The completion of this work would not have been possible without the participation of The Society of Histological and Ethnographic studies of the Highlands of the Argos, Quípar and Alhárabe and the biologists and archaeologists Antonio López Jiménez, Gonzalo Linares Matás, Jon Ortega Rodríguez, Ángel Butrago López, Azucena Avilés Fernández and Consuelo Martínez Caravaca. Likewise appreciate the help of Ignacio Martín Lerma and Gabriel García Añiñenar in the supervision.



Cueva Negra: After Shea's modal scheme (J.Shea, "Lithic Modes A-I" *J.Archaeological Method & Theory* vol.20, pp.151-186, 2013, and *Stone Tools In Human Evolution*, Cambridge U.P., 2016)



See: Walker et al., 2016, A view from a cave: Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar (Caravaca de la Cruz, Murcia, southeastern Spain). Reflections on fire, technological diversity, environmental exploitation, and palaeoanthropological approaches. *Human Evolution* vol. 31, pp: 1-67 (pdf available on request).

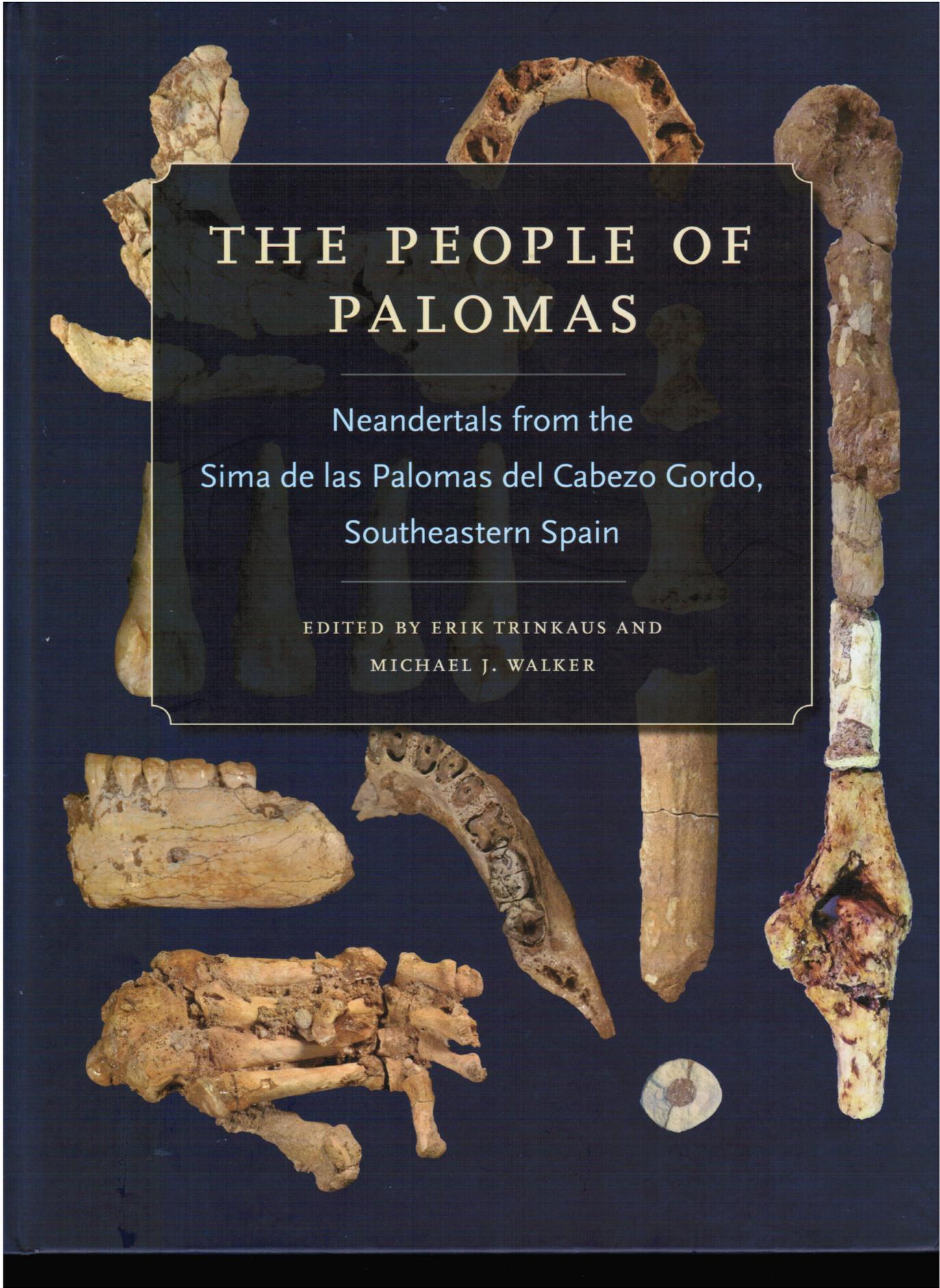


"Acheulian" bifacial fashioning of a core into a "hand-axe" tool

At Cueva Negra 800,000 yrs ago *Homo heidelbergensis* exercised **CHOICE** between 2 alternative chains of behavioural activities

Hierarchical ("Levalloisian"-type) removal of prepared flakes of predetermined shape to use as, or retouch into tools





THE PEOPLE OF
PALOMAS

Neandertals from the
Sima de las Palomas del Cabezo Gordo,
Southeastern Spain

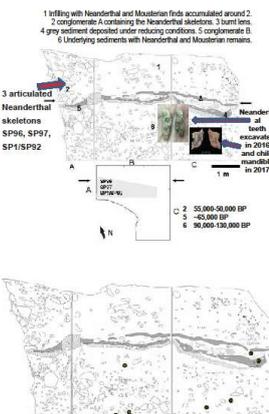
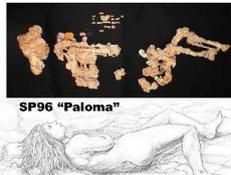
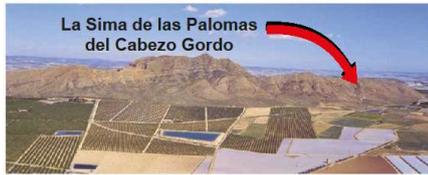
EDITED BY ERIK TRINKAUS AND
MICHAEL J. WALKER

Texas A&M University Press, College Station, Texas, USA, 2017 (278 pages).

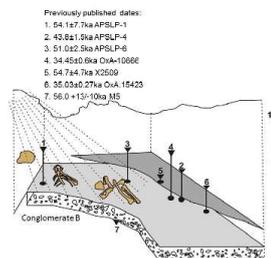
(pdf available on request)

Preliminary dating of deep layers at Sima de las Palomas del Cabezo Gordo (Torre Pacheco, Murcia, Spain)

Michael J. Walker^{1,2**}, Mariana Sontag-González^{3*}, María Haber-Urriarte^{1,2**}, Mariano López-Martínez^{2**}, Stuart Black^{4*}, Jean-Luc Schwenninger^{5*} (*geoarchaeological research; **codirectors of excavation; 1 Universidad de Murcia; 2 Murcian Association for the Study of Palaeoanthropology and the Quaternary; 3 University of Wollongong; 4 University of Reading; 5 University of Oxford; corresponding author: mjlwalke@gmail.com)

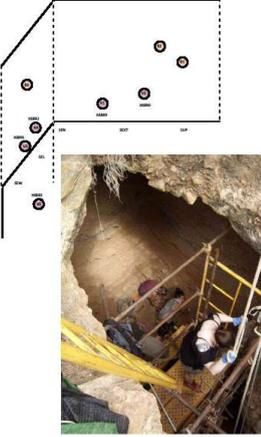


Neanderthal skeletons SP92,-96,-97 dating from ≈50 ka were embedded in a partly-cemented éboulis, Conglomerate A, that, along with surrounding sediments, yielded up remains altogether of 10 Neanderthals, Mousterian artifacts, and dates from between ≈37 and ≈65 ka taking account of confidence intervals for U-series, OSL and ¹⁴C determinations [1]. Conglomerate A plausibly falls between Heinrich 5 (47 ka) and 6 (61ka) in MIS-4. Below it, Conglomerate B, a 10-15 cm thick rock-hard bed of heavily-cemented dense scree, completely sealing underlying sediments, in 1999 had given a ²³⁰Th/²³⁴U estimate on calcite of 56±13/-10 ka. Sediments below Conglomerate B yielded up two Neanderthal incisor teeth in 2016 and contain abundant Palaeolithic and palaeontological finds, including burnt bone fragments (maybe domestic rubbish that Neanderthals threw 5 m down the shaft from its mouth). U-series dates (right-hand-side and bottom figures) have been determined of **67.70±0.405** and **65.07±0.038** ka (²³⁰Th/²³⁸U, ²³⁴U/²³⁸U), undertaken at the University of Reading on calcite crystals extracted from a block of Conglomerate B. Sub-samples were extracted from the sample via micro-drilling and then analysed on Thermo-Fisher iCAPQ ICP-MS for ²³⁸U, ²³²Th, and (²³⁰Th/²³²Th) and (²³⁴U/²³⁸U) ratios. Samples were run also on a BeGe Gamma detector where (²³⁰Th/²³²Th) and (²³⁴U/²³⁸U) ratios were determined and combined with MS data. Below Conglomerate B, 5 sediment samples (V1 to V5) taken from the exposed excavation profile were dated by optically stimulated luminescence (OSL) (left-hand-side figures). Samples were prepared and measured at the Luminescence Dating Laboratory of the Research Laboratory for Archaeology and the History of Art at the University of Oxford using instruments manufactured by Risø National Laboratories (Denmark) and Freiberg Instruments (Germany). Palaeodose determinations obtained from sand-sized (180-250 mic) quartz mineral grains, using a single-aliquot regenerative (SAR) dose-measurement protocol, gave these preliminary MIS-4/MIS-5 age estimates: **102.1±12.0** ka (X6889; V1), **97.0±9.0** ka (X6890; V2), **125.0±13.6** ka (X6891; V3) and **130.2±11.9** ka (X6892; V4), with uncertainty affecting **90.3±7.3** ka (X6893; V5) for technical reasons. Nevertheless, geologically-speaking the sedimentary deposit was more or less contemporaneous, and the dates accord with the excavated stratigraphical sequence in which the published Neanderthal skeletal remains lay above Conglomerate B that is dated here to the MIS-5a/MIS-4 transition, sealing the deep sedimentary deposit from which stage MIS-5 estimates are offered, and which has yielded up Neanderthal teeth and Mousterian artifacts.

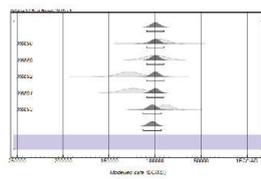
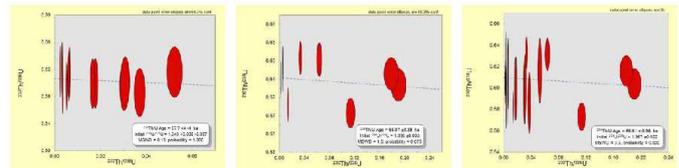
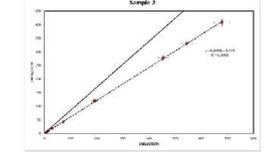
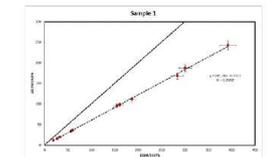
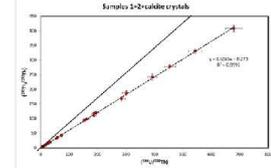


Sub-Sample	U-series age
Sub-Sample 1	67.700 ± 0.405 ka
Sub-Sample 2	65.070 ± 0.380 ka
Combined sample (1+2=calcite)	66.610 ± 0.580 ka

OSL samples dating



²³⁰Th/²³²Th, ²³⁴U/²³⁸U samples, dating

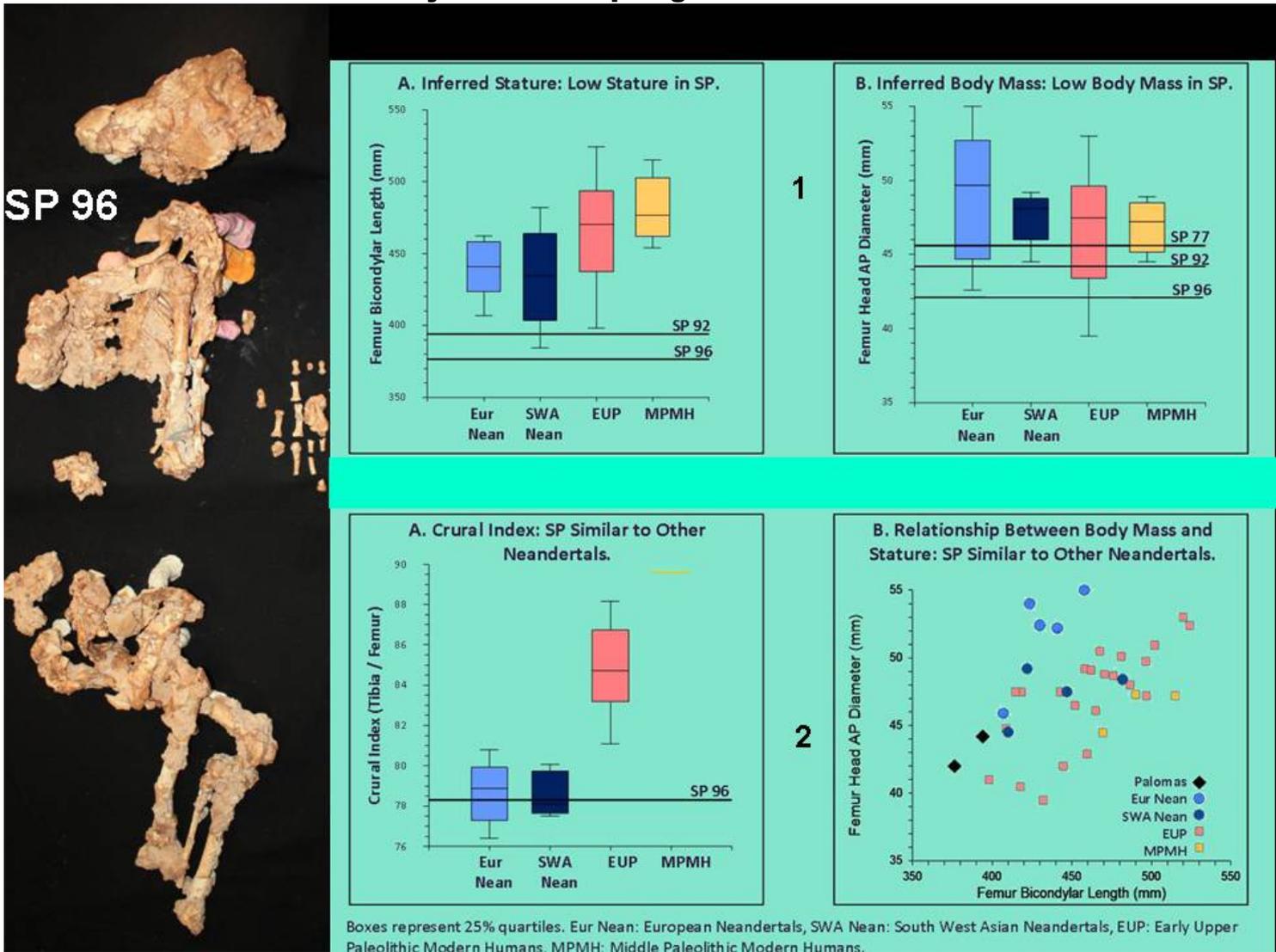




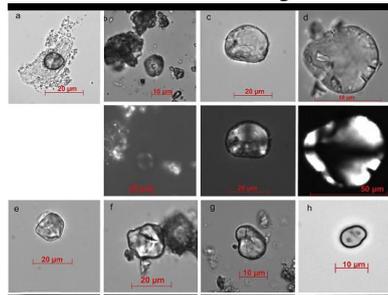




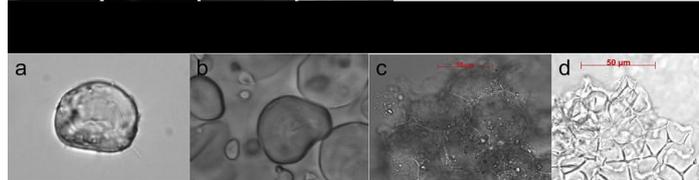
“Paloma” SP96, the short adult Neanderthal woman from Sima de las Palomas, in the context of measurements of other Neanderthals and early humans shown in graphs taken from a poster presented at the 78th Congress of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists 2009.



Phytoliths analysed in Sima de las Palomas Neanderthal dental plaque show that starchy plant foodstuffs were chewed; photo from D.C.Salazar-García, R.C.Power, A.Sanchis Serra, V.Villaverde, M.J.Walker, A.G.Henry, 2013, “Neanderthal diets in central and southeastern Mediterranean Iberia” *Quaternary International* vol. 318, pp.3-18.



Images of the starch types. Images of starches under cross-polarized light are shown, except for a.
 a) Type 1 in SP100.
 b) Type 2 in SPT1 used.
 c) Type 3 in SPT2 unused.
 d) Type 4 in SPT unused.
 e) Type 5 in SPT7 unused.
 f) Type 6 in SPT4 unused.
 g) Type 7 | SPT6 unused.
 h) Type 8 in SP74.



a) Type 3 starch in SPT2 unused with a comparative image of a Triticeae starch (b).
 c) Polyhedral multi-cell phytolith in SP78 from a dicot leaf with a comparative dicot leaf phytolith (d).

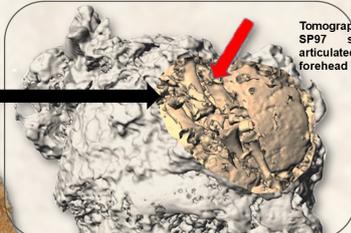
Poster presented at the 62nd Annual Meeting of the Hugo Obermaier Society for Quaternary Research and Archaeology of the Stone Age, April 6-8th, 2021 (on-line from The Moravian Museum, Brno, Czech Republic) La Sima de las Palomas del Cabezo Gordo (Torre Pacheco, Murcia, S.E. Spain):

Neanderthal axial skeletal fossils.

Michael J. Walker^{1,2}, María Haber-Urriarte^{1,3}, Antonio López-Jiménez¹, Mariano López-Martínez¹, Jon Ortega-Rodríguez¹,



Sima de las Palomas. The Neanderthal remains were excavated beside the top of the scaffolding tower inside the main shaft.



The poster presents a summary of the individual Neanderthal cranial remains from Sima de las Palomas del Cabezo Gordo, with their identification numbers, ID; laterality or sidedness, LAT (D = right-side, I = left-side), and state of conservation, CONSERV (where CO = complete specimen, F = fragment). Only very few items show traces of burning (the cause of which is unknown). The excavated skeletons of SP96 and SP97 were found in anatomical connexion and have skulls with mandibles, which is also the case with SP1 (found by a speleologist in 1991). Fragments of another 8 mandibles correspond to as many Neanderthals – adults, juveniles, children and a baby. Therefore the mandibles correspond to 11 individuals in all. Other bones and teeth indicate another 4 individuals. Mandibular and maxillary alveoli retain 47 teeth, and another 65 isolated teeth have been recovered (see Trinkaus & Walker, 2017, for more information). The total number of different bones (or fragments thereof) identified to date is 232. The poster includes also some elements of the vertebral column and rib cage.

The site of Sima de las Palomas del Cabezo Gordo (Torre Pacheco, Murcia, Spain) attests to Neanderthal presence in SE Spain until 60,000-40,000 BP according to OSL, U-series and ¹⁴C dating. Cabezo Gordo is a hill of marble overlooking the Mediterranean Sea. The accidental find by a speleologist in 1991 of the fused maxillae and mandible of a Neanderthal (SP1) led to scientific research at the site. Excavation is on-going in the highest part of an 18-m deep sedimentary column within a natural karst shaft where mining took place ca. 1900.

Excavation has revealed 3 depositional phases. The highest sediments (Phase 3) followed the brecciated “conglomerate A” (Phase 2) of marble rocks to which Neanderthal bones were cemented by CaCO₃, including skeletal elements in anatomical connexion of the woman “Paloma” (SP96), a child (SP97), and another adult (SP92), whose bodies were covered by the rocks (perhaps on purpose). Paloma (SP96) was a young woman barely 20 years old; the SP97 child was 5 or 6 years old.

They lay above the thin, albeit hard bed of “conglomerate B” dated to 68,000-65,000 BP by U-series. Below it, excavation a depth of 3 metres of Phase 3 sediments, dated by OSL to 130,000-90,000 BP (MIS5), has provided 4 Neanderthal teeth and a mandibular ascending ramus. Excavation will continue in 2020. All three phases contain Mousterian stone artefacts and abundant faunal remains.



A. Cleaning the fossils. B. Studying computer-assisted tomographs. C. Excavating MIS5 sediments. D. Phytoliths; the third one is a polyhedral multicellular phytolith adherent on fossil SP78. E. Cleaning with a vibroscalpel.

Cementation by CaCO₃ of many bones excavated at the site requires the removal of adherent breccia by use of vibroscalpels powered by compressed air (which, being non-invasive, supersedes outdated methods of cleaning by repeated cycles involving dilute acetic acid followed by washing to raise the pH and subsequent impregnation with consolidants). By indicating precisely where bone lies hidden within a matrix of breccia, computer-assisted tomography undertaken beforehand, facilitates cleaning with vibroscalpels.

This methodology has been of great help in revealing the elements of the articulated Neanderthal skeletons, such as the hand bones within breccia cemented to the forehead of the child SP97. The articulated skeletons of both the child and the woman “Paloma” SP96 were found at excavation with their elbows flexed and hands held up to their heads – a position no doubt produced before rigor mortis developed, though whether before death or by arrangement of the cadavers immediately post mortem cannot be ascertained. Presence near SP97 not only of flint flakes but also of two leopard paws with the bones in anatomical connection (unlike almost all other animal bones excavated) possibly reflects Neanderthal attention, and a not altogether implausible conjecture is that the cadavers of SP92, SP96 and SP97 were covered with rocks on purpose, in order to deter leopards and hyenas from scavenging.



SP97 infant neuro- and splanchnocranial bones

I.D.	BONE	LAT	CONSERV	TEETH (FDI)
SP97a	frontal		CO	
SP97b	parietal	I	CO	
SP97c	parietal	D	CO	
SP97d	nasal	ID	CO	
SP97e	zygomatic	I	CO	
SP97f	sphenoid		CO	
SP97ga	maxilla	D	CO	A-E
SP97gb	maxilla	I	CO	A-E
SP97h	mandible		I CO	A-E

Various isolated neurocranial bones of adults and a subadult (SP5)

I.D.	BONE	LAT	CONSERV	BURNT
SP11	frontal (torus supraorbitarius, trigone)	D	F	YES
SP12	frontal (torus supraorbitarius)	I	F	NO
SP62	frontal (torus supraorbitarius, trigone)	D	F	YES
SP3	parietal (anterior)	D	F	NO
SP4	parietal (medial, posterior)	I	F	NO
SP5	parietal (anterior)	D?	F	YES
SP30	parietal (infero-posterior)	D	F	YES
SP56	parietal (medial)	I?	F	NO
SP10	intrasutural ossicle		F	YES

SP96 (“Paloma”) vertebral column

I.D.	BONE	CONSERV
SP96i	cervical vertebra (C6)	F
SP96m	cervical vertebra (C7)	F
SP96n	thoracic vertebra (T1)	F
SP96o	thoracic vertebra (T2)	F
SP96p	thoracic vertebra (T3)	F
SP96q	thoracic vertebra (T4)	F
SP96r	thoracic vertebra (T5)	F
SP96s	lumbar vertebra (L4)	F
SP96t	lumbar vertebra (L5)	F

SP92 vertebral column, ribs

I.D.	BONE	CONSERV
SP92ii	thoracic vertebra (T12)	CO
SP92kkk	lumbar vertebra (L2)	F
SP92jjj	lumbar vertebra (L3)	F
SP92iii	lumbar vertebra (L4)	F
SP92hhh	lumbar vertebra (L5)	F
SP92fff	rib F	F
SP92ggg	rib F	F

SP96 (“Paloma”) ribs

I.D.	BONE	LAT	CONSERV
SP96v	rib 2	D	F
SP96w	rib 3	D	F
SP96x	rib 4	D	F
SP96y	rib 5	D	F
SP96z	rib 6	D	F
SP96aa	rib 7	D	F

F = Fragment; D = Right; I = Left

Further reading:
Trinkaus, E. & M.J. Walker (eds.) (2017). *The People of Palomas. Neanderthals from the Sima de las Palomas del Cabezo Gordo, Southeastern Spain*. Texas A&M University Anthropology Series.
Walker, M.J. et al. (2011). Morphology, body proportions, and postcranial hypertrophy of a female Neanderthal from the Sima de las Palomas, southeastern Spain” *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences USA* 108 (25): 10087-10091.
Walker, M.J. et al. (2011). Neanderthal postcranial remains from the Sima de las Palomas del Cabezo Gordo, Murcia, southeastern Spain. *American Journal of Physical Anthropology* 144: 505-515.

SP96 (“Paloma”) neuro- and splanchnocranial bones

I.D.	BONE	LAT	CONSERV	TEETH (FDI)
SP96a	frontal		F	
SP96b	parietal	D	F	
SP96c	zygomatic	D	CO	
SP96d	temporal (mastoid process)	I	F	
SP96e	maxilla	D	F	12, 14, 15
SP96f	maxilla	I	F	24, 25, 26, 27, 28
SP96g	mandibular ramus	D	F	
SP96h	mandibular ramus	I	F	
SP96i	mandibular body	D	F	41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48
SP96j	mandibular body	I	F	31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36



SP96 (“Paloma”) skull and mandible



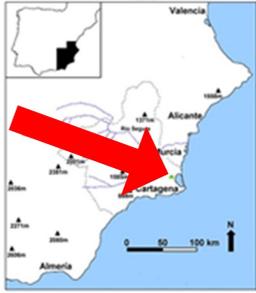
SP80: immature mandible

La Sima de las Palomas del Cabezo Gordo (Torre Pacheco, Murcia, S.E. Spain): Neanderthal appendicular skeletal fossils.

Michael J. Walker^{1,2}, María Haber-Uriarte^{1,3}, Antonio López-Jiménez¹, Mariano López-Martínez¹, Jon Ortega-Rodríguez¹

1 - Murcia Association for the Study of Palaeoanthropology and the Quaternary (MUPANTQUAT),
2 - Dept. of Zoology and Physical Anthropology, Faculty of Biology, Murcia University, Spain,
3 - Dept. of Prehistory, Archaeology, Ancient History, Mediaeval History and Historiographical Sciences, Faculty of Letters, Murcia University, Spain.

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The site of Sima de las Palomas del Cabezo Gordo (Torre Pacheco, Murcia, Spain) attests to Neanderthal presence in SE Spain until 60,000-40,000 BP according to OSL, U-series and ¹⁴C dating. Cabezo Gordo is a hill of marble overlooking the Mediterranean Sea. The accidental find by a speleologist in 1991 of the fused maxilla and mandible of a Neanderthal (SP1) led to scientific research at the site. Excavation is on-going in the highest part of an 18-m deep sedimentary column within a natural karst shaft where mining took place ca. 1900. Excavation has revealed 3 depositional phases. The highest sediments (Phase 3) followed the brecciated "conglomerate A" (Phase 2) of marble rocks to which Neanderthal bones were cemented by CaCO₃, including skeletal elements in anatomical connexion of the woman "Paloma" (SP96), a child (SP97), and another adult (SP92), whose bodies were covered by the rocks (perhaps on purpose). "Paloma" (SP96) was a young woman barely 20 years old; the SP97 child was 5 or 6 years old. They lay above the thin, albeit hard bed of "conglomerate B" dated to 68,000-65,000 BP by U-series. Below it, excavation a depth of 3 metres of Phase 3 sediments, dated by OSL to 130,000-90,000 BP (MIS5), has provided 4 Neanderthal teeth and a mandibular ascending ramus. Excavation will continue in 2020. All three phases contain Mousterian stone artefacts and abundant faunal remains.

The poster shows the principal appendicular bones identified of SP96, SP97 and SP92. As well as the articulated skeletal remains of these three individuals, the site has provided many other bones and teeth, such that the minimum number of Neanderthal individuals discovered to date is around 15; mandibular and cranial elements alone correspond to 11 different individuals, including babies, children, juveniles and adults; other bones and teeth indicate a further 4 individuals. "Paloma" SP96 is represented by >85% of the principal skeletal components. The appendicular skeleton is remarkably complete, though the ankle and foot bones are lacking. Measurements of limb bones and the vertebral column enable her stature to be measured accurately: at 1.5 metres she is among the shortest Neanderthal adults known. Her pelvis is the most complete Neanderthal adult female pelvis in existence. Metrical analysis of her skeleton shows that it presents the typical robustness of Neanderthals (see References for details).

Cementation by CaCO₃ of many bones excavated at the site requires removal of adherent breccia by use of vibroscalpels powered by compressed air (which, being non-invasive, supersedes outdated methods of cleaning by repeated cycles involving dilute acetic acid followed by washing to raise the pH and subsequent impregnation with consolidants). By indicating precisely where bone lies hidden within a matrix of breccia, computer-assisted tomography undertaken beforehand, facilitates cleaning with vibroscalpels. This methodology has been of great help in revealing the elements of the articulated Neanderthal skeletons.

SP97 (child): pelvis

I.D.	BONE	LAT	CONSERV
SP97hn	coxal, acetabulum	D	F
SP97il	ilion		F

SP96 ("Paloma"): adult pelvis

I.D.	BONE	LAT	CONSERV
SP96bu	pubis		CO
SP96bv	ischion y pubis		CO
SP96bw	ilion, acetabulum		CO

SP96 ("Paloma"): lower appendicular skeleton

I.D.	BONE	LAT	CONSERV
SP96bx	femur	D	CO
SP96by	femur		CO
SP96cg	patella		CO
SP96bz	tibia		CO
SP96ca	fibula		CO

SP97 (child) lower postcranial skeleton

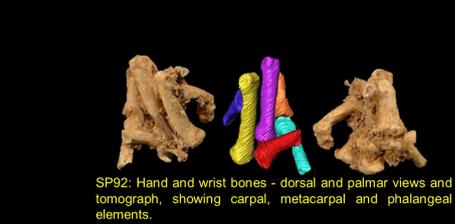
I.D.	BONE	LAT	CONSERV
SP97v	femur		CO
SP97w	tibia		CO
SP97x	fibula		CO
SP97y	patella		CO
	femur (proximal epiphysis)		F
SP97z	and diaphysis		
SP97aa	tibia (diaphysis)		F
SP97bb	fibula (diaphysis)		F
SP97cc	metatarsal 1	D	CO
SP97dd	metatarsal 2	D	CO
SP97ee	metatarsal 3	D	CO
SP97ff	metatarsal 4	D	CO
SP97gg	metatarsal 5	D	CO

SP92 adult lower postcranial skeleton

I.D.	BONE	LAT	CONSERV
SP92mm	femur	D	F
SP92oo	femur		F
SP92ddd	tibia (diaphysis)	INDET	F
SP92a	cuboid		CO
SP92b	lateral cuneiform		CO
SP92c	metatarsal 1		CO
SP92d	metatarsal 2		CO
SP92e	metatarsal 3		CO
SP92f	metatarsal 4		CO
SP92g	metatarsal 5		CO
SP92h	proximal phalanx 2		CO
SP92i	proximal phalanx 3		CO
SP92j	proximal phalanx 4		CO
SP92k	proximal phalanx 5		CO
SP92l	middle phalanx 3		CO
SP92m	middle phalanx 4		CO
SP92n	middle phalanx 5		CO
SP92o	pollical lateral sesamoid		CO
SP92p	pollical medial sesamoid		CO
SP92tt	distal phalanx 3		CO

Further Reading:

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A: Computer-assisted tomography of the fossils at Murcia University's Veterinary Faculty by Zürich University's Professor Christoph Zollikofer and Dr Marcia Ponce de León; B: Compressor for C: vibroscapel cleaning; D: Reconstructing SP96 "Paloma"; E: Excavating the breccia containing Neanderthal fossils.

KEY FOR TABLES. LAT = Laterality; D = Right-side; I = Left-side; CONSERV = state of preservation; CO = complete preservation; F = fragment.

SP97 (child): upper postcranial skeleton

I.D.	BONE	LAT	CONSERV
SP97i	humerus (distal)	I	F
SP97j	ulna (proximal)		F
SP97k	radius (proximal)	I	F
SP97l	humerus (distal)	D	F
SP97m	middle phalangeal bone		CO
SP97q	metacarpal (distal)	I	F
SP97r	metacarpal (distal)	I	F
SP97s	metacarpal (distal)	I	F
SP97t	phalangeal bone	I	CO
SP97u	phalangeal bone	I	CO



SP92: posterior view of right elbow.

SP96 ("Paloma"): scapular and upper postcranial skeleton.

I.D.	BONE	LAT	CONSERV	I.D.	BONE	LAT	CONSERV
SP96ab	clavicle	D	CO	SP96gi	distal phalanx 1	D	CO
SP96ac	scapula	D	F	SP96ga	distal phalanx 3	D	CO
SP96ad	humerus	D	CO	SP96ay	distal phalanx 4	D	CO
SP96ae	ulna	D	F	SP96ba	hamate	I	CO
SP96af	radius	D	CO	SP96bb	pisiform	I	CO
SP96ag	humerus	I	F	SP96bb	trapezoid?	I	CO
SP96ah	ulna	I	F	SP96bc	scapulothoracic	I	CO
SP96ai	radius	I	CO	SP96bd	trapezium?	I	CO
SP96aj	hamate	D	CO	SP96be	lunate	I	CO
SP96ak	scaphoid	D	CO	SP96bf	metacarpal 1	I	CO
SP96ce	trapezium	D	CO	SP96bg	metacarpal 3	I	CO
SP96cg	semilunar	D	CO	SP96bh	metacarpal 4	I	F
SP96ch	capitate?	D	F	SP96bi	metacarpal 5	I	F
SP96cn	triquetral?	D	CO	SP96bc	proximal phalanx 1	I	F
SP96al	metacarpal 1	D	CO	SP96b	proximal phalanx 2	I	CO
SP96am	metacarpal 2	D	CO	SP96b	proximal phalanx 3	I	CO
SP96an	metacarpal 3	D	CO	SP96b	proximal phalanx 4	I	CO
SP96ao	metacarpal 4	D	CO	SP96b	proximal phalanx 5	I	CO
SP96ap	metacarpal 5	D	CO	SP96cm	middle phalanx 2	I	F
SP96aq	proximal phalanx 1	D	CO	SP96bn	middle phalanx 3	I	CO
SP96ar	proximal phalanx 2	D	CO	SP96bo	middle phalanx 4	I	CO
SP96as	proximal phalanx 3	D	CO	SP96bp	middle phalanx 5	I	CO
SP96at	proximal phalanx 4	D	CO	SP96bq	distal phalanx 1	I	CO
SP96au	middle phalanx 2	D	CO	SP96bs	distal phalanx 2/4	I	F
SP96av	middle phalanx 3	D	CO	SP96bt	distal phalanx 3	I	CO
SP96aw	middle phalanx 4	D	CO	SP96cl	distal phalanx 4	I	F
SP96ax	middle phalanx 5	D	F	SP96ct	distal phalanx 5	I	CO

SP92 adult upper postcranial skeleton

I.D.	BONE	LAT	CONSERV	I.D.	BONE	LAT	CONSERV
SP92ff	humerus	D	CO	SP92bb	trapezoid	I	CO
SP92gg	ulna	D	CO	SP92xx	capitate	I	F
SP92ii	radius	D	CO	SP92yy	hamate	I	F
SP92zz	trapezium	D	CO	SP92cc	metacarpal 2	I	F
	capitate	D	F	SP92q	metacarpal 3	I	F
SP92aaa	metacarpal 2	D	F	SP92r	metacarpal 4	I	F
SP92z	ulna (distal)						
SP92hh	diaphysis, epiphysis	I	F	SP92s	metacarpal 5	I	F
	radius (distal)						
SP92bbb	diaphysis, epiphysis	I	F	SP92t	proximal phalanx 3	I	CO
SP92vv	scapulothoracic	I	F	SP92u	proximal phalanx 4	I	CO
SP92ww	lunate	I	CO	SP92v	proximal phalanx 5	I	F
SP92kk	carpal indet.	I	CO	SP92w	middle phalanx 3	I	CO
SP92jj	triquetral	I	CO	SP92x	middle phalanx 4	I	CO
SP92ll	pisiforme	I	F	SP92y	distal phalanx 3	I	F
SP92aa	trapezium	I	CO	SP92uu	distal phalanx 4	I	F



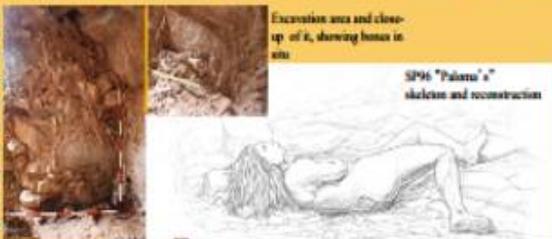
Neanderthal attention to the dead at Sima de las Palomas del Cabezo Gordo (Murcia, Spain)

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Flexed knees and elbows, with hands raised up beside the face, of both a young Neanderthal woman (SP96) and a child beneath her (SP97), suggest intentional arrangement before *rigor mortis* developed. Excavation discovered the skeletons in anatomical connexion, their heads to W, lying within cemented rocks 1.5-2 m below the rock overhang above the karstic shaft (*sima*); there was no burial pit. Beneath the child lay articulated parts of another adult skeleton with an extended elbow (SP92). Near the child were 2 articulated leopard paws. A parsimonious interpretation is that a single anthropogenic process had impinged on both human and leopard body parts such that articulation was retained and scattering by scavengers avoided (further deterrence perhaps afforded by rocks thrown over the bodies). The aforementioned bones show neither charring nor cut-marks. Charred articulated horse ankle bones, 9 Mousterian flint tools, 12 flakes and 100 fragments of knapping waste were excavated nearby. A direct U-series date on Neanderthal bone of $54,100 \pm 7700$ BP (APSLP-1) is in line with excavated material dated to $51,000 \pm 2500$ (APSLP-6) by U-ser and $54,700 \pm 4700$ BP (X2509) by OSL, as well as a U-ser sample from near SP1/SP92 of $56,000 \pm 13000$ -10000 (though yet another U-ser date and two ¹⁴C are likely underestimates; Walker *et al.*, 2012). An intriguing contrast exists between the 3 nearly-complete articulated skeletons and sparse remains of 6 other Neanderthal individuals known from the site, including some burnt bones (a burnt leopard temporal bone could imply Neanderthal dominance). The skeletons were separated by an almost impenetrable conglomerate bed from underlying sediments containing yet more Mousterian tools and abundant fragments of burnt animal bones.



SP96 ("Paloma") was a short 16-20 year-old woman, lying on her left side, with skeletal parts connected anatomically (rib cage, shoulder and pelvic girdles, flexed knees and elbows, hands beside her crushed skull and mandible; altogether >70 different bones exist, including all major limb bones except for her feet: Walker *et al.*, 2011).



Excavation area and close-up of it, showing bones in situ

SP96 "Paloma's" skeleton and reconstruction



Insert shows left shoulder and flexed left arm



One of 2 leopard paws beside SP97



SP97 child skull with hand bones at its forehead as revealed by CAT scan



CAT scanning of SP97, undertaken to enable virtual reconstruction, revealed hand bones hidden in sediment cemented to the child's forehead (SP97 has cranium, mandible and >34 different bones).

SP92 has 60 different bones; very likely its head (SP1) was the crushed mandible and maxillae found by a speleologist in 1991 in a place according well with SP92's W-E orientation (its articulated foot bones lay at E). One elbow was excavated in the extended position. All 3 skeletons were excavated in our 12th to 15th annual field seasons (2005-8). Laboratory removal of adherent breccia with vibroscalpels continues.



SP97 rib cage and flexed arm



One of 3 burnt horse vertebrae beside SP97



SP96 extended elbow

SP1/SP92 mandibular and maxillary fragments



SP92 foot

Arranging cadavers before *rigor mortis* develops implies Mousterian attention paid to flexing knees and elbows, with hands raised to the face, among Neanderthals (Regourdou; Shanidar 7) and anatomically modern humans (Skhul 4 and 7), though knee flexion is more widespread (Defleur, 1993, esp. p. 233). The completeness of SP96 "Paloma" highlights comments both by Anne-Marie Tillier (1982), namely, "*La présence du squelette ou d'une grande partie du squelette en connexion n'est pas un phénomène naturel et il ne semble pas indispensable de mettre en évidence une structure artificielle pour envisager un dépôt volontaire du corps...*" (cf. Pettitt, 2002), and also by Erik Trinkaus (1989) who remarked, in response to Robert Gargett's scepticism about some allegedly intentional Neanderthal burials, that several Neanderthal articulated skeletons "managed to be preserved in highly accessible Upper Pleistocene rock-shelters and caves in near-anatomical position and over-all skeletal-part frequencies identical to those of recent cemetery samples... These partial skeletons retain many fragile elements largely intact, despite the ubiquitous presence of carcass-destroying carnivores... the lack of evidence in most cases for sufficiently rapid natural sedimentation rates to shield them from scavengers, and the absence of comparably preserved nonhominid skeletons in similarly accessible Upper Pleistocene locales" – Trinkaus was referring to whole animal skeletons which our leopard paws are anything but!

ENAMEL THICKNESS AND DENTAL TISSUE PROPORTIONS IN THE NEANDERTALS FROM THE SIMA DE LAS PALOMAS DEL CABEZO GORDO, SOUTHEASTERN SPAIN



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Many studies have focussed on enamel thickness (ET) and dental tissue proportions (DTP) in Neandertals and their comparison with modern humans. Neandertal deciduous and permanent teeth (mainly molars) have been described as having similar enamel volumes to modern humans, albeit deposited over a topographically more complex enamel-dentine junction surface and with larger dentine volumes. Thereby Neandertal teeth show thinner average and relative enamel thicknesses.

- Little quantitative information on anterior teeth and premolars
- Chrono-geographical trends in Neandertals?
- The variation encompassed by Neandertal molars has been reported as less than in recent humans [1].

Here we report on results of microCT-based analysis of ET and DTP in Neandertal teeth from Sima de las Palomas del Cabezo Gordo (SPCG, Torre Pacheco, Murcia, Spain). They are compared to data for Middle, Late Pleistocene and Holocene archaic and modern humans.

TABLE 1. Number of teeth that have been studied per tooth position

	di1	dc	dm1	dm2	I1	I2	C	P3	P4	M2	M3	Total
sup	1		1	1	1	2	2	3	2		1	14
inf		1	1	3		1	4	2	2	1	2	17

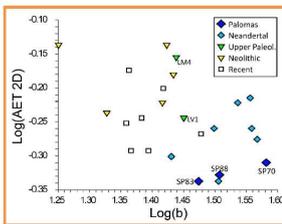


FIGURE 1. Plot of 2D AET (log) against coronal dentine and pulp area (log) for 3 SPCG dm₁ compared to Neandertals, and modern humans.

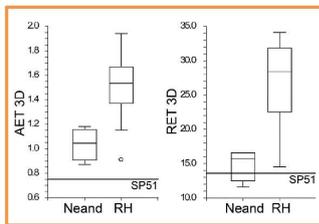


FIGURE 2. Boxplots of 3D AET and RET in the Palomas 51 M³ compared to Neandertals (Neand), and recent humans (RH).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Dating from ca. 55-50 ka cal BP (within outermost limits of ca. 64 and 38 ka cal BP), 300 skeletal fragments from SPCG correspond to ≥ 9 Neandertals, and include articulated parts of 3 adult skeletons [2-3].

31 SPCG teeth were examined for ET and DTP (TABLE 1). Teeth were scanned on Skyscan 1172 X-ray equipment. We used Nrecon v.1.6.6 (Skyscan) to reconstruct the final volumes with an isotropic voxel size ranging from 21 μ m for isolated teeth to 36 μ m for jaw fragments. After segmentation, 13 linear, surface, and volumetric variables were measured or calculated for describing 3D and 2D DTP and ET, and 3D maps of topographical ET distribution were created.

RESULTS

On the whole, the SPCG internal tooth structure is in line with the Neandertal range of variation for deciduous and permanent dentition and for all tooth positions (FIG. 1). However, the data from SPCG substantially extend the previously known range of variation in Neandertal teeth, as illustrated by the Palomas 51 M³, a tooth showing low enamel, dentine and pulp volumes/surfaces, low enamel-dentine junction surface/length and low 2D and 3D average (AET) and relative (RET) enamel thickness values (FIG. 2). Also, a substantial variation is observed within the SPCG sample for some tooth positions, as illustrated by the four C₁, or among the P₃, with the bulkier teeth showing the lower 2D and 3D ET.

As measured on permanent teeth of other Neandertals [4], the deciduous and permanent upper SPCG incisors show a different signal from the rest of the dentition. For example, the differences between Neandertals and modern humans are lower in the deciduous incisor ($\approx 1\%$ difference for 2D AET, and $\approx 9\%$ for 2D RET) than in the canine and molars ($\approx 6-10\%$ for 2D AET, and $\approx 11-15\%$ for 2D RET). Even if functional interpretations have been suggested to explain this pattern already observed on 2D slices, future investigations are needed to unlock the genetically- and/or functionally-related factors sustaining these observations.

On intra-tooth comparisons, SPCG teeth are thin-enamelled on the whole crown, as are other Neandertal teeth (FIG. 3). For lower molars, maximum differences between the Neandertal specimens and the recent human condition are shown on the bucco-distal aspect of the hypoconulid, which is particularly thick in the modern specimens. These distinct patterns between Neandertals and modern humans may reflect differences in bite force magnitudes exerted among cusps during chewing [e.g. 5; and 6 for functional significance of intra-tooth variation in enamel thickness].

The microCT-based survey of the Palomas teeth considerably increases the number of Neandertal specimens known so far for 2D and 3D DTP and ET, particularly of incisors and canines. It also offers the unique opportunity to study the variation of these traits in a constrained chrono-spatial context. As a whole, the Palomas internal tooth structure aligns with the Neandertal range of variation, for the deciduous and permanent dentition and for all tooth positions. Notably, as shown on permanent teeth of other Neandertals, the deciduous and permanent upper incisors from Palomas also show a different signal from the rest of the dentition. However, the Palomas data extend the Neandertal variation known so far for several teeth. It also provides substantial variation within tooth types, suggesting that the intra- and inter-population variation in Neandertal internal dental structure is far from being documented.

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Dental calculus indicates widespread plant use within the Neanderthal dietary niche



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INTRODUCTION

Research has focused on how Neanderthal dietary ecology is linked to their biogeography, population history and eventual demise. The ability of these humans to settle in contrasting habitat implies success at adapting to new conditions. Many isotope and zooarchaeological studies indicate that Neanderthal diet focused on ungulates, with little variation (Richards et al. 2009; Stiner 2013; Wißing et al. 2015). However there are difficulties detecting some foods, especially plants (Henry et al. 2015; Salazar-García et al. 2013). To deduce if Neanderthal plant use varied, we explored plant microremains in dental calculus from Neanderthal remains from across their range, and used microremain types as a metric to assess if breadth of consumed plants varied across their range.



METHODS

We sampled calculus deposits from 14 Neanderthal teeth from a variety of sites (Table 1). From each site we also collected controls, including cave sediment and dust from the skeletal material, as well as calculus from herbivores and carnivores.



Phytoliths were classified into conventional morphotypes, while starch was classified into types we developed based on shared morphology (Madella et al. 2005).

We predicted that if Neanderthal plant use was driven by ecology, then the number of consumed types is driven by temperature and tree cover. We used a random effect Poisson model to test dietary breadth patterns.

Table 1 Palaeoenvironment reconstructions for each specimen used in this study. Publication code references = 1= this study, 2= Henry et al., 2014, 3=Salazar-García et al., 2013. Fossil age is calculated by using the mean of the calendric ages.

Site	EP	Tr	Palaeotemp			MET
			Dec- Feb	Jun- Aug		
Fosse 3	Crota Fossettone	70	0	-6	16	11.6
Croce 2	Crota Guattari	55	0	-4	16	11.71
Croce 3	Crota Guattari	67	0	-6	16	11.6
KAL 3	Kalamakia	91	0	4	20	13.33
KAL 5	Kalamakia	63	0	4	20	13.33
KAL 8	Kalamakia	63	0	4	20	13.33
12.1	Vindija	34.3	0	-8	20	12.22
12.2	Vindija	34.3	0	-8	20	12.22
12.4	Vindija	34.3	0	-8	20	12.22
12.5	Vindija	34.3	0	-8	20	12.22
12.6	Vindija	34.3	0	-8	20	12.22
12.7	Vindija	34.3	0	-8	20	12.22
11.39	Vindija	45.5	0	-8	20	12.22
11.45	Vindija	45.5	0	-8	20	12.22
11.46	Vindija	45.5	0	-8	20	12.22
11.4	Vindija	45.5	0	-8	20	12.22
SP45	Sima	50	0	4	16	12.4
SP50	Sima	50	0	4	16	12.4
SP53	Sima	50	0	4	16	12.4
SP54	Sima	50	0	4	16	12.4
SP59	Sima	50	0	4	16	12.4
SP60	Sima	50	0	4	16	12.4
SP68	Sima	50	0	4	16	12.4
SP74	Sima	50	0	4	16	12.4
SP78	Sima	50	0	4	16	12.4

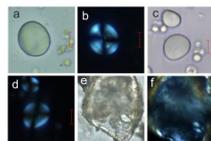


Fig. 1. Ancient and comparative reference microremains. Scale = 10 µm. (a) Starch from Vindija Neanderthal identified as Triticeae under bright field and (b) cross polarized light; (c) a reference Triticeae starch (*Triticum turgidum* sp.) under normal and (d) cross polarized; (e) Amyloplast with several ovoid starches resembling *Lilium bulb* starches under bright field and (f) cross polarized light.

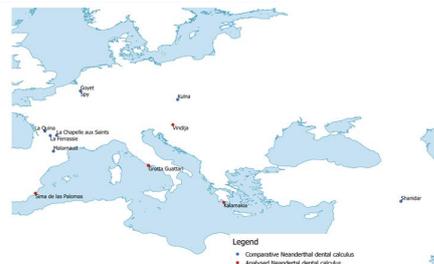


Fig. 2: Sites with Neanderthal remains included in the study.

RESULTS

We find no relationship between the number of types and the chronological age or environmental conditions, even when accounting for variation of tree cover, sites, analyst, age, and weight of the sample ($\chi^2= 5.14$, $df=4$, $P=0.27$). We obtained the same results even when we accounted for a potentially different age for the Vindija bones ($\chi^2= 2.68$, $df=4$, $P=0.61$).

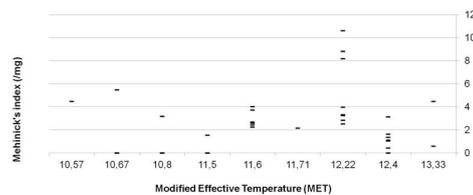


Fig. 3: A Menhnick's diversity index of types of ancient starch and phytolith (per mg) from Neanderthal dental calculus shows that warmer climates are not associated with increased diversity. Samples are from Neanderthal remains presented in this study and Salazar-García, et al., 2013 and Henry et al., 2014. Each dash represents an individual sample.

Key
Menhnick's index: a richness metric common in ecological studies, which is the ratio of the number of taxa to the square root of sample size (Magurran, 2004).
Modified effective temperature: based on effective temperature (Binford 1980, 2001) but differs from effective temperature in that it uses the mean of the three warmest and three coldest months instead of the warmest and coldest month.

CONCLUSIONS

The number of microremain types is relatively homogenous across regions. There was no evidence to suggest that vegetal dietary breadth was considerably lower in cool regions. Our data suggests that plant-harvesting strategies existed, in both cool and warm regions, providing valuable micro- or macronutrients rather than caloric energy alone

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Sima de las Palomas: Professors Michael Walker, Christoph Zollikofer and Erik Trinkaus studying the pelvis of SP-96 “Paloma” and child skull SP-97 with Murcia University Veterinary Hospital CAT scanner in 2011



Sima de las Palomas: Biologist and MUPANTQUAT committee member Jon Ortega excavating SP-92 and its articulated foot in 2005; Jon Ortega with Drs. Christoph Zollikofer and Marcia Ponce de León studying Sima de las Palomas Neanderthals at Murcia University Veterinary Hospital’s CAT scanner (bottom right) in 2011 and analysing the digitalised scanned images at Zürich University (top left).

THE SIMA DE LAS PALOMAS NEANDERTHAL SKELETONS

First steps towards "virtual" reconstruction

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Sima de las Palomas location in Southeast Spain.

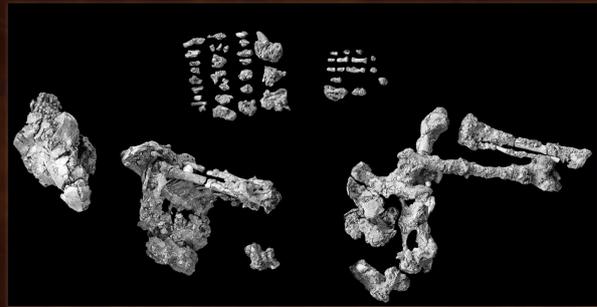
Sima de las Palomas del Cabezo Gordo (Torre Pacheco, Murcia, Spain) is a natural karst shaft in a marble outcrop. From about 120,000 BP it became filled with sediment that was partly removed by miners 100 years ago. Following chance discovery there of a human fossil in 1991, it has provided remains of at least 9 Neanderthal individuals dated to about 50,000 BP together with Mousterian Palaeolithic implements (Walker et al., 2008, 2010, 2011a, 2011b, 2012).



Cabezo Gordo mountain.



SP96 fossil location next to excavation west profile.

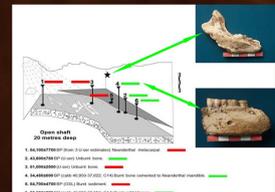


SP96 female adult skeleton, partially cleaned.



SP97 infant skull, partially cleaned.

About 2 m below the overhanging roof of marble rock, three remarkably complete articulated Neanderthal skeletons, of unusually small adult stature, were excavated in cemented large angular scree (éboulis) between 2005 and 2009 by an international research group coordinated by Michael Walker at Murcia University's Subdepartment of Physical Anthropology. Very many bones were found in correct anatomical connexion, which has enabled adult stature to be ascertained with great accuracy and precision. At excavation, however, they were found encrusted in a heavily-cemented sedimentary matrix, and several had undergone some deformation, very likely post-depositional. It is possible that the three articulated skeletons were covered with large stones to avoid disturbance by leopards and hyaenas whose bones also occur at the site. Latterly, excavation of deeper levels has found extensive evidence of earlier use of the site in the form of abundant burnt animal bones together with stone tools, and the site may well have been significant to the local Neanderthals.



Absolute chronology dates: Samples description and location in excavation area.



CAT scanning at Murcia University.

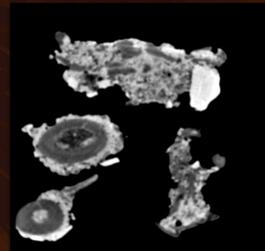
Laboratory cleaning and preparation of the skeletal components at Murcia University's Subdepartment of Physical Anthropology have been enhanced both by computer-assisted tomography (CAT) scanning of fossil-containing blocks of cemented sediment in order to locate the fossils, with precision and accuracy, and by employing CTS vibros scalpels, powered by compressed air, in order to remove cemented sediment adhering to the bones (thereby avoiding many risks inherent in traditional cleaning methods). CAT scanning is a necessary prerequisite for the application of methods of computer-assisted palaeoanthropology (CAP) in "virtual" reconstruction of bones that had undergone deformation in antiquity, thereby enabling accurate and precise osteometry and palaeoanthropological comparisons (Zollikofer & Ponce de León, 2005). We are carrying out scanning at Murcia University's Department of Animal Medicine and Surgery using a sixth-generation helical GE scanner at the University Veterinary Hospital.



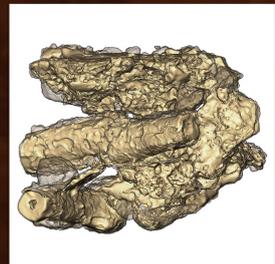
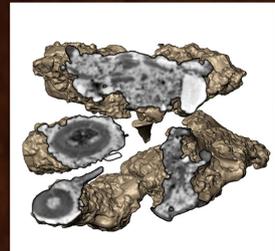
SP96 lower limb skeleton before and after physical sediment removal.



CTS vibros scalpel.



Non-invasive matrix removal from Palomas SP96 Neanderthal remains using a "virtual acid bath" algorithm that gradually erodes sediment layers in analogy to physical preparation.



Initial steps have been taken towards undertaking "virtual" reconstruction using CAP methodology with AVIZO and OSIRIS software thanks to collaboration by the Zurich University Anthropological Institute. Particular consideration is being given to Sima de las Palomas Neanderthal adult skeletons such as SP96 and SP92, and the child skeleton SP97.

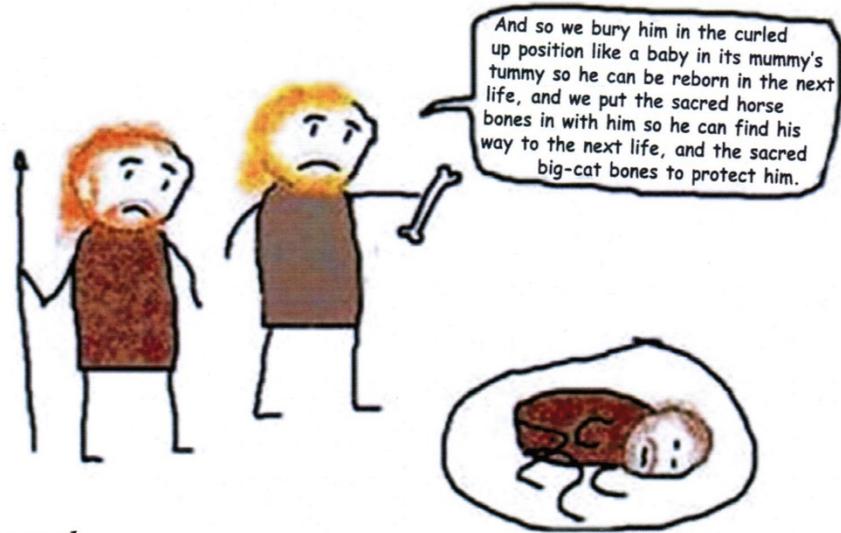
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

Staff and students at Murcia University (Subdepartment of Physical Anthropology, Department of Zoology and Physical Anthropology, Biology Faculty, and CAT Unit, Department of Animal Medicine and Surgery, University Veterinary Hospital, Veterinary Faculty) and at the Zurich University Anthropological Institute; and members of the international field-research team excavating Sima de las Palomas, and most especially we thank assistance and advice given by Professor Erik Trinkaus of the Washington University of St. Louis, USA.

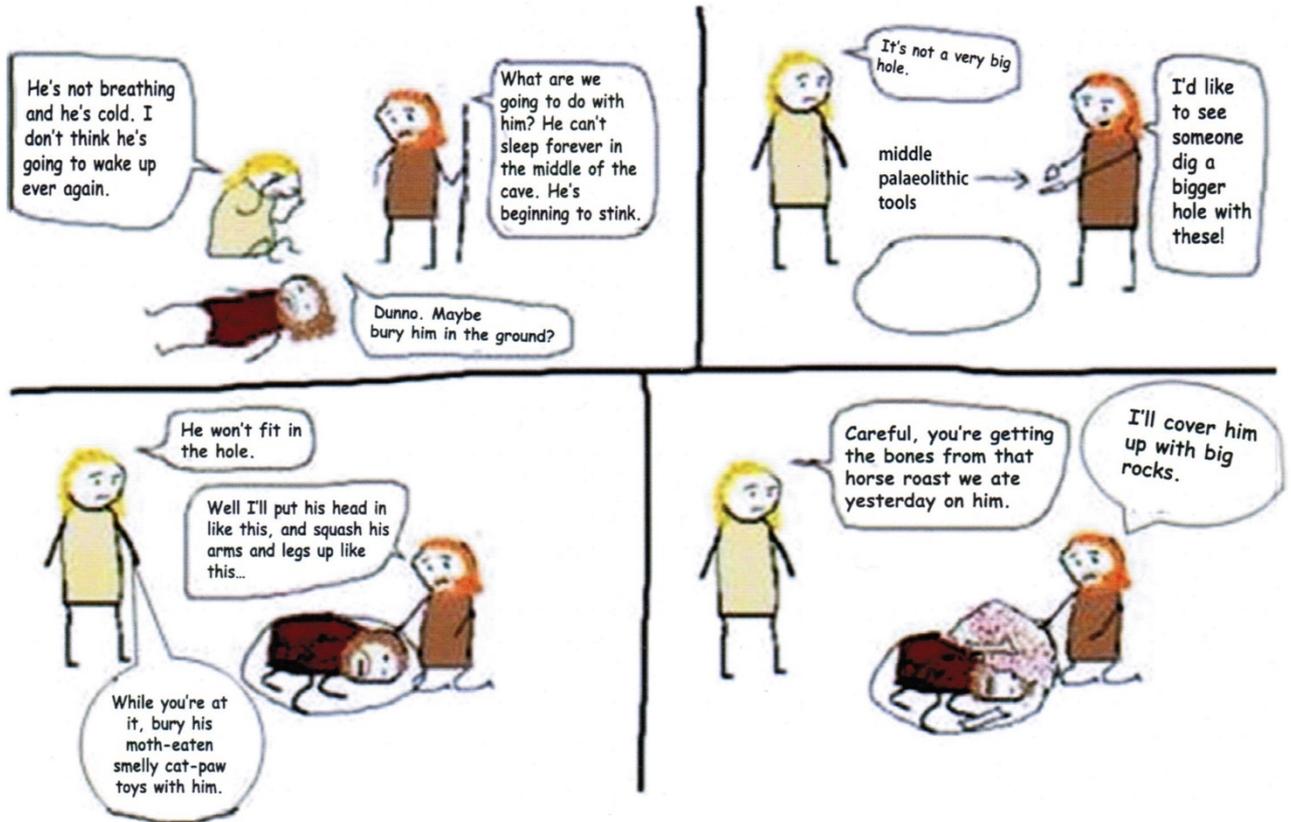
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what scientists think happened...



what really happened



Neanderthals had an unimaginative down-to-earth approach to everyday life - and death - and lacked mental capability for abstract speculation.

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CONTENTS

RESEARCH PLAN

**THE PROJECT AND ITS RESEARCH GOALS
BACKGROUND AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PROJECT**

RESEARCH GOALS AND HOW WE ACHIEVE THEM

APPLICATION OF RESULTS

**WHO BENEFITS FROM OUR FINDINGS AND HOW?
MUPANTQUAT (MURCIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF PALAEOANTHROPOLOGY AND THE QUATERNARY)
OUR FINDINGS HELP TO FORMULATE PUBLIC POLICY WITH BENEFITS FOR THE TOURIST INDUSTRY AND LOCAL BUSINESS
OUR PROJECT BENEFITS THE EDUCATIONAL COMMUNITY
PUBLICATION AND DISSEMINATION OF OUR FINDINGS
SOME PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**

FIELD TRAINING

**YOUR SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES
DAILY SCHEDULE
DAY-BY-DAY FIELD SCHOOL PROGRAMME AND TEAM DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING**

YOUR ASSIGNMENTS

STAFF

FIELD LOGISTICS

**VERY IMPORTANT ADVICE TO ALL TRAVELLERS
RENDEZ-VOUS
RESEARCH AREA
VISAS AND RECONFIRMING YOUR TICKETS
TRAVEL OPTIONS BY RAIL OR COACH
EARLY AND LATE ARRIVALS, AND STAYING ON IN SPAIN AFTERWARDS**

FUNDING OUR FIELD RESEARCH

**CONTRIBUTIONS AND RELATED MATTERS
INSURANCE
WHERE YOUR MONEY GOES TO
OTHER SOURCES OF INCOME**

LOOKING AFTER YOU

**ACCOMMODATION
FOOD
PHYSICAL CONDITIONING/MEDICAL ADVICE
FIELD COMMUNICATIONS, PHONE, INTERNET
FIELD SUPPLIES**

READING SUGGESTIONS

**NON-FICTION
FICTION
NEANDERTHAL VIDEO**

YOUR FIELD SCHOOL CO-ORDINATOR DIRECTOR, AS SEEN BY HIMSELF

RESEARCH PLAN

THE PROJECT AND ITS RESEARCH GOALS

The Project aims at achieving careful recovery, by scientific excavation, of Palaeolithic stone tools, extinct Pleistocene fauna, and even (at Sima de las Palomas) skeletal remains of Neanderthal folk, at two southeastern Spanish sites in the province of Murcia of

CUEVA NEGRA del Estrecho del Río Quípar (Black Cave in the River Quípar Gorge or Narrows – “estrecho” means *narrow* in Spanish), beside La Encarnación, near Caravaca de la Cruz, Murcia (990,000-772,000 years ago), and
SIMA DE LAS PALOMAS del Cabezo Gordo (Hole of the Doves on Cabezo Gordo hill - “gordo” means “bulky” or “fat”, and “cabezo” means *hill* in Spanish, not to be confused with “cabeza” which means *head!*), overlooking Dolores de Pacheco, near Torre Pacheco, Murcia (130,000-40,000 years ago).

The Project is allowing full recovery of these materials to be used to draw comparisons and contrasts between findings at the site near the coast of *Sima de las Palomas* which has provided numerous skeletal remains of 15 Neanderthal individuals, and those at the much earlier site in the inland hill-country of *Cueva Negra*. This throws much-needed light on the exploitation of natural resources by Neanderthal folk (*H. neanderthalensis*) and their even more archaic fore-runners (*H. antecessor* and *H. heidelbergensis*) in two very different local environments 100 kilometres apart.

Sima de las Palomas overlooks the coastal plain behind a large coastal lagoon known as the *Mar Menor* (“Lesser Sea”) from about 125 metres above sea level. It is therefore in a mild environment, where people could have lived throughout the year during the ice age. By contrast, *Cueva Negra* is at 740 metres above sea-level where the *River Quípar* emerges from a rocky gorge (“*Estrecho del Río Quípar*”) overlooked by mountains rising to 1,500 metres above sea-level; it is only 30 kilometres from peaks which tower to over 2,000 metres. In ice-age times its environment was uninhabitable by man for much of the year.

OUR FINDINGS HELP TO FORMULATE PUBLIC POLICY WITH BENEFITS FOR THE TOURIST INDUSTRY AND LOCAL BUSINESS:

Our field research has led to development of regional public policy with the following outcome.

WORK IN PROGRESS: MURCIAN REGIONAL MUSEUM FOR PALAEOLOGY AND HUMAN EVOLUTION (Museo de Palaeontología y Evolución Humana de la Región de Murcia)

This imposing, new, purpose-built 5-storey museum has been erected by the Murcian Regional Government and Torre Pacheco township, below *Sima de las Palomas*, at the foot of Cabezo Gordo, but it still has to be fitted out, alas. We accompanied our regional Minister for Culture together with its distinguished architect, Federico Soriano, who showed us around the unfinished structure in January 2013. It has exhibition floors as well as workshops and laboratories, and even residential accommodation and a restaurant, as well as an auditorium. When it is eventually finished, our *Sima de las Palomas* Neanderthals will be the highlight of the display, naturally! Meanwhile, Torre Pacheco town council has provided us with a laboratory in its central police headquarters where we can study the remains securely. The museum has been built thanks to our *Sima de las Palomas* finds which it will house, and we have been behind its establishment from the beginning. It is taking several years to come to fruition, alas, owing to economic problems at national and regional levels. The museum is near the coastal resorts of the *Mar Menor* and therefore will be an important focus for cultural tourism. Because we are in a tourist area with hundreds of thousands of European Union summer visitors every year, our findings will reach a very wide international public indeed. Local businesses were in the construction and will be involved in finishing it.



The Murcian Regional Museum for Palaeontology and Human Evolution, built below *Sima de las Palomas*. The structure, completed in January 2013, is waiting to be equipped to house Paloma and her family.

BACKGROUND AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PROJECT

Introduction

Michael Walker writes: I was keen to extend knowledge about *Neanderthal* presence in southeastern Spain following my appointment there as foundation Professor of Physical Anthropology at Murcia University in 1988. I am now one of its Honorific Emeritus Professors following my retirement from university teaching at age 72 in 2013. In 2012 I and several colleagues founded the **Murcian Association for the Study of Palaeoanthropology and the Quaternary, MUPANTQUAT**, (<http://www.mupantquat.com>), which, among other activities, runs the Field School and excavations at Cueva Negra and Sima de las Palomas. This project got under way when I started to excavate *Cueva Negra* in 1990. Since then, **MUPANTQUAT** excavated there during three weeks every year (except for 2020 and 2021 when the coronavirus covid-19 pandemic struck Spain).

In 2022, suffering from bouts of ill health, I stepped down from chairing the Association, and Dr. María Haber Uriarte is our current Chair, formerly Vice-Chair, and Dr. Ignacio Martín Lerma is the current Vice-Chair; they both teach Prehistory at Murcia University. I now co-ordinate the Field School applicants on behalf of the Association and sit on its committee. Together with Dr. Haber Uriarte and **MUPANTQUAT** Secretary and archaeologist Mariano López Martínez, I co-direct the Field School and excavations in July-August. (Dr. Ignacio Martín Lerma directs Palaeolithic excavation at Cueva del Arco in Murcia, frequently in September.)

I had come to Murcia in 1988 from *Sydney University* in Australia, though I had already carried out research into both the southeastern Spanish Quaternary (e.g. Cuenca & Walker 1986 and refs.; Cuenca, Pomery & Walker, 1986, and refs.) and Neanderthal origins (Habgood & Walker 1986), and supervised Phil Habgood's exhaustive PhD thesis *A Morphometric Investigation into the Origin(s) of Anatomically Modern Humans* (published in the *British Archaeological Reports International Series, BAR S-1176*, 2003). (For other references, see *Reading Suggestions*.)

CUEVA NEGRA DEL ESTRECHO DEL RÍO QUIPAR

I lost no time in accepting an offer in 1985 (during a year's sabbatical professorship at Madrid's Autonomous University) to visit *Cueva Negra* made by my friend Miguel San Nicolás, a Spanish prehistorian, who had dug a 2-metre-deep test pit there in 1981 and found possibly Middle Palaeolithic stone tools, and extinct animals such as *rhinoceros* (Martínez *et al.*, 1989). Apart from that test pit, no further work had been done there.

No sooner did I see the test pit, than I at once recognised something that the young archaeologist had not, but which my previous research in southeastern Spain had taught me to recognise easily - namely, that it was dug through a sediment laid down by the nearby river when it reached the cave from time to time, sediment which also included minerals derived from the rock of the cave walls and roof, and even a small amount of very fine wind-blown soil (known as *loess*) which must have been blown onto long-vanished swamps in front of the cave, on the *River Quípar* flood-plain, by fierce winds which whipped up enormous amounts of dust from the barren landscapes of the Sierra Nevada 200 kilometres to the south (where small glaciers still lingered), and which probably extended northwards at altitudes of over 1,000 metres above sea level near to the cave. The sedimentary fill of *Cueva Negra* (5 metres deep at the back of the cave, perhaps 8 at the front) was deposited by the *River Quípar* (a tributary of the *River Segura* which reaches the Mediterranean Sea 110 kilometres East of our site, though the cave is only 75 kilometres, as the crow flies, from the Mediterranean coast of southern Murcia). Swamps and lakes watered by the *Quípar* sporadically reached the cave at a time when the *Quípar* flood-plain stood close to the level of the cave.

Earlier research, backed up by radiocarbon dating, had shown that the 3 river terraces of the *Segura River* basin may have been formed somewhat more recently than was once thought to be the case. The *lowest* terrace began accumulating only about 30,000 years ago when the last major cold stage of the last ice-age began, and after the *middle* terrace had stopped accumulating, around 40,000 years ago at the end of the middle stage of the last ice-age. The last ice age ended about 12,000 years ago (when the Holocene period began). It had begun about 80,000 years ago. The last ice age and the preceding temperate conditions of the last interglacial period (Marine Isotope Stage MIS5, which began about 130,000 years ago) together comprise the Late Pleistocene (formerly called the "Upper" Pleistocene). Before 40,000 years ago Neanderthal folk and Middle Palaeolithic "Mousterian" stone tools predominated throughout Europe. It seemed plausible that excavation at *Cueva Negra* might uncover more of them. The basis of our conjecture, however, was ill-founded. We had not reckoned with the neotectonic activity of the Quípar Fault along which the river runs below the cave.

Things turned out to be very different indeed from what I had imagined originally. They have astounded us all. They are very exciting for our understanding of early Palaeolithic archaeology in western Eurasia. To cut a long story short, we know now that the sediments in *Cueva Negra* were laid down far, far earlier than I had imagined initially. In fact, we know now that they were laid down between 990,000 and 772,000 years ago (0.99-0.772 Ma, million years ago): that is to say, at the end of the Early (or "Lower") Pleistocene, and just before the start of the Middle Pleistocene 772,000 years ago (0.772 Ma). Of course, this was long, long before the *last* ice age!

In fact, six or seven ice ages had come and gone since *Cueva Negra* was frequented by early humans (plausibly the extinct fossil humans called *Homo antecessor* and *Homo heidelbergensis* from which *Homo neanderthalensis* was descended: alas, no fossil human remains have been found - at one time we published that we had found some archaic human teeth but, sorry to say, subsequent research shows they are in fact those of an extinct bear!) *Cueva Negra*'s Palaeolithic small stone flakes struck from small cores subjected to repetitive ("Levallois"-like or "Levalloisoid") flaking, some of which have edges modified by steep ("Mousterian-like" or "Mousteroid") retouch, are among the oldest of this kind in Europe, and were accompanied by a bifacially-flaked ("Acheulian") hand-axe on a limestone cobble. Furthermore, the sediments contain the oldest evidence of fire at any Palaeolithic site in Europe! In short, the sediment had been laid down in the cave long, long before nearby river terraces came into existence. It was protected from Middle

and Late Pleistocene riverine erosion and sedimentation by tectonic uplift of the hillside in which *Cueva Negra* lies very soon indeed after the sediments inside it had been laid down.

The prehistoric fauna at *Cueva Negra* includes remains of a extinct species that include a proboscidean (probably mammoth), rhinoceros, hyaena, bear, monkey (macaque), bison, wild horse, ibex, giant deer, fallow deer, boar, lynx, porcupine, badger, pika, rabbit, hare, tortoise, snakes, lizards and frogs, and 66 different bird species. Several of these animals are, of course, no longer found in Western Europe nowadays. Of exceptional importance is presence of extinct rodents (several of which had become extinct 700,000-600,000 years ago, 0.7-0.6 Ma) studied by Murcia University-trained biologist Antonio López Jiménez who teaches at a high school (he also is Hon.Treas. of MUPANTQUAT; you will probably meet him during the 2023 field season), especially, the fossil Arvicoline voles *Victoriamys chalinei*, *Miomys savini*, *Stenocranius gregaloides*, *Terricola arvalidens*, *Pliomys episcopalis*, and other extinct rodents include a fossil, *Cricetulus (Allocricetus) bursae*, whilst lagomorphs include early forms of rabbit, hare, and also the pika, *Prolagus calpensis*, that became extinct in Spain during the Middle Pleistocene. In 2020 Antonio's research was published in the prestigious international palaeontological journal which is *Historical Biology* (vol. 32, 18-33). Pollen analysis conducted by Murcia University's Professor of Plant Evolution Dr. José Carrión with his colleagues Drs. Santiago Fernández Jiménez and Juan Ochando points to benign damp temperate conditions appropriate for the palaeontological identifications, perhaps the marine isotope stage 21 (MIS-21) interglacial period that lasted from 868,000 to 814,000 years ago (0.868-0.814 Ma).

In 2020 the important international *Journal of Paleolithic Archaeology* (vol. 3 (4), pp.816-855) published the estimated age of the *Cueva Negra* sediments as between 990,000 and 772,000 years ago (0.99-0.772 Ma). This geophysical chronology is based on a sample from a *Cueva Negra* fossil horse (*Equus altidens*) tooth, analysed at Griffith University (Australia) by Professor Rainer Grün and Dr. Mathieu Duval, using electron-spin resonance combined with closed-system uranium-series analysis (ESR-User), who are applying the method to several more *Cueva Negra* herbivore teeth (Dr Duval, who is attached to Spain's National Centre for Human Evolution Research at Burgos, took sediment samples at *Cueva Negra* in order to be able to take background radiation effects into account). Sediment samples also were taken at *Cueva Negra* for palaeomagnetic research by Professor Gary Scott and Dr. Lluís Gibert at the Berkeley Geochronology Center (Lluís now lectures at Barcelona University). In 2009 they published in *Nature* (vol. 461, pp. 82-5, 2009) the results of their research on the magnetostratigraphy which demonstrates that the entire 5-m depth of Pleistocene sediment at *Cueva Negra* belongs to the Matuyama magnetochron of reverse magnetic polarity, and therefore *must predate* the palaeomagnetic change at 772,000 years ago (0.772 Ma) to the normal polarity that characterises the subsequent, present, Brunhes magnetochron; the change is widely regarded as separating the Early and Middle Pleistocene periods.

The *Cueva Negra* fossil rodents published in *Historical Biology* belong to extinct species that were common in Spain after the short period of normal polarity between 1.07 and 0.99 Ma (known as the Jaramillo magneto-subchron) that interrupted the latter part of the Matuyama chron. Extinct large mammals at *Cueva Negra* are being studied by the distinguished palaeontologist Dr. Jan van der Made of Spain's National Museum of Natural Sciences at Madrid. One of them is the giant deer *Megaloceros novocarthaginiensis* that he had identified first at *Cueva Victoria*, near Cartagena in Murcia, where palaeomagnetic research corroborated assignation of its rich palaeontological assemblage to about 1 Ma. On the basis of morphological comparisons and contrasts, Dr. Van der Made deduces that the giant deer *Megaloceros novocarthaginiensis* at the two Murcia sites was *ancestral* to the giant deer *Megaloceros savini* that appears early in the Middle Pleistocene at European sites such as the 700,000-year-old site of Pakefield in England. He also has identified the extinct fallow deer *Dama vallonnetensis* which dates from 900,000 years ago at the cave of Vallonnet near Nice. Excavation in the uppermost levels of an extension of our cutting in the cave produced more remains of the giant deer as well as hyaena, bear, and other large mammals, which suggest that the cave was a carnivore lair at the time when the latest sediments were laid down in it (see Linares Matás *et al.*, 2021, "Hyaenas and early humans in the latest Early Pleistocene of South-Western Europe" *Scientific Reports* 11:24036).

The above considerations support placing the 5-metre-deep *Cueva Negra* sedimentary sequence somewhere between 990,000 and 772,000 years ago. During that time there were two interglacial periods (MIS-23 and MIS-21), as well as part of the third (MIS19) during the palaeomagnetic change took place 772,000 years ago. Detailed sedimentological analysis by Professor Diego Angelucci (Trento University, Italy) shows the sequence to be homogeneous, with no significant interruption, implying gradual accumulation by intermittent sedimentation, under conditions of low-energy water-borne transport, caused undoubtedly by sporadic (perhaps seasonal) overflow from a swampy lake (fed by the River Quípar) which therefore must have been at the same level as the cave. Evidence for that are bones excavated in the sediment of several species of waterfowl, including diving ducks (pochards) that live on lakes, tree pollen indicating temperate gallery woodland, and nature of the sediment itself. Uplift of the right side of the gorge raised the cave, with its sedimentary fill, up above the river, now flowing 40 metres below it: neotectonic activity of the Quípar Fault was responsible without doubt.

This must have taken place very soon indeed after the sedimentary sequence had formed, otherwise it would have been subject to damaging incursions of water, with erosion of the sedimentary sequence (and/or deposition of later sediments), in consequence of the many climatic oscillations that characterised all of the glacial and interglacial periods after 772,000 years ago. Bones of birds such as jays and woodpigeons which eat acorns hinted at presence of oaks even before their pollen was identified by Professor José Carrión. Yet other birds such as larks and plovers show that there were also wide areas of open country near the site, appropriate for the larger grazing mammals. In short, the site was located conveniently for exploiting resources present in different local environments quite close to hand, from wetlands with stands of broad-leaved trees, to parkland where open spaces were interspersed with stands of woodland, and open rough steppe with stands of pines and other conifers, and finally steep hillsides with crags and mountainsides.

Of the many expert specialists who have helped us, we give particular thanks to Oxford geoarchaeologist Dr. Jean-Luc Schwenninger, distinguished Welsh avian palaeontologist Anne Eastham, Universidade do Algarve and Bordeaux University avian palaeontologist Dr. Anna Rufà, Tarragona's Rovira i Virgili University herpetological palaeontologist Professor Hugues Blain, University of the Basque Country's palaeontologist Professor Xaber Murélagu, and our MUPANTQUAT member, lately-retired Cartagena Polytechnic University hydrogeologist Professor Tomás Rodríguez Estrella. An up-and-coming generation of young archaeologists is advancing our research, in particular our MUPANTQUAT and 2023 Field School staff members with postgraduate degrees who are

Norman Fernández Ruiz, who is developing microstratigraphical analysis based on detailed georeferencing of all finds undergoing excavation for his doctoral research at Murcia University, and Oxford University-trained archaeologist and taphonomist Dr. Gonzalo Linares Matás who is a research fellow in Archaeology at Emmanuel College of Cambridge University.

MUPANTQUAT Vice-Chairman Dr. Ignacio Martín of Murcia University's Dept. of Prehistory and Archaeology specialises in microscopical use-wear analysis and with other members of our field staff is paying detailed attention to several thousand stone artefacts excavated at Cueva Negra. Although the majority are spalls and "waste" fragments of knapping that clearly took place in the cave (attested by flaked cores, together with innumerable, razor-sharp, diminutive spalls less than 2 mm in size), several flakes were struck from small cores subjected to repetitive ("Levallois"-like or "Levalloisoid") flaking, and some have edges modified by steep ("Mousterian-like" or "Mousteroid") retouch; moreover, a bifacially-flaked ("Acheulian") hand-axe on a limestone cobble was excavated deep in the sedimentary sequence. Furthermore, the deepest layers in the sediments contain the oldest evidence of fire at any Palaeolithic site in Europe. Such Palaeolithic diversity indicates hitherto unrecorded aptitudes of manual dexterity and cognitive versatility at any western European 900-800,000 years ago (see above, our 2020 *JPal.Arch.* article, and the 2017 short *Palaeolithic Pioneers* book by Michael Walker).

Most of the Palaeolithic assemblage was made from poor quality chert, quartzite, limestone and marble; cobbles of these were taken to the cave. An important source of raw materials for making the stone artefacts was an outcrop of conglomerate 800 metres (half a mile) away from Cueva Negra. The outcrop is the vestige of a fossil shingle beach of the shore of the Miocene Tethys Sea that, millions of years ago, in the Tertiary geological era, stretched from the Atlantic Ocean across what is now the Mediterranean Sea and eastwards to what is now the Persian Gulf. The pebbles and cobbles at the outcrop include flint, chert, Jurassic limestone and quartzite. None of these occur in the rock walls or roof of Cueva Negra, which are of later Miocene, biocalcarene rock. Our identification of the nearby local rock source was greatly enhanced in 2011 thanks to collaboration at Arizona University, where a young anthropology graduate Winston Zack, who spent three field seasons here, submitted many samples that he took, from both the site itself and chert outcrops in its vicinity, to Dr. Alex Andronikov, at Arizona University's Lunar and Planetary Sciences Laboratory, who conducted spectroscopical analysis of rare-earth (lanthanoid) trace elements in the cherts.

At the conglomerate outcrop, we have picked up a typically discarded end-product (a small "Levallois-type" core), left behind after early humans had removed from a pebble here several flint flakes for use as everyday cutting, scraping, or piercing tools. At Cueva Negra in 2016 we excavated another similar, small chert core in a deep level. Both cores demonstrate *hierarchical* knapping, by which small flakes are removed to prepare a discoidal core such that the angle they make with its major surface favours subsequent (hence "*hierarchical*") removal from it of a larger flake the shape of which can be controlled and perhaps be regular in form (e.g., oval, triangular, oblong). We have also picked up on the conglomerate outcrop small retouched Palaeolithic implements including a small scraper similar to others excavated at Cueva Negra. Another small discoidal core, this time of limestone, was also found near the mouth of Cueva Negra. Hitherto, small discoidal cores (even those with minimal peripheral prepared facetting) had not been found that date from before 400,000 years ago (0.4 Ma) in Europe or the Near East. At Cueva Negra our excavations show that flakes removed from such cores are present in deep layers, from which a small discoidal chert was excavated in 2016. Of special interest at Cueva Negra are finds of 3 possible "soft" hammers (i.e., soft knapping billets) which were used for knapping stone delicately and made from the butts and pedicles of the antlers of deer. Nevertheless, we have excavated several hammer-stones that probably were used much more often.

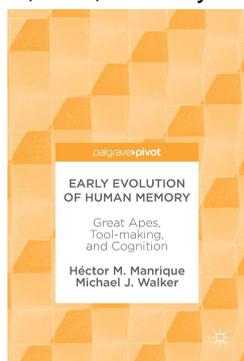
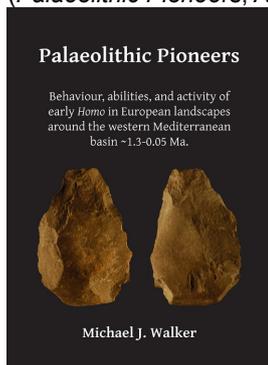
Who made the stone tools? Neanderthal ancestors ("pre-Neanderthal" humans) roamed Spain and left abundant skeletal remains in the Sierra de Atapuerca near Burgos in northern Spain, notably in a cave called the Sima de los Huesos where they have been dated to ca. 430,000 years ago (0.43 Ma, million years ago). These "pre-Neanderthal" humans are called often *Homo heidelbergensis* in honour of a human mandible found in Germany near Heidelberg which dates from 600,000 years ago (0.6 Ma). Even older human remains come from the Gran Dolina site at Atapuerca where they date from 900,000-800,000 years ago and have been assigned to *Homo antecessor* which may be phylogenetically close to the split between evolutionary lineages that eventually led, respectively, to *Homo neanderthalensis* and *Homo sapiens*. Even older human remains come from the Sima del Elefante at Atapuerca, dating from perhaps 1,200,000 years ago (1.2 Ma), which unfortunately have few diagnostic features but because of their great antiquity could perhaps be comparable, at least in time, to *Homo erectus* in Africa and Asia. Although we once thought Cueva Negra had pre-Neanderthal teeth, we now know them to belong to a bear (perhaps a female) of the extinct species *Ursus deningeri* or *U. dolinensis* that lived about 800,000 years ago (0.8 Ma), thanks to helpful advice given to us by Vienna University's Professor Geront Rabeder who is an internationally renowned authority on fossil bears. Moreover, our excavation in 2019 uncovered an unmistakable lateral third incisor of a bear. We therefore conclude that as yet Cueva Negra has not yielded any clearly human fossils.

Since 2004 we have excavated some splendid flakes produced by the aforementioned "hierarchical" core-reduction technique that involves repetitive centripetal ("Levalloisian-type") removal of flakes from cores that had undergone previous knapping to prepare them into the shape of small discs. Some of these flakes came from layers close to where in 2003 we had excavated an "Acheulian" hand-axe - a bifacially-flaked tool that had been made by removing flakes from both faces of an almond-shaped core that once had been a large limestone cobble or pebble. The two core-reduction methods have opposite outcomes. The first produces flakes, to be used as tools, by "hierarchically" controlled removal of flakes of triangular, oval or oblong shapes (sometimes the cutting or scraping edge is strengthened by secondary knapping or "retouch"), until the core becomes too small for removal of any more flakes and is discarded as waste. By contrast, the second fashions a tool out of a large core by removing flakes from it by peripheral knapping until an almond-shape object with sharp edges results.

It is extremely interesting to be able to show presence of two very different knapping techniques at such great depth. Our 2003 campaign at Cueva Negra had concentrated on an area adjoining that in which our 2001 excavation of a 3x1 metre area explored a consistent Palaeolithic living surface with remnants of stone knapping, broken bone fragments, and other débris. It lay at an intermediate depth with regard to the levels that previously had been defined at the site, but probably it had not been encountered during earlier campaigns that went deeper because where those excavations took place there had been a massive slab of rock that had fallen from the roof during the Pleistocene and occupied most of the area behind where we had identified the living surface in 2001. In 2003 we began to excavate an adjacent 3x1 metre area, culminating in the astonishing excavation of an "Acheulian" hand-axe, and

the excavation in 2004 of well-made chert flakes that had been produced by repetitive centripetal (*cf.*, “Levalloisian-type” or “Levalloisoid”) flaking of small prepared chert cores confirmed the extent of an important activity area.

I have attempted to get to grips with the implications of those findings for understanding cognitive evolution in the genus *Homo* 850,000 years ago at Cueva Negra in a major article (see Carrión & Walker, 2019, *Quaternary Science Reviews* vol. 217, pp. 7-44) and 2 books (*Palaeolithic Pioneers*, Archaeopress, 2017, and *Early Evolution of Human Memory*, Palgrave Macmillan, 2017):



A rigorous “modal” approach to ordering stone tools has been published by Professor John Shea of New York University at Stony Brook (John Shea, 2016, *Stone tools in human evolution*, Cambridge University Press, and, 2013, “Lithic Modes A–I: A new framework for describing global-scale variation in stone tool technology...” *Journal of Archaeological Method and Theory* vol. 20, pages 151-186). This has led us to try to apply to *Cueva Negra* his scheme for interpreting stone artefacts, and to abandon terms such as “Acheulian”, “Levalloisian” and “Mousterian” altogether; see our article (we can send you a pdf) in the journal *Human Evolution* vol. 31, pages.1-67, 2016, Walker *et al.*, “A view from a cave: Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar...”. If you come to our 2023 Field School we shall explain this approach to you.

Neither the complexity nor the antiquity of our *Cueva Negra* tool-kit need come as a complete surprise. In Africa, the “Levalloisian-type” core-reduction technique goes back to 1,400,000 years ago (see: de La Torre *et al.*, 2003, *Journal of Human Evolution* vol. 44, pages 203-224). In Africa, reduction of stone to fashion hand-axes goes back as far as 1,760,000 years ago (1.76 Ma). Both types of reduction imply cognition of imaginary secant planes that divide volumes, symmetrically in the case of bifacial hand-axe fashioning, but asymmetrically in the case of “Levalloisian”-like disc cores, such that the major volume could be knapped in a way that in the end “released”, so to speak, the flake of intended shape to be removed from within it (Tom Wynn has written that this is the most demanding and complex of all reduction-sequences ever developed). It tells us much about the evolutionary significance of early human cognitive awareness that probably lay behind the dispersal of *Homo* out of Africa and throughout Eurasia before 1,500,000 years ago (1.5 Ma).

However, the elusive and irregular presence in Africa and Eurasia during the Early Pleistocene and early Middle Pleistocene has led me to propose an evolutionary model based on the Free Energy Principle as interpreted by Professor Karl Friston, FRS, of University College London. I draw an analogy with the game “snakes and ladders.” If you come to our 2023 Field School I shall explain it. I presented a poster about it in September 2022 at the annual meeting in Tübingen of the European Society for the Study of Human Evolution and a preprint is available at <http://PsyArxiv.com> 9rkgh of an article to be presented in 2023 to an international journal that publishes articles about evolution.

Our 2011 season’s astounding discovery of traces of ancient fire lying deeply within the cave sediments confirms the ability of humans to survive in higher latitudes than those of equatorial Africa where their ancestors originally had evolved between 4 and 2 million years ago. The 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2022 field seasons have extended our excavation here that now has exposed 4-5 m² of the surface affected by combustion - further extension will be undertaken in the 2023 season, but it is extremely slow work because 4.5 m of overburden have to be excavated and wet-sieved down to 2 mm in order to reveal 1 m² of the combusted sediment. Tending fire allowed our ancestors to keep warm at night and wild animals at bay, but also to cook food and thereby enhance rapid absorption of nutrients so necessary for physiological metabolic processes in the body and especially the brain. Ours is the oldest firm evidence for fire at a Palaeolithic site outside Africa (where it is found at sites going back to before 1,000,000 years ago, 1 Ma). We have found many fragments of charred and even calcined bone. Some calcined long-bone fragments had undergone length-wise splintering which occurs when heat has volatilised the organic components of bone which then shrinks and cracks open. We also have excavated several spalls of burnt chert and a spectacular lump that had exploded owing to thermal shock which was uncovered with the resulting razor-sharp splinters still in place like the petals of a rose.

The temperature of the fire had reached 550°C, according to spectrometry analyses of the burnt bone and chert, which have been undertaken by Dr Daniel Richter using thermoluminescence methods at Leipzig’s Max-Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Dr Anne Skinner at Boston’s Williams College using electron spin resonance methods, and Dr Francesco Berna at Simon Fraser University using Fourier-transform infra-red techniques with which he carried out postdoctoral research at Boston University under the guidance of the distinguished geoarchaeologist Professor Paul Goldberg who developed the method there. Dr Berna’s friend, geoarchaeologist Dr Diego Angelucci of the Italian University of Trento, has studied the micromorphology of thin sections he took at *Cueva Negra* with his PhD student Daniela Anesin. Our Murcian MUPANTQUAT scientists also have conducted relevant research. Chemical and mineral research consistent with combustion of sediment was undertaken by geology Professor Tomás Rodríguez-Estrella of the Cartagena Polytechnic University, and microscopical inspection of chert from the layer indicates exposure to heat according to archaeological use-wear specialist Dr. Ignacio Marín-Lerma of Murcia University. Dr. Sara Rhodes is a Canadian who has excavated with us in various field seasons and in 2019 obtained her doctorate at Tübingen University; she

carried out a taphonomical study of burnt and unburnt small mammal bones at Cueva Negra using scanning electron microscopy and energy dispersive spectrometry together with the distinguished Spanish taphonomist Dr Yolanda Fernández-Jalvo of the CSIC at Madrid, and demonstrated that the dark colour of several burnt bones owes to charring and not to mineral staining: for their important results (see Rhodes *et al.*, 2016, *Journal of Archaeological Science Reports* 9, pp.427-436).

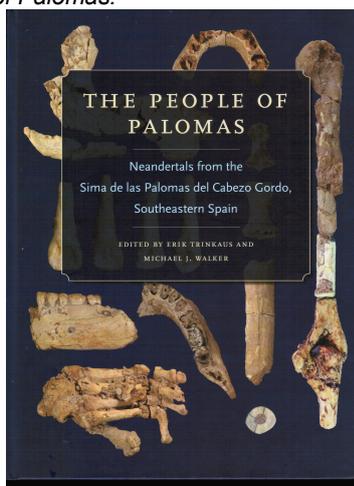
SIMA DE LAS PALOMAS DEL CABEZO GORDO

At Sima de las Palomas in 2022 we excavated sediment in levels 6q, 6r, 6s, 6t, and 6u, within 0.5x0.5 m squares of the surface, exposed in previous field seasons, of the column of brecciated sediments that nineteenth-century miners had left standing in the Main Shaft, which over the years we have excavated to a depth of some 6 m below the top of the column that reaches the rock roof overhanging the shaft (which had filled up with brecciated sediments by 40,000 years ago). The deep levels we excavated belong to the last interglacial period. Optical sediment luminescence research by Oxford University's Dr. Jean-Luc Schwenninger dates them to 90,000-130,000 years ago. On arriving at the site in 2022 we had to sieve sediment that during 2020 and 2021 had fallen from the sides of our excavation onto the protective sheeting with which we had covered the excavated area. A Neanderthal phalangeal bone was found that must have fallen from higher levels dated to 55,000- 50,000 years ago, during the last ice age, where we have excavated Neanderthal skeletons and where further methodical excavation of remnants of the column of sediment will take place at a future date.

Excavation of the deep levels in 2022 continued to provide Middle Palaeolithic ("Mousterian") artefacts made on a variety of stone types (mainly chert or flint and limestone or marble, but also a few of quartz and quartzite) and abundant faunal remains from small animals (tortoise, rabbit) to horse, deer, ibex, aurochs, bear, rhinoceros, hyaena, wolf, porcupine, and even cave lion. Many bones show signs of burning or charring. Whereas levels excavated above 6q had been particularly rich in bones and teeth of horse, deer remains seemed to be relatively more abundant in the levels we excavated in 2022. The difference may reflect a change in environmental and climatic circumstances. During the 2022 excavation, Murcia University palaeopalynologist Dr. Juan Ochando Tomás took sediment samples for pollen analysis which may throw light on that possibility. As in previous years, all excavated sediment was washed by us over nests of stainless-steel sieves using a high-pressure jet of water at the nearby Cabezo Gordo marble factory, followed by further washing, cleaning and sorting in our temporary field laboratory at the Dolores de Pacheco public school, before being taken to our permanent laboratory at Torre Pacheco.

From Sima de las Palomas we now have bones or teeth of at least 15 different Neanderthal individuals who are represented by over three hundred skeletal items from the site. The deep sediments gave us a milk molar in 2019, part of a Neanderthal mandible in 2017, and two incisor teeth in 2016. The higher layers of 55,000-50,000 years ago contained very many cranial and postcranial elements in anatomical relation of at least 3 Neanderthals of the last ice age, the skeletons of "Paloma" and "her child" among them. Also, a few Neanderthal remains came from the highest sediments that filled the cave up to its roof by 40,000 years ago. A scholarly book about Sima de las Palomas and many scientific articles have been published in recent years, and important Neanderthal skeletal remains were on display in 2022 in a superb exhibition at Murcia's Archaeological Museum about Neanderthals in Murcia. In 2022 Sima de las Palomas Neanderthal mandibles were the basis of the article by A.Bermejo-Fenoll, A.Panchón-Ruiz & M.J.Walker, "Neanderthal, Sapiens and chimpanzee mandibles: a comparative study in relation to articulated speech," *Archaeological and Anthropological Sciences* 14:116, 2022, <https://doi.org/10.1107/s12520-22-01575-s>.

An important scientific monograph about results of our early work at this site was published in 2017 by Texas A&M University Press. The world-famous researcher into Neanderthal skeletal fossils who was principally responsible for it is Professor Erik Trinkaus of the Washington University of St. Louis, Missouri (USA). He came to Murcia to study the Sima de las Palomas remains twice in 2007 and returned in January 2011. An important morphological study of "Paloma" (SP96) resulted, which was published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the USA*. Thanks to his tireless work, the scholarly monograph was published in 2017 which is *The People of Palomas*.



Over 100 years ago, miners on the hill of Cabezo Gordo were attracted by a vein of the iron ore magnetite which made a dark stain in the pale-grey marble rock of the hillside. Hundreds of millions of years ago the iron had welled up in molten form through the limestone when volcanic activity was fierce here during the early Mesozoic. The miners dug an artificial shaft down hoping to follow the vein which, however, petered out, and they found themselves digging hard breccia out of a natural cavern which went not only downwards, but also back up to the surface again in what we now call the Sima de las Palomas which is a vertical shaft 18 metres deep the mouth of which is at 125 metres above sea-level on the barren hill-side; the miners took out more than three-quarters of its natural fill. To speed up removal of this unwanted material, they blasted a horizontal tunnel through the hillside to the bottom of the main shaft. Disgusted, no doubt, by finding no iron after so much work, they did not bother to remove that part of the breccia which today still forms an intact column, rich in fossils and stone tools, from top to bottom against the rear wall of the natural shaft, and which we have been excavating scientifically since 1994.

Chance discovery by a speleologist called Juan Carlos Blanco Gago in 1991 of a very important fossil, consisting of parts of the upper and lower jaws of a human face, which he noticed in the side of the natural shaft of Sima de las Palomas about three metres below the surface, drew our attention to the great research potential of the sediments in the shaft (Gibert, Walker, *et al.*, 1994). The speleologist belonged to a local environmental conservation group, and he was descending the shaft on an abseil rope to find out what kinds of birds nested in the cave. He saw the fossil in the upper part of sediments banked against the rear wall of the shaft and pulled it out, without realising what it was. Being a careful person and a nature-lover, he saved it and showed it to us. On cleaning, it turned out to belong to the face of a Neanderthal: parts of the upper and lower jaws fused together. Neanderthals lived in Europe between 200,000 and 40,000 years ago, and are assigned to the extinct Neanderthal humans subspecies, *Homo sapiens neanderthalensis* or *H. neanderthalensis* for short.

Preliminary fieldwork by us at this site began in 1992 and continued in 1993, when, together with my palaeontologist friend, the late Dr. Josep Gibert, of what used to be the "Dr M.Crusafont" Palaeontological Institute and Museum at Sabadell (a satellite city of Barcelona), and our helpers, we sifted through rubble which the iron-miners who entered the natural cave 100 years before had piled up inside or thrown out onto the hillside. The miners had also driven a horizontal tunnel through the rock of the hillside to meet the bottom of the shaft. The tunnel had become largely filled up with rubble which had fallen down the shaft, and had to be removed by us. The important task of sieving the mine rubble on the hillside and in the tunnel gave us 25 finds of Neanderthal bones or teeth. In 1997 a Neanderthal maxilla (upper jaw) bone was found this way. Other finds include parts of jawbones (mandibles) belonging to three adults and two children, various loose teeth, part of a child's maxillary bone of the face, parts of 2 adult cheekbones (zygomatic bones) and two fragments of the massive Neanderthal bony brow ridges over the eye socket, as well as several large fragments of bones of the skull vault - frontal, parietal, temporal and occipital bones. We also found several vertebrae and fragments of arm bones (humerus, ulna), leg bones (femur, fibula), finger and toe bones, and part of a hip-bone. Some of the bones show traces of burning. Because all these finds are from the mine rubble we do not know where originally they had come from within the cave.

Tens of thousands of years ago, the natural shaft slowly filled up with earth and stones which trickled down off the limestone hill-side, together with water rich in calcium carbonate dissolved out of the limestone and which percolated into the earth and rock, cementing them hard in a compact fossil conglomerate called *breccia*. In it, bones of extinct animals hint that sometimes it was visited by leopards that maybe climbed down into the cave with an ease common to all cats, though it is perhaps even more likely that they were hunted and killed by Neanderthals. When the deep shaft almost had filled up, Neanderthal folk settled in, unaware that the earth floor they camped on was over 15 metres thick.

Eventually, the skeletons of three of them (including perhaps that whose jaws had been found by Juan Carlos Blanco Gago) became covered by a downward-sloping heap of very large stones. Some may have been laid intentionally over the bodies; others may well have been washed into the mouth of the former shaft by heavy rainstorms - we once were caught unawares by one when working, and had to spend a couple of hours in our excavation cowering behind a short-lived albeit terrifying waterfall, unable to climb out through it. The two-metre deep, sloping pile of stones over three Neanderthals whose skeletons were well preserved beneath it, became partly cemented later on by calcium carbonate; we now call this mass of cemented stones "conglomerate A". Nevertheless, it was porous enough for coarse sediment to pass through it afterwards and accumulate behind it. However, quite deeply down in this uppermost sediment there was an irregular lens of sediment with signs of combustion (we called it the "upper grey layer"), perhaps indicating that human activity took place there before "conglomerate A" had formed completely.

The uppermost sediment contained 65 dispersed fragments of bones and teeth of Neanderthal adults and children, as well as Middle Palaeolithic ("Mousterian") implements made from flint flakes and animal bones. We excavated the mandible of a baby and another of a child. In 1998 we excavated a large adult mandibular fragment that had a small piece of burnt animal bone cemented to it. This piece of burnt animal bone gave an accelerator radiocarbon (AMS-¹⁴C) determination of 34,450±600 BP (OxA-10666) that corresponds to a true age that could lie anywhere within the range 40,950-37,622 BP, after calibration and application of 95% confidence limits; moreover, the burnt fragment could have become cemented to the Neanderthal jaw fragment hundreds or even thousands of years after the Neanderthal had died. The determination was made by Professor Tom Higham of the Oxford Radiocarbon Accelerator Unit at Oxford University's Research Laboratory for Archaeology and the History of Art (RLAHA). Subsequently, on burnt rabbit bone found in the "upper grey layer" not far away, Dr Higham obtained a determination of 35,030±270 BP (OxA-15423) which corresponds to a true age that could lie anywhere within the range 40,986-38,850 BP, after calibration and application of 95% confidence limits - the importance of this qualification will become clear below.

Dr Jean-Luc Schwenninger, who heads RLAHA's Optical Sediment Luminescence Dating Unit, came to Sima de las Palomas where he bored a horizontal core of sediment into the "upper grey layer", and when the hermetically-sealed core was opened at Oxford the aforementioned burnt rabbit bone was found inside that gave OxA-15423. Dr Schwenninger also had measured the background irradiation on site using RLAHA's portable gamma-ray spectrometer, allowing him to calibrate the OSL measurement accurately. Quartz grains in the sediment gave the OSL determination of 54,700±4700 BP (X2509) which could correspond to a true age anywhere within the 95% confidence limits of 64,000-44,300 BP. A uranium-series determination of 43,800±750 (APSLP4) obtained on a fragment of unburnt animal bone by Professor Alistair Pike (then at Bristol University's Archaeology Department, now at Southampton

University), could correspond to a true age anywhere within the 95% confidence limits of 45,300-42,300 BP. X2509 and APSLP4 were excavated at positions that were near to each other, both horizontally and vertically, and their 95% confidence intervals overlap at 45,000-44,000 BP.

From “conglomerate A” Professor Pike obtained uranium-series (User) determinations of 54,100±3850 years ago (APSLP-1) and 51,000±1250 (APSLP-6) on fragments, respectively, of unburnt bone from the female Neanderthal skeleton SP-96 (“Paloma”) and unburnt animal bone; their respective 95% confidence limits are 61,600-46,600 and 53,500-48,500 years ago. They may be compared to a uranium-series date obtained by Professor Joan-Antoni Sánchez-Cabeza, at the Physics Department of the Autonomous University of Barcelona, from an aragonite crystal from “conglomerate B” (which underlies “conglomerate A”) of 56,000 +13000/-10000 years ago (M-5). Preliminary ESR-User dates by Dr Stuart Black of Reading University show that conglomerate B dates from 67,700±0.405 and 65,070±0.038 years ago. OSL estimates from sediment the deep layers below it have been obtained by Oxford University’s Dr. Schwenninger are of 102,100±12,000 years ago (X6889; V1), 97,000±9,000 (X6890; V2), 125,000 ±13,600 (X6891; V3) and 130,002 ±11,900 (X6892; V4), with noteworthy uncertainty affecting a fifth estimate of 90,300±7,300 (X6893; V5); the samples were taken for him by his then research student Mariana Sontag-Gonzalez who spent some time with us during our 2015 field season (she is now undertaking doctoral research at Wollongong University in Australia). The new dating was the subject of a poster presented in 2017 at the 7th annual meeting of the European Society for the Study of Human Evolution held at Leiden in the Netherlands. (Before excavation commenced, aragonite crystals extracted from the sedimentary column a few metres above the floor of the Main Chamber had given Dr. Sánchez-Cabeza uranium-series estimates of 124,000 and 118,000 years ago.)

Discussion about dating of the articulated Neanderthal skeletons can be found in our 2017 book *The People of Palomas*, and in scientific journals (see: Walker *et al.*, 2012, *Quaternary International* vol.259 pages 7-21, and Carrión *et al.*, 2019, *Quaternary Science Reviews* vol. 217, pages 194-216, esp. pages 208-210). A salient aspect of the determinations given above is that there is some overlap between several of the 95% confidence limits that apply to them. One minimal inference is that skeletons embedded in “conglomerate A” belong to a period around 55,000-50,000 years ago when their Neanderthal owners had died. A second one is that Neanderthal teeth and bone fragments continued to be incorporated into later sediment before 40,000 years ago, though it is open to dispute whether this incorporation took place in two successive periods or during one period of uncertain length. Whereas it is not beyond the bounds of possibility that Neanderthals were able still to enter the cave at the time the “upper grey layer” was forming (perhaps ca. 45,000-44,000 years ago) and may even have contributed to it by tending fire near the lower part of “conglomerate A”, Neanderthal teeth and bone fragments and Mousterian artefacts in sediment deposited above the “upper grey layer” must have come in from the hillside because some were excavated close to the rock roof up to which the sediments had accumulated, leaving no space for humans to have crawled in. In other words, those remains correspond to a way in which the Neanderthals were behaving outside the cave, presumably one that involved a different manner of dealing with dead bodies. Professor José Carrión has found pollen in these final sediments of trees and shrubs (e.g., *Maytenus* and *Withania*) that never could have withstood the bitterly cold ice-age conditions that blighted Europe just after 39,900 years ago, which implies the sediments had filled up the space completely by 40,000 years ago. The absence of Upper Palaeolithic artefacts in them is consistent with such antiquity.

Much, much further back in time, Neanderthals had used the site in a different way again, long before “conglomerate B” was deposited, because the deepest sediments that now we are excavating contain burnt animal remains and Mousterian artefacts and, most important, the crown of a burnt Neanderthal molar tooth in 2019, a Neanderthal milk molar tooth found in 2018, part of a Neanderthal mandible found in 2017, and two loose Neanderthal teeth found in 2016. The burnt tooth excavated in 2019 may be a “smoking gun” relevant to some burnt Neanderthal mandibular and other bones recovered when mine rubble was sieved by us in the 1990’s. Until now we had been puzzled by the absence of burnt Neanderthal remains excavated by us in levels above conglomerate B, whereas some burnt animal bones were found in them. We are beginning to wonder whether the burning of human remains might belong to a time before conglomerate B formed.

From about 2 metres, below the top entrance that gives access to both our upper excavation cutting and the main shaft of Sima de las Palomas, between 2005 and 2010 we excavated 3 articulated Neanderthal skeletons, two of which had skulls and attached mandibles. The very first find, which had been made back in 1991 by Juan Carlos Blanco Gago, had come from a similar position, and as it was of a mandible in anatomical connexion with the maxillae (SP1), it is clear that in fact there may have been at least 3 Neanderthal individuals here, or maybe 4. The articulated skeletal remains of 3 Neanderthals (2 adults and a juvenile) here include skulls, chest, upper limbs, back-bone, pelvis, lower limbs, and bones of the hands and feet. There is one remarkably well-preserved foot, and also an articulated elbow joint (lower part of humerus in articulation with upper part of ulna and radius). They are still undergoing careful albeit slow cleaning, with removal of breccia adhering to the bones by use of vibroscalpels (“air-scribe”) powered by compressed air in our new laboratory at Torre Pacheco.

The Neanderthal skeletal remains were excavated a few centimetres above where Juan Carlos had plucked out the Neanderthal skull fragment (SP1) of the two maxillary bones and teeth cemented to the jawbone, when he descended on his abseil rope in 1991. Our skeleton SP96 is 85% complete and belonged to a young woman whom we now call “Paloma”. Below her was a child’s skeleton (SP97). Both have well-preserved skulls and mandibles. Both had flexed elbows with the hands raised against the face; this implies intervention by other individuals before *rigor mortis* set in. Near the child there were two articulated leopard paws, 3 horse astragali, and waste flakes and fragments of knapped chert. Underneath those two skeletons lay that of another adult (SP92); perhaps SP1 had been its skull (this is debatable). None of the three skeletons showed signs of burning (the only signs of burning were on horse bone). Maybe the bodies were covered up with large stones, perhaps to stop hyaenas and leopards from scavenging. Our Neanderthal skeletons are of worldwide importance because almost 40 years had passed since the last time a European Neanderthal was excavated with its skeleton articulated in anatomical connexion (at St-Césaire in France). The female skeleton SP96 was the subject of an article published in June 2011 in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the USA (PNAS)*.

The total number of separate bone fragments and teeth from Sima de las Palomas identified to date amounts to over 300 separate skeletal items. The number of mandibles (or fragments of them) that belong to different Neanderthal individuals is 10 (3 were

found in mine rubble; 3 come from the uppermost part of our excavation; 2 belong to excavated articulated skeletons SP96 and SP97, another is SP1, and part of yet another mandible was excavated in 2017 in deeper sediments that are older than 90,000 years ago. If SP1 and SP92 do not belong together, then at least 11 individuals are represented by bones. Analysis of the many loose Neanderthal teeth from the site implies existence of another 4 individuals. Therefore 15 is the minimum number, to date, of Neanderthal individuals from Sima de las Palomas.

Towards the end of 2006 I wrote asking about the possibility of hunting for Neanderthal DNA in our Sima de las Palomas bones to Professor Svante Paäbo, the internationally renowned geneticist (awarded the Nobel Prize for Medicine and Physiology in 2022) who conducts research into both mitochondrial and nuclear DNA from Neanderthal bones at the ultra-modern, 7-storey-high, Max-Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology at Leipzig in Germany, and whom I had first got to know at a meeting in Madrid back in 1993. He invited me to Leipzig where I gave a talk to his Institute in 2007 which was well received. Svante Paäbo made useful suggestions about how we might best excavate the Sima de las Palomas Neanderthal skeletal remains, wearing face-masks and surgical gloves, and putting the fossils into sterile containers. This we did in 2007 and in that autumn Svante's then PhD student, Oxford University Biology graduate, now Dr. Adrian Briggs, came to Murcia and we helped him as he extracted samples from our newly-excavated Neanderthal bones in a sterile operating theatre in Murcia University's Veterinary Science Faculty.

Dr. Pääbo reported back from Leipzig that our excavation technique had been so good that almost no modern human DNA contamination could be detected, though so far, alas, neither had any Neanderthal DNA been identified. In 2008 Dr. Paäbo sent over another of his PhD students, now Dr. Thomas Maričić, who took part in our Sima de las Palomas field season, sampling human remains during excavation. He took the samples back for analysis at Leipzig. Alas, Dr. Paäbo's team at Leipzig still failed to detect either nuclear DNA or mitochondrial DNA. Because they could not detect contamination by modern DNA either, Dr. Pääbo thought that the field methodology was adequate but that over many thousands of years high ambient summer temperatures at the site had destroyed Neanderthal DNA.

However, in 2018 Professor Ron Pinhasi of the University of Vienna visited us and using a new non-destructive technique that he is developing he extracted from Sima de las Palomas loose Neanderthal teeth material that he is analysing for DNA in his laboratory, and we await his results. In 2019 we learnt during the annual meeting, held at the Belgian city of Liège, of the European Society for the Study of Human Evolution, that the Leipzig laboratory, now co-ordinated by Dr. Matthias Meyer, was re-analysing fragments of samples still at Leipzig that had defied previous attempts to find DNA, and tried to identify DNA in remaining samples from Sima de las Palomas that had been kept in store at Leipzig but during 2020 he informed us that he had not been successful. Dr. Viviane Slon at Tel-Aviv University has developed a methodology for detecting DNA of animals and humans left in sediment and in 2021 we have sent her samples of sediment from different layers of Sima de las Palomas, and in November 2022 she informed me that the samples are undergoing analysis with results expected in 2023.

Another distinguished collaborator among them is Barcelona University physical anthropologist Professor Alejandro Martínez Pérez-Pérez who took casts of all of the teeth from Sima de las Palomas which help him to conduct research into attrition and wear on the crown; his research on microstriations on the sides of tooth crowns throws light on the kinds of food eaten by prehistoric folk. His work complements research on our teeth that has been undertaken over the years both by the dental anthropologist and orthodontist Dr. Vince Lombardi from Pittsburgh (one-time adjunct professor at Harvard University's Dental School), a long-standing collaborator who joined us in the field again in 2014, and in the Subdepartment of Physical Anthropology at Murcia by Dr. Josefina Zapata who has photographed carious lesions in two teeth. In 2011 we were visited by physical anthropologist Dr. Patricia Bayle, at Bordeaux University who returned in March 2012 with Professor Kate Robson-Brown from Bristol University together with its travelling microscanner (brought in a very large van), accompanied by its specialist engineer Nick Corps, which gave excellent resolution with the Sima de las Palomas loose teeth, on which detailed research is continuing. Two students of Professor Trinkaus also have assisted in our dental research, John Wilman who visited us in 2011 and Sarah Lacy who was present with Drs Bayle and Robson-Brown in March 2012. Lead author Dr. Bayle and her colleagues presented a poster with us in 2016 at the 6th Annual Meeting of the European Society for the Study of Human Evolution (ESHE), held at Alcalá de Henares near Madrid. Dr. Bayle came from France with two colleagues in 2017 with a view to developing in collaboration with us a new research project involving the Sima de las Palomas Neanderthal fossils. We discussed the matter together in September 2019 during the 9th annual meeting of the European Society for the Study of Human Evolution held at Liège in Belgium. In 2019 some of our Neanderthal fossils were illustrated in science-journalist Michael Gross' article "Mingling with Neanderthals" in *Current Biology* volume 29, pages R105-R107, 2019.

We have had visits from Professor Amanda Henry (now at Leiden University) and her colleagues at the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology at Leipzig where she and Drs. Domingo Carlos Salazar-García, Robert Power and Cynthia Spiteri studied the plant component of Neanderthal diets, by investigating phytoliths in dental calculi and other biological residues, and detected their presence in Sima de las Palomas dental plaque (see on page 27 above, a poster shown at the 2016 ESHE meeting; see also Salazar-García *et al.*, 2013, *Quaternary International* vol. 318 pages 3-18, and Power *et al.*, 2018, *Journal of Human Evolution* vol. 119, pages 27-41). Proteomic analysis has been carried out on teeth from our Neanderthals and those from other sites, and in 2021 an article about the work was published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the USA* (vol. 118 (20), e2021655118: (Fellows Yates *et al.*, "The evolution and changing ecology of the African hominid oral microbiome" (N.B. To find a reference to the Sima de las Palomas teeth that contributed to this article, because the sites are not named in it, you must go on-line to the link to the article's Supplementary Information: <https://www.pnas.org/lookup/suppl/doi:10.1073/pnas.2021655118/-/DCSupplemental>). The significance for the study of human evolution of this 60-author paper (I am among them) lies in the finding that, unlike apes, both *Homo sapiens* and Neanderthals share an evolutionary adaptation to reduce starch that is possessed by a microbe whose signature is detectable in dental plaque. This implies that *both* species of *Homo* were adapted to eating and digesting foodstuff from plants containing starch that affords us a rich, concentrated source of energy. It implies that this human adaptation dates from around 750,000 years ago when Neanderthals and *Homo sapiens* shared a common ancestor. This refutes a widely held opinion that only the ancestors of *Homo sapiens* ate starch-rich plant foodstuffs as well as animal meat and fat, whereas Neanderthal diets supposedly were based mainly on the meat and fat of animals (despite medical knowledge that such an unbalanced diet can harm our liver).

In 2019, Dr. Christoph Wissing from Tübingen University's Biogeology Institute in Germany visited our sites and took samples from fossil herbivore teeth for stable-isotope bioenvironmental research. He gave a well-attended lecture organised by MUPANTQUAT at Murcia's elegant Royal Casino, and in October I gave a talk about both our sites at Tübingen University, kindly invited by Professor Hervé Bocherens who heads the stable-isotope research project there at its Biogeology Institute. We look forward to the progress of their collaborative project with us in 2022. (Coinciding with Christoph's visit was another by Alexandra Schuh from Leipzig's Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology who came to study the Sima de las Palomas Neanderthals.)

Research is being conducted on a possibility of prehistoric biological residues on a dozen large, sub-spherical, river cobbles that must have been carried up to Sima de las Palomas by the Neanderthals, no doubt from erstwhile fluvial gravels on the plain below, perhaps in order to grind or pound foodstuffs, or maybe mineral pigments. The river cobbles were excavated in the deep layers of 130,000-90,000 years ago that we are excavating (well below where the articulated Neanderthal skeletons were uncovered). The cobbles were examined at the Leipzig Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology by Dr. Cynthia Spiteri and our long-term Australian colleague Dr. Birgitta Stephenson who is both an anthropologist and a pharmacologist (and has developed histochemical techniques that have led to identification of biological residues on prehistoric Australian Aboriginal grinding stones). Alas, to date no light has been thrown on the use to which the stones were put by our Neanderthals, either by their study or by that of our Murcia University MUPANTQUAT member Dr. Ignacio Martín who has inspected the cobbles using confocal microscopy with Raman spectrometry. The mystery continues...

The deep levels are extremely interesting because they demonstrate that the site was used for domestic purposes, such as cooking, over a long period of time indeed. Presumably, food was prepared on the hillside beside the mouth of the shaft into which refuse was allowed to fall. From the deep layers come mandibular fragments of two porcupines (*Hystrix javanica*) that have been studied by Sara Rhodes who excavated with us in 2011, 2012 and 2013 when she was studying for her Master's degree at Toronto University before taking up a German government scholarship to do research for the PhD she has been awarded in 2019 at Tübingen University.

In 2011 we began to carry out CAT scanning of the excavated Neanderthal skeletons using the General Electric scanner installed at the end of 2010 in Murcia University's Veterinary Faculty Hospital, and to help us to orientate the study we were joined by the renowned Zürich University experts in scanning Neanderthals and other hominids, Professor Christoph Zollikofer and his wife Dr. Marcia Ponce de León (they have published many important scientific papers using the technique). Later in 2011 Jon Ortega Rodríguez and I visited their Zürich lab in Switzerland. Jon returned there in autumn 2012 for a few weeks to acquaint himself with the IT technique. Professor Zollikofer and Dr. Ponce de León returned to Murcia in 2015 and undertook further scanning here in order to resolve one or two anatomical details, and they returned briefly in 2021 and 2022, promising to come back for a longer stay in 2023.

Animal remains from *Sima de las Palomas* include teeth of rhino and hyaena, and bones and teeth of leopard, possibly cave lion, aurochs, wild horse, ibex, red deer, lynx, porcupine, fox, badger, hare, tortoise and perhaps wolf. Between 1992 and 2019 several hundred classifiable skeletal elements have been found and thousands of bone splinters and fragments many of which still have adherent cemented breccia. Of particular interest are leopard remains. In 1991 a leopard skull and other bones of *Panthera pardus* had been found, exposed in a low position in the breccia column, by the same spelaeologist who found the first SP1 Neanderthal fossil. In 2006 the bones in articulated connexion of two leopard paws were excavated near to the skull of Neanderthal child SP97. Those bones were unburnt, though also nearby there were horse ankle bones that had undergone burning, in one case found in articulation with the distal part of a tibia. Three struck chert or flint flakes and one hundred tiny knapping spalls were excavated near the lowest of the three Neanderthal articulated skeletons, SP92. The undisturbed nature of skeletons SP96, SP97 and SP92/SP1 suggests that scavengers never disturbed them and that the articulated leopard paws may have been cut off by Neanderthals themselves. SP96 and SP97 were found with their knees drawn up and elbows flexed with their hands against their faces, suggesting arrangement before *rigor mortis* had set in (this position has been documented at some other sites with Mousterian artefacts). Perhaps the bodies were covered with stones to deter scavengers from interfering with them. We may never know.

Even before we were able to build a 20-metre high scaffolding tower and take aragonite crystals for uranium-series dating from the breccia column, we had a fair idea of its age because we had sent 3 fragments of fossil animal bone, cemented in breccia thrown out from the shaft by the miners which we had found on the hillside, to geochemist Dr. Peter Pomery of Australia's University of Queensland who obtained electron-spin resonance dates of 83,000/42,000, 146,000/73,000 and 532,000/266,000 years ago. The estimates served to give a rough idea of the great antiquity of the remains though Dr. Sánchez-Cabeza's uranium-series dates gave us the age-range of the visible breccia column with better accuracy and precision as spanning the last interglacial period and continuing into the last ice age. The new estimates from Drs. Schwenninger and Black mentioned above indicate that much of the sedimentary fill began to accumulate about 130,000 years ago, at the onset of marine isotope stage MIS5.

The Mousterian industry from the site includes some 1,200 classified pieces, from retouched scrapers to simple struck flakes and cores (and there are over 3,000 unclassifiable fragments of flint and other stone materials that also must have been brought to the cave by the Neanderthals, because they do not occur in the limestone in which it lies). Excavation in the deep layers has provided several retouched Mousterian implements and many fragments and spalls, as well as part of a what may be a bone artefact (maybe a "slicker" for preparing skins; in French a "lissage") – bone artefacts are very uncommon in Mousterian assemblages, though the piece in question is still undergoing detailed analysis and may not even be a tool at all. Many artefacts are on good quality flint (and even occasionally jasper), but there are also rock-crystal implements and others of marble, limestone, siliceous metamorphic dolomitic limestone, quartzite, and milky quartz. There are typically Mousterian stubby points or convergent scrapers, and flat triangular projectile points are common (of Levallois or "pseudo"-Levallois type).

At the foot of the breccia column, a test pit in the floor of the main chamber shows that it lies on a depth of at least a metre-and-a-half of rubble and soil disturbed by the miners who left behind a Winchester rifle cartridge in it! In 1997 we considerably extended the excavation here down into what seemed likely to be undisturbed sediments without, however, any palaeontological or palaeolithic remains so far. This work continued downwards and outwards in 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001 and 2002. We thought we had

been rewarded when we discovered a layer extraordinarily rich in microfaunal remains that we meticulously excavated until in 2001 we found iron nails and hooks in it, indicating that it was no more than a heap of skeletons of rock doves, bats and small mammals, which the miners who entered the cave in the nineteenth century must have gathered together and burnt, before covering them with soil.

In 2002 we excavated down a further 1.5 metres in the deepest sediments in this cutting until calcrete flowstone covering cobbles and limestone rock blocked further excavation. We found three Palaeolithic struck flint flakes, all heavily patinated, and infer from the nature of the sediment that reworking of it had taken place, perhaps during the last interglacial period when the sediment here was waterlogged because the water table was higher than today. The reworking, combined with mining operations, indicates that this part of the cave does not afford a sequence of undisturbed deep Pleistocene sediments and excavation here has been discontinued therefore. We now think that those sediments hint at a new interpretation of the sedimentary and geomorphological history of the cave. It is plausible that today's main chamber is the result of miners having broken through a rock wall from an open natural karstic rift, down which they had first entered the cave, into a nearby karstic rift that they found to be completely filled with Late Pleistocene breccia (most of which they threw outside). Only at a greater depth still, we now think, did these two hypothetical rifts communicate formerly via a horizontal phreatic karstic network of small passages in which mixing of waterlogged sediments took place whenever the water table rose high enough to inundate them; this network did not open on to the hillside and therefore could never have been entered by animals or humans during the Middle or early Late Pleistocene. Thus the lower cutting we had excavated beneath the open rift entered by miners is of no palaeoanthropological interest.

It is nevertheless possible that beneath our scaffolding tower, sediments deep to it, in what we now believe was once a parallel rift, could contain material that had fallen into it from above, including the three Palaeolithic flakes that probably became displaced laterally, in the aforementioned hypothetical horizontal network, for us to discover deeply below the rift whereby the miners had entered the cave system. We also suspect the rift containing the breccia column may have been full of water during the last interglacial period, opening at the surface as a well of water where our upper cutting now is. Five metres above the floor of the main chamber, where the column of breccia juts forward below the vertical wall that it presents higher up, we conducted excavation of a trial cutting in the lower part of sedimentary column, but the results were not particularly informative and we ceased work there.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

For a palaeoanthropologist, having *two* important sites only 100 kilometres apart is a dream come true! Quite apart from the potential of exciting new discoveries, the presence of 2 sites of sites of archaic European humans in contrasting environments opened up fascinating possibilities for comparing and contrasting how they utilised the different environments and the natural resources they offered, namely the upland environment of *Cueva Negra* and the milder coastal one, even in the ice-age, of *Sima de las Palomas*.

RESEARCH GOALS AND HOW WE ACHIEVE THEM

Our 2023 field research will involve excavation at both *Sima de las Palomas* and *Cueva Negra*.

Our main objective at *Sima de las Palomas* is to continue to excavate, from above downwards, the sediments containing faunal and Neanderthal human remains, and Middle Palaeolithic Mousterian artefacts, which form a 20-metre-high column of breccia against the rear wall of the natural shaft. This is a technically complicated task. 100 years ago, iron-miners entered the shaft and removed much of the sediment they found in it. They left behind a 20-metre-high column of breccia under a rocky overhang against the rear wall of the shaft.

In order to excavate the column of breccia scientifically, a 20-metre-high scaffolding tower with platforms was built inside the shaft in 1994, and excavations in 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2022 have already produced many important human fossils in early Late Pleistocene layers belonging to the early part of the last ice age and last interglacial period.

Every morning we all walk up a steep, narrow foot-path to the site. This takes about 15 minutes. Then, those helpers who excavate at the top of the column of breccia must also scramble up the hillside to the mouth of the shaft, which is covered by an iron grille. We open the grille and climb down a 3-metre ladder to the platform at the top of the tower. For safety, we wear stout boots because the hillside is steep and rocky and it is easy to sprain an ankle.

When we are excavating in our upper cutting here, we wear safety helmets or hard hats. We trowel the fossil soil using small plasterers' trowels (with diamond-shaped blades) and sometimes we use surgical scalpels and fine dental probes. If the brecciated sediment is heavily cemented, we may use small hand-picks. All finds we make are placed on a plastic tray. Scientific excavation is a painstaking and delicate business, and cannot be hurried. When important finds are made, their position must be carefully measured before they can be removed.

The rest of the excavated soil is put in a bucket which we pass to helpers on the platform of the tower. They lower it down on an aerial ropeway. At the foot of the tower, other helpers empty the soil into wheelbarrows which they wheel out of the cave along the horizontal mine tunnel. The soil is then put in bags and carried on the backs of other helpers down to our 4-wheel-drive vehicle.

This is then driven 3 kilometres to the cutting sheds of the limestone quarrying company which owns the hill of *Cabezo Gordo*. Here, other helpers empty the soil over metal geological sieves which have a fine mesh, and then hose these with a jet of water so that the soil dissolves and leaves stones, flints, bones and other finds which we put into bags. Important finds have been made this way, such as the milk teeth of Neanderthal children.

After lunch, we wash all of the finds in bowls of clean water, leave them to dry, and later sort and them and put them into bags with appropriate labels. These will later be the object of future research in the lab, well after the expedition is over.

The first hypothesis we tested (1994-2010) was that the upper part of the sediment did, indeed, contain remains of Neanderthal folk and associated Mousterian artefacts and food remains, from between 60 and 40,000 years ago. Latterly, (2011-2022) we have recognised that also there are deeper layers still, which we have now dated to between 130,000 and 90,000 years ago, and these also contain Mousterian artefacts and Neanderthal skeletal remains, as well as abundant animal bones. We yet do not know how far down in these layers the remains will continue to be present.

At **Cueva Negra** the immediate hypotheses we are testing are two-fold. First, we are exploring a widespread hypothesis (supported at other cave sites) that not only Neanderthals (*H. neanderthalensis*) but also their *pre-Neanderthal* forebears (*H. antecessor* and *H. heidelbergensis*) carried out more day-to-day activities in areas well-lit by daylight than in the darker innermost parts of caves, which receives support from our excavation of the important activity area from which the "Acheulian" hand-axe came. However, even more exciting is the 2011-2022 excavation of finds from a very deeply-lying deposit that demonstrate that fire was used at the site.

We walk up to the cave by a well-trodden footpath every morning. We carry out excavation at **Cueva Negra** by trowelling. Because the soil here is light in colour, unwanted foot-prints of boots and joggers or trainers show up in it all too prominently, so when we get to the cave in the morning we change out of such footwear and either slip on very light slippers or plimsolls with absolutely flat soles and no tread at all, or else we simply work in stockings feet or even barefoot. On the other hand, when we are wet-sieving the excavated sediment, we change footwear again, using gum-boots or rubber boots so that muddy sediment does not get on to our light slippers or plimsolls to be carried into the cave and onto the areas under excavation. Sometimes hand picks have to be used to break up the harder soil.

The only way we can wash our soil here, in order to separate finds from the hard soil that encrusts them, is by pumping water up to the cave from the *River Quípar* which is 40 metres vertically below it. We do this using a petrol-driven pump, to pump water up through hose-piping to two large petrol drums; the hose-piping often springs leaks because of the high pressure of the water inside it. Helpers spend quite a lot of time scrambling up and down the steep hillside, in order to start up and stop the pump, re-prime it, or fix leaks in the hose-pipe!

Two very large oil drums are stood beside the cave mouth at a level slightly above that of our metal geological sieves onto which we put soil, so that other hose-pipes from their base let water run down by gravity to the sieves over which we play the water. We use four nests, each of which consists of 3 interlocking, stainless-steel, geological sieves of reducing mesh-size down to 2 mm mesh, one above the other, with the finest sieve being that at the bottom of the nest. We pick out the finds and save them. After lunch we wash them, and after they are dry, we sort them and put them into labelled bags for future research.

APPLICATION OF RESULTS

WHO BENEFITS FROM OUR FINDINGS AND HOW?

Beneficiaries must include scientists and students concerned with *hominin evolution* and *palaeoanthropology* in the *later European Quaternary* because we are throwing new light on two matters: (a) the evolution of *Neanderthal Man*, and (b) the ways in which *Neanderthal Man* and his precursors, who are called *Homo heidelbergensis*, utilised natural resources in different ice-age environments. Our Cueva Negra and Sima de las Palomas researchers have therefore set up a new body:

MUPANTQUAT (MURCIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF PALAEOANTHROPOLOGY AND THE QUATERNARY)

(Asociación Murciana para el Estudio de la Paleontología y el Cuaternario)

<http://www.mupantquat.com>

Emails: <mupantquat@gmail.com> <info@mupantquat.com>

The **MUPANTQUAT** association was established and registered officially in June 2012 following advice from Murcia's Director-General for Cultural Heritage, in order both to oversee the research at our two sites of Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar and Sima de las Palomas del Cabezo Gordo, and to disseminate information to the general public about palaeoanthropology and the Quaternary. In 2013 an Agreement of Collaboration with Murcia University was signed. Subsequently we have signed agreements of collaboration with the town councils of Caravaca de la Cruz and Torre Pacheco (which has provided MUPANTQUAT with a laboratory in its secure police headquarters), the Murcian Regional Society of Geographers, the Murcian Culutral Association for Palaeontology, and the Society for Historical Studies of Quípar, Argos and Alharabe Valleys. It was chaired by Michael Walker from 2012 to 2022. Since 2022 the Chair of MUPANTQUAT is Murcia University Prehistory & Archaeology Department's Dr. María Haber Uriarte (formerly Vice-Chair). The Vice-Chair is currently Murcia University Prehistory & Archaeology Department's Dr. Ignacio Martín Lerma. Michael Walker co-ordinates Field School applications and co-directs excavations at Cueva Negra and Sima de las Palomas together with Dr. María Haber Uriarte and MUPANTQUAT Secretary archaeologist Mariano López Martínez. The committee of MUPANTQUAT has as its Treasurer biologist Antonio López Jiménez who undertakes research on the Cueva Negra rodent fossils. Other MUPANTQUAT committee members are Palaeolithic archaeologist and Murcia University lecturer in Prehistory Dr. Ignacio Martín Lerma who carries out microscopical use-wear analysis of stone artefacts; biologist Jon Ortega Rodríguez who undertakes Neanderthal skeletal restoration and reconstruction, biologists Azucena Avilés Fernández, Ángel Buitrago López, and Hugo Cano

Fernández, and archaeologists Norman Fernández Ruiz who conducts microstratigraphical analysis, Dr. Gonzalo Linares Matás who conducts taphonomical research, and Consuelo Caravaca Guerrero. Our association has several other university teachers and high-school teachers among its membership; they include Murcia University's palaeopalynologists Professor José Carrión, Dr. Santiago Fernández and Dr. Juan Ochando, and Cartagena Polytechnic University geologists and engineers Drs. Tomás Rodríguez Estrella, J. Ignacio Manteca Martínez and José María Cano, and palynologist and botanist Dr. Manuel Munuera. Several of these members give talks at our annual Field School or help with research on material from the excavations.

OUR PROJECT BENEFITS THE EDUCATIONAL COMMUNITY:

Our field and lab research has an educational impact that reaches out to schools and local institutions in the following ways:

EDUCATIONAL TALKS, GUIDED VISITS, etc.

Following an Open Day on March 1st 2020 at Sima de las Palomas the appearance and spread in Murcia of covid-19 caused us, alas, to suspend all further activities in Murcia during 2020 and 2021 (talks, visits, field school). Happily, an Open Day at Sima de las Palomas that we hosted by arrangement with Torre Pacheco town council was able to take place on March 6th, 2022. In September 2022 the Cueva Negra hand-axe and the Neanderthal skeletal remains of "Paloma and her child" from Sima de las Palomas were on display in 2022 in a superb exhibition with audiovisual accompaniment at Murcia's Archaeological Museum about *Neanderthals in Murcia* coordinated by our MUPANTQUAT Vice-Chair Dr. Ignacio Martín Lerma, whose excavation at the Murcian Cueva del Arco has contributed important Middle and Upper Palaeolithic artefacts to the exhibition (Spanish readers will like his entertaining paperback book *La Prehistoria en la mochila: Diario de viaje de un neandertal*, Madrid, Aguilar, 2022).

In 2019 MUPANTQUAT organised the well-attended lecture "*Neanderthals versus early modern humans: Similar diet, different mobility pattern*" given at Murcia's Real Casino on March 18th by Dr. Christoph Wissing, of the University of Tübingen's Biology Institute, about paleoenvironmental analysis based on studies of stable isotopes, during his visit to Murcia when he sampled herbivore teeth from Cueva Negra and Sima de las Palomas for stable-isotope analysis. As in previous years, MUPANTQUAT has held meetings at which members presented aspects of their research, and they also have given lectures invited by other organisations in the region, and presented posters about it at national and international scientific meetings. Photographs of Sima de las Palomas Neanderthals appeared in the article "Mingling with Neanderthals" written by the Oxford-based science journalist Michael Gross which was published in *Current Biology* volume 29, pages R105-R107, 2019.

In 2018 MUPANTQUAT organised the extremely well-attended public lecture "*Human history through ancient DNA genomics*" delivered on May 10th by Professor Ron Pinhasi of the University of Vienna at the elegant nineteenth-century *Real Casino* in the centre of Murcia which has a lecture theatre that holds over 100 people; Dr. Pinhasi is investigating the DNA of our Sima de las Palomas Neanderthals, which was the object of his visit. On September 30th and October 1st 2017 MUPANTQUAT organised an extremely well-attended seminar comprising 8 public lectures, with free admittance, in the 100-seat lecture room of the grand *Real Casino* in Murcia city centre, which were opened by the distinguished palaeontologist and pioneer of the hominid research at Atapuerca Dr. Emiliano Aguirre Enríquez, who turned 93 a few days after our meeting. It was an honour for us to receive him and his wife and we made him an Honorary Member of MUPANTQUAT. His death in 2021 has saddened us greatly. The theme of the meeting was "*The Evolution of the Human Brain and Cognitive Archaeology*". Four lectures were given by guest speakers Drs. Miguel Caparrós (Musée de l'Homme, Paris), Antoni Gomila (University of the Balearic Islands), Héctor Manrique (University of Saragossa) and Dr Blanca Samaniego (National Archaeological Museum at Madrid). Four lectures were given by Murcia University Drs. Trinidad Herrero, María Haber, Ignacio Martín and myself, Michael Walker. The seminar was made possible thanks to financial support from our local savings bank's beneficial foundation (Fundación CajaMurcia) and two businesses (Sakata España, S.L. and Incogás). On June 16th-18th 2017 MUPANTQUAT played a leading part in a seminar series entitled *Nuevas Perspectivas del Paleolítico del Sudeste Peninsular (New Perspectives on the Palaeolithic in the South-East of the Iberian Peninsula)* that was organised by the Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia (Spain's public Open University) and the city councils of Cartagena and Torre Pacheco which hosted the sessions that were attended by sixty university students and involved lectures by myself and my MUPANTQUAT colleagues Dr. María Haber, Dr. Ignacio Martín, Jon Ortega, Mariano López and Antonio López.

In 2015 MUPANTQUAT hosted a 3-day series of public lectures (with free attendance), on October 5th, 6th and 7th, on *Human Evolution in Spain (La Evolución Humana en España)* that our local savings bank's beneficial foundation (Fundación CajaMurcia) sponsored at its 300-seat lecture theatre in Murcia city centre, which had an astonishing attendance with people having to sit in the aisles! Our speakers were the palaeoneurologist Dr. Emiliano Bruner (of the Centro Nacional de la Investigación de la Evolución Humana at Burgos, i.e. Spain's National Centre for Human Evolution Research), the prehistorian Professor José Ramos (of Cadiz University) who excavates on both sides of the Gibraltar Strait at Palaeolithic sites, and the editor, author, and documentary film-maker about archaeology and human evolution, Manuel Pimentel, whose "*Arqueomanía*" production team has produced several series for Spanish national television and filmed us on several occasions, including at Cueva Negra in 2018 once again, so we presented him with a certificate designating "*Arqueomanía*" an Honorary Member of our association (this was at his request after we had proposed conferring honorary membership on him).

Our MUPANTQUAT members regularly give talks at high schools and organise guided excursions to our sites for students. Each year there is an Open Day when the general public can visit *Cueva Negra* during the period of our annual excavation as well as a public presentation of our findings at the Caravaca town hall, and a similar Open Day at *Sima de las Palomas* before the excavation campaign finishes with a similar public presentation at Torre Pacheco town hall. The Open Days draw large crowds, especially at *Sima de las Palomas* where over a thousand visitors have appeared on some occasions! In 2017 Torre Pacheco town

council asked us to organise an additional Open Day at *Sima de las Palomas*, which *MUPANTQUAT* hosted on March 26th and drew another large crowd of visitors, and the additional Spring open event was repeated in 2018, 2019, 2020, and March 6th, 2022.

MUPANTQUAT offers a reduced membership subscription to students and we encourage undergraduate participation in the field and lab. Our Field School helpers become members of the Association during the year when they participate and some of them have renewed their annual subscription. *MUPANTQUAT* has several university teachers and high-school teachers among its membership. Several of them give talks about their work or research to members and invited guests (often quite a lot, especially undergraduates!).

The educational community is very much interested in the common humanity of our species and of its origins. Human evolution, over 100 years after Darwin, is only now ceasing to be the Cinderella of the sciences, thanks to 30 years of unceasing palaeoanthropological research around the globe. An outstanding question -- which has been the topic of more than one recent book -- concerns the relation between our modern world-wide species of *Homo sapiens* and some earlier forms that were present not so long ago during the last ice age, such as *Neanderthal Man*. How alike or unlike were they? How related or unrelated are they? When and where did their common ancestors begin to go their separate ways? Did they behave differently, particularly with regard to utilization of local resources? Did the ancestors of modern people become skillful hunters who used foresight, while *Neanderthals* died out because they could not use foresight and were usually scavengers whose "hunting" amounted to no more than unplanned skirmishes with large game? These are intriguing questions the project is beginning to throw light on: for instance, our very recent Palaeolithic discoveries at *Cueva Negra* show that a million years ago even *pre-Neanderthals*, known to palaeoanthropologists as *Homo heidelbergensis*, could pick and choose, at will, between alternative core-reduction knapping sequences, depending on whether they wanted to make core-tools (such as hand-axes) or flake-tools (for subsequent edge-retouch) out of local stones.

PUBLICATION AND DISSEMINATION OF OUR FINDINGS:

Our Cueva Negra and Sima de las Palomas research team and **MUPANTQUAT** are involved in a several forms of dissemination of our work. Here are a some of them.

BOOKS PUBLISHED RECENTLY:

The People of Palomas: The Neanderthals from the Sima de las Palomas del Cabezo Gordo, Southeastern Spain. (Edited by Erik Trinkaus and Michael J. Walker; published by Texas A&M University Press, College Station, Texas, 2017, ISBN 9781623494803). This is a dense scientific 278-page book which makes for heavy reading; it is aimed at a specialised scientific readership, most chapters are coauthored by our research colleagues or *MUPANTQUAT* members. *Palaeolithic Pioneers. Behaviour, Abilities, and Activity of Early Homo in European Landscapes around the Western Mediterranean Basin ~1.3-0.05 Ma* by Michael J.Walker (Archaeopress, Oxford, 2017, 197 pages, ISBN 9781784916206. e-book ISBN 9781784916213). In this book you will find reference to Cueva Negra; the book offers an overview of the Early Palaeolithic in southwestern Europe. Cueva Negra is also mentioned in Chapter 4 of an even shorter book by Héctor M. Manrique and Michael J.Walker, *Early Evolution of Human Memory: Great Apes, Tool-Making and Cognition* (Palgrave-Macmillan/Springer-Nature, Cham, Switzerland, 2017, 150 pages, ISBN 9783319644462, e-book ISBN 9783319644479). Chapter 4 refers to Cueva Negra in relation the neurobiological underpinning of how human ancestors fashioned stone tools.

BOOK IN PREPARATION

In 2023 the English text of a semi-popular book about our three decades of work at Cueva Negra and Sima de las Palomas will be in press, we hope, with the archaeological publisher Archaeopress at Oxford with the title *Fire Down Below! Neanderthals Back From The Dead! Unlocking The Amazing Secrets Of Two Caves In Spain*. The Spanish edition of the book will go to press here at Murcia and the publisher here will be our own association *MUPANTQUAT*. Our book takes a "hands-on" approach, emphasising, with plentiful illustrations, *how* we have carried out the work, what methods and techniques we have employed in the laboratory and in the field, instead of placing the emphasis on the significance of our findings in an academic context of human evolution in the Old World during the Pleistocene. We hope the book will be attractive to high-school students and their teachers, and perhaps useful to first-year university undergraduates and college students, as well as being accessible to general readers interested in exactly how we know what we know about the distant past. We do not want to present another erudite weighty tome, only of interest to a specialised readership of scholars and academics (such learned volumes go unread as often as not and soon become remaindered as discount "bargain" offers).

VARIA

We both publish and present at meetings our scientific findings in both English and Spanish, and you will find a list of these below. Some are in scientific journals with high international impact; others are aimed at a wider readership, including undergraduates, including presentations at congresses of specialists or other meetings of particular interest-groups. Some of these are international or national, but others are local – thus, in August 2018 M.J.Walker was interviewed live on Spanish national television and commented on the new discovery of a Neanderthal tooth made during the 2018 fieldwork season at Sima de las Palomas. In July 2018 the documentary film producer Manuel Pimentel interviewed M.J.Walker at Cueva Negra; his *ARQUEOMANÍA* production team is well-known in Spain and has produced several series for Spanish national television and filmed our excavations on several occasions.

In January 2013 PBS-NOVA showed a TV documentary in English "*Decoding Neanderthals*" in which we took part in 2012 (try <http://video.pbs.org/video/2323758207>); and in 2011 ARTE-XENIUS showed a TV documentary "*Neanderthaler*" in German and French in which we took part in 2011. In 2010-11 we took part in the Spanish national television (TVE) documentary series

ARQUEOMANÍA and a new 4-part series, *ARQUEOMANÍA DOSSIERES* was shown in October 2013 in which we have taken part also. An hour-long film in Spanish was made in 2004 which features Sima de las Palomas del Cabezo Gordo, called "*Piedra sobre piedra*" ("*Stone upon stone*"), directed and produced by a Murcian, Roque Madrid, for his Madrid-based production company *CUARTOCRECIENTE*, and sold to the international channel of Spanish national television (TVE) whose HISPASAT satellite beams to a wide audience in Latin America (the film was shown over 10 times). In June 2011 Spanish national television (TVE "Tres-14") put out an hour-long programme ("*Lo que nos une a los neandertales*") of interviews at Barcelona University with each of the six speakers, M.J. Walker included, in the special seminar on Neanderthals in the Iberian Peninsula held as part of the XVII Congress of the Spanish Society for Physical Anthropology. Our sites have been the object of visits by radio and TV crews, and every year since 1994 broadcasts have been made by both public and private radio and TV stations: *BBC*, *RTVE*, *Onda-Cero*, *Ser*. In 2005 our excavation of Neanderthal leg and foot bones at Sima de las Palomas was covered on prime-time TV news by Spanish national television which in 2003 gave similar coverage to both attended the discovery of the *Cueva Negra* hand-axe and the excavation of a child's mandible at *Sima de las Palomas*. In December 2003 the popular radio-presenter Nieves Herrero had M.J. Walker on her two-hour chat show on Spanish national radio *RNE*. A gratifying event during our 2010 field season was a two-day visit by scientific journalist Rosa Tristán of Spain's second-largest circulation daily newspaper, *El Mundo*, which ran a full 3-page spread by her about both our sites in its Sunday science supplement, with the partly-cleaned juvenile Neanderthal skull and mandible we had excavated in 2008 at Sima de las Palomas occupying the whole cover page. It was the first time we have attracted so much public attention in the national press. In 2011 *El Mundo* featured our discovery of fire at *Cueva Negra*, and *La Verdad* gave a two-page coverage to a press conference in Murcia in honour of the visit here by Professor Erik Trinkaus. Another national publication about current scientific research of all kinds in Spain and whose web-site is greatly visited by scientists and high-school teachers here also put out an article in Spanish by us in October 2010 about both our sites which has received several thousand hits <http://www.aecientificos.es/escaparate/verpagina.cgi?idpagina=20630480&refcompra=>, or you can go to <http://www.aecientificos.es>, then click on Artículos de Interés Científico, the article on the web has several colour illustrations; the journal is called *Acta Científica y Tecnológica* and our article is now in print in two parts in its volumes 18 and 19 for 2011 (see our list of publications).

OUTREACH:

LECTURES, PRESENTATIONS AND EXHIBITIONS ABOUT OUR RESEARCH AT CUEVA NEGRA AND SIMA DE LAS PALOMAS

Please skip over this section because it is utterly boring and included only because some funding institutions and organisations that need to know about our outreach can access relevant data:

Over the years Michael Walker and other members of *MUPANTQUAT* have given many lectures and presentations about three decades of field research at *Cueva Negra* and *Sima de las Palomas*, and on scientific matters arising from it. Most of them are given on behalf of the research team and its many collaborators, who often are coauthors of publications on which they are based or that emanate from them. The covid-1 pandemic reduced or postponed events worldwide in 2020-2021, though some began to be revived in 2022.

In 2022 Michael Walker gave a "zoomed" on-line presentation at the 63rd Annual Meeting of the international *Hugo Obermaier Society for Quaternary Research and Archaeology of the Stone Age*, held at Berlin's Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, Museum für Vor- und Frühgeschichte, April 19-23, entitled "*Microstratigraphical sampling at the late Early Pleistocene Palaeolithic site of Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar (Caravaca de la Cruz, Murcia, SE Spain)*" by Norman Fernández Ruiz, Gonzalo J. Linares Matás, María Haber Uriarte, Mariano López Martínez and Michael J. Walker. On September 29th he presented a poster (which has relevance for the *Cueva Negra* hand-axe) at the 12th Annual Meeting, held at Tübingen, of the European Society for the Study of Human Evolution on "*Snakes and Ladders in palaeoanthropology: from cognitive surprise to skillfulness a million years ago*" by Héctor Marín Manrique, Karl J. Friston and Michael J. Walker.

Covid-19 prevented Michael Walker from showing 2 posters about *Cueva Negra* and 2 about *Sima de las Palomas* that had been prepared for presentation in April 2020 at the 61st Annual Meeting of the international *Hugo Obermaier Society for Quaternary Research and Archaeology of the Stone Age*, which was to have been held in 2020 at Brno in the Czech Republic but was cancelled owing to covid-19. It was re-scheduled as the 62nd Annual Meeting and held on-line during April 6th-8th 2021 from Brno's Moravian Museum, when the four posters, after revision, were presented, namely: M.J.Walker, M.Duval, R.Grün, M.Haber Uriarte, A.López Jiménez and M.López Martínez, "*New chronological constraints for the Lower Palaeolithic site of Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar (Caravaca de la Cruz, Murcia, Spain): preliminary ESR dating of the late Early Pleistocene fauna*"; G.Linares Matás, N.Fernández Ruiz, M.Haber Uriarte, M.López Martínez, A.López Jiménez and M.J.Walker, "*Sharing shelter: hyaenas and early humans in the late Early Pleistocene Palaeolithic site of Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar (Caravaca de la Cruz, Murcia, Spain)*"; M.J.Walker, M.Haber Uriarte, M.López Martínez, A.López Jiménez and J.Ortega Rodrigáñez, "*Neanderthal cranial remains and elements of the axial skeleton from the Sima de las Palomas del Cabezo Gordo (Torre Pacheco, Murcia, Spain)*"; and M.J.Walker, M.Haber Uriarte, M.López Martínez, A.López Jiménez and J.Ortega Rodrigáñez, "*Neanderthal post-cranial skeletal remains from the Sima de las Palomas del Cabezo Gordo (Torre Pacheco, Murcia, Spain)*".

In September 2021 Michael Walker gave two "zoomed" short talks with slides on topics related to *Cueva Negra* during the XIX Congress of the International Union of Prehistoric and Protohistoric Sciences that was run on-line from Meknès in Morocco because of the pandemic (they probably will be given again during our 2022 Field School), namely in the Lower Palaeolithic Commission session (*Lower palaeolithic across time and space: what we are talking about*) on Sept. 4th "*Snakes and ladders in the Lower and Middle Palaeolithic: from cognitive surprise to skill*", and in the Pyroarchaeology session (*Pyroarchaeology from hunter-gatherer contexts to sedentary and complex societies*) on Sept. 6th "*Before pyrotechnology: pyroepignosis in the Lower Palaeolithic*". Also in September 2021 Michael Walker gave an invited lecture in English about our two

sites, entitled “Neanderthals and their background: thirty years of research in Murcia,” during the 25th Calpe Congress “CALPE 21 Iberian Neanderthals”, held at the University of Gibraltar (this talk, updated, will be given during our 2023 Field School).

In October 2019 Michael Walker gave a lecture at Tübingen University about Cueva Negra and Sima de las Palomas, kindly invited by Professor Hervé Bocherens whose research team undertakes stable-isotope palaeoenvironmental research at the Tübingen University Geobiology Institute: the lecture was entitled: “*Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar at Caravaca de la Cruz and Sima de las Palomas del Cabezo Gordo at Torre Pacheco, Murcia, South-East Spain: Palaeolithic, palaeoanthropological, and palaeontological findings*”. In 2019 Michael Walker presented a poster about the geophysical dating of Cueva Negra at the 9th annual meeting held in September at Liège, Belgium, of the European Society for the Study of Human Evolution, and in June our Vice-President María Haber presented two posters at the 21st meeting of the Spanish Physical Anthropology Society held at the University of Granada.

In 2018 Michael Walker was involved in several presentations of our work at international or national scientific gatherings, occasionally as sole author, more often on behalf of several MUPANTQUAT coauthors. M.J.Walker gave a talk at 60th Annual Meeting, Tarragona, 3rd-7th of April, 2018, Hugo Obermaier Society for Quaternary Research and Archaeology of the Stone Age held at the Tarragona's Rovira i Virgili University (“*Neanderthal activities between ~130 ka and ~40 ka at Sima de las Palomas del Cabezo Gordo (Torre Pacheco, Murcia, Spain)*”) (1). On June 20th M.J.Walker gave the same talk in the Oxford University Institute of Archaeology Palaeolithic and Quaternary (PalQuat) Seminar Series. Just before that, M.J.Walker gave several presentations at the University of Paris Sorbonne Campus at the 18th UISPP World Congress, Paris, June 4-9 2018 – XVIII^e Congrès UISPP, Paris, 4-9 juin 2018 “*Exploring the World's Prehistory*”, namely, “*Chronological and behavioural discontinuities at the Neanderthal site of Sima de las Palomas del Cabezo Gordo (Torre Pacheco, Murcia, Spain)*” (2), “*Artifact or advantageous accident? The problem of combustion at the late Early Pleistocene site of Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar (Caravaca de la Cruz, Murcia, Spain)*” (3), “*Late Early Pleistocene age of the hand-axe and Palaeolithic assemblage at Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar (Caravaca de la Cruz, Murcia, Spain)*” (4), “*Raw-material variety and Palaeolithic variability ca. 0.8 Ma at Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar (Caravaca de la Cruz, Murcia, Spain)*” (5). On September 13th-15th 2018 two posters were presented at the 8th Annual Meeting of the European Society for the Study of Human Evolution ESHE held at the University of the Algarve, at Faro, Portugal, namely, “*The earliest European Acheulian: The significance of recent findings for human evolution in Europe*” (M.J.Walker) (6) and “*Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar (Caravaca de la Cruz, Murcia, Spain): Intrasite analysis of a late Early Pleistocene Palaeolithic palimpsest.*” (N.Fernández, M.Haber, M.López, M.J.Walker) (7); in October M.J.Walker gave an invited lecture on “*Nuevas perspectivas paleoantropológicas en la Región de Murcia: La Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar en Caravaca de la Cruz y la Sima de las Palomas del Cabezo Gordo en Torre Pacheco*” in the symposium *Jornadas de Prehistoria De los Primeros Pobladores al Ocaso Neandertal en la Península Ibérica* held at Jerez de la Frontera on October 5th-7th, 2018, organised by the Asociación de Amigos del Archivo de Jerez, subsequently revised and published in the book *Paleolítico, De los Primeros Pobladores al Ocaso Neandertal en la Península Ibérica* (M.A. Bernal & A.Santiago, Eds.; Córdoba, Editorial Almuzara, and Jerez de la Frontera, Asociación de Amigos del Archivo, 2021, pp. 231-253). (8).

- (1) M.J.Walker, M.Haber Uriarte, M.López Martínez, J.Ortega Rodríguez, A.López Jiménez, A.Avilés Fernández, C.I.Caravaca Guerrero, G.Linares Matás, H.Cano Fernández, N.Fernández Ruiz, J.García Torres, A.T.Buitrago, “Neanderthal activities between ~130 ka and ~40 ka at Sima de las Palomas del Cabezo Gordo (Torre Pacheco, Murcia, Spain)”. (60th Annual Meeting, Tarragona, 3rd-7th of April, 2018, Hugo Obermaier Society for Quaternary Research and Archaeology of the Stone Age, Hugo Obermaier-Gesellschaft für Erforschung des Eiszeitalters und der Steinzeit e.V.). In A. Maier, ed, *Neanderthal Behaviour and Ecology in the Mediterranean Area April 3-April 7, 2018, in Tarragona*, Hugo Obermaier-Gesellschaft für Erforschung des Eiszeitalters und der Steinzeit e.V., Institut für Ur- und Frühgeschichte der Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg, Erlangen, 2018, pp. 58-60 (ISBN 9783946387121).
- (2) M.López, M.J.Walker, M.Haber Uriarte. “Chronological and behavioural discontinuities at the Neanderthal site of Sima de las Palomas del Cabezo Gordo (Torre Pacheco, Murcia, Spain)”. (Session XVI-7 Is ‘Neanderthal behaviour’ a useful concept?) In: *Book of Abstracts, 18th UISPP World Congress, Paris, June 4-9 2018 – XVIII^e Congrès UISPP, Paris, 4-9 juin 2018 “Exploring the World's Prehistory”* (UISPP, Union des Sciences Préhistoriques et Protohistoriques, Paris, 2018), pp. 1333-1334. The presentation was signed by M.Walker, M.Haber Uriarte, M.López Martínez, J.Ortega Rodríguez, A.López Jiménez, C.I.Caravaca Guerrero, G.Linares Matás, H.Cano Fernández, Norman Fernández Ruiz, J.García Torres, A.T.Buitrago López.
- (3) M.J.Walker, “Artifact or advantageous accident? The problem of combustion at the late Early Pleistocene site of Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar (Caravaca de la Cruz, Murcia, Spain)”. (Session IV-4 Fire as an artefact: Advances in the study of Paleolithic combustion features) In: *Book of Abstracts, 18th UISPP World Congress, Paris, June 4-9 2018 – XVIII^e Congrès UISPP, Paris, 4-9 juin 2018 “Exploring the World's Prehistory”* (UISPP, Union des Sciences Préhistoriques et Protohistoriques, Paris, 2018), pp. 564-565.
- (4) M.J.Walker, A.López Jiménez, M.Haber Uriarte, M.López Martínez, “Late Early Pleistocene age of the hand-axe and Palaeolithic assemblage at Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar (Caravaca de la Cruz, Murcia, Spain)”. (Session XIV-1 First peopling of Europe) In: *Book of Abstracts, 18th UISPP World Congress, Paris, June 4-9 2018 – XVIII^e Congrès UISPP, Paris, 4-9 juin 2018 “Exploring the World's Prehistory”* (UISPP, Union des Sciences Préhistoriques et Protohistoriques, Paris, 2018), pp. 1012-1013.
- (5) M.J.Walker, I.Martin Lerma, W.Zack, M.Haber Uriarte, M.López Martínez, A.López Jiménez, “Raw-material variety and Palaeolithic variability ca. 0.8 Ma at Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar (Caravaca de la Cruz, Murcia, Spain)”. (Session XIV-5 From natural to cultural object: raw material-related human behaviors in the early technologies) In: *Book of Abstracts, 18th UISPP World Congress, Paris, June 4-9 2018 – XVIII^e Congrès UISPP, Paris, 4-9 juin 2018 “Exploring the World's Prehistory”* (UISPP, Union des Sciences Préhistoriques et Protohistoriques, Paris, 2018), pp. 1114-1115. The presentation was signed by M.J.Walker, M.López Martínez, M.Haber Uriarte, A.López Jiménez, I.Martin Lerma, A.Avilés Fernández, J.Ortega Rodríguez, A.T.Buitrago López, N.Fernández Ruiz, G.Linares Matás, H.Cano Fernández, J.García Torres, C.I.Caravaca Guerrero, W.Zack, T.Rodríguez Estrella.
- (6) M.J.Walker, “The earliest European Acheulian: The significance of recent findings for human evolution in Europe.” (8th Annual Meeting of the European Society for the Study of Human Evolution ESHE Faro, Portugal, 13-15 September 2018) *Proceedings of the European Society for the Study of Human Evolution 7 (PESHE 7)* 2018, p.198. (ISSN 21950776).
- (7) N.Fernández, M.Haber, M.López, M.J.Walker, “Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar (Caravaca de la Cruz, Murcia, Spain): Intrasite analysis of a late Early Pleistocene Palaeolithic palimpsest.” (8th Annual Meeting of the European Society for the Study of Human Evolution ESHE Faro, Portugal, 13-15 September 2018) *Proceedings of the European Society for the Study of Human Evolution 7 (PESHE 7)* 2018, p. 63. (ISSN 21950776).
- (8) M.J.Walker, “Nuevas perspectivas paleoantropológicas en la Región de Murcia: La Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar en Caravaca de la Cruz y la Sima de las Palomas del Cabezo Gordo en Torre Pacheco”. In: Bernal, M.A., Santiago, A., Eds., *Paleolítico, De los Primeros Pobladores al Ocaso Neandertal en la Península Ibérica* (Córdoba, Editorial Almuzara, and Jerez de la Frontera, Asociación de Amigos del Archivo, 2021, pp. 231-253). This was an invited lecture given at the meeting held at Jerez de la Frontera on October 5th-7th 2018 organised by the Asociación de Amigos del Archivo de Jerez entitled *Jornadas de Prehistoria, De los Primeros Pobladores al Ocaso Neandertal en la Península Ibérica*.

In September 2017 M.J.Walker attended the 7th Annual Meeting at Leiden in Holland of the European Society for the Study of Human Evolution and presented two posters (one is on p. 20 above). Other presentations he gave in 2017 were “La evolución del cerebro en Homo desde hace dos millones de años,” in MUPANTQUAT seminar *Evolución del Cerebro Humana y la*

Arqueología Cognitiva, Real Casino de Murcia, Murcia, Sept. 30-Oct. 1, 2017 (publication in preparation); June 17, "Nuevas perspectivas sobre la Paleontología en la Región de Murcia: La Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar (Caravaca de la Cruz) y la Sima de las Palomas del Cabezo Gordo (Torre Pacheco)," in seminar series *Nuevas Perspectivas del Paleolítico del Sudeste Peninsular*, Cartagena and Torre Pacheco, June 16-18 2017, organised by Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia; Excm^o.Ayt^o. de Torre Pacheco; and Excm^o.Ayt^o. de Cartagena; and March 13, "Evolución y desarrollo del Cerebro Humano," in *XIV Conmemoración de la Semana del Cerebro en Murcia 2017*, Real Academia de Medicina de Murcia, March 13-17, 2017.

In 2016 M.J.Walker presented a paper on behalf our research team in the Human Evolution section of the Intercongress of the International Union of Anthropological and Ethnographical Sciences, held at Dubrovnik (Croatia) during May 4-6 2016, which was published in *Human Evolution* vol. 31, pp. 1-67, 2016. It was gratifying that archivist, archaeologist and photographer Daniel Borosa from Zagreb, a former Sima de las Palomas team member, joined the presenter Michael Walker at Dubrovnik. The talk was entitled: "A view from a cave: *Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar (Caravaca de la Cruz, Murcia, southeastern Spain). Reflections on fire, technological diversity, environmental exploitation, and palaeoanthropological approaches*" and you can read the full text in *Human Evolution* vol. 31, pp. 1-67. In 2016 M.J.Walker participated as coauthor, along with other MUPANTQUAT members, in two posters that were presented by research colleagues from France and Germany, respectively, at the 6th Annual Meeting, held at Alcalá de Henares near Madrid, of the European Society for the Study of Human Evolution. M.J.Walker was unable to attend because our ESHE meeting clashed with dates on which he had undertaken to give three talks at an international summer school workshop. This was organised by our friend Dr Héctor Manrique, an evolutionary psychologist, who in both 2015 and 2016 gave our Field School talks on his research into how gorillas and chimpanzees use tools. His work was carried out during his PhD research at the celebrated Max-Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology at Leipzig in Germany. Subsequently he taught at the University of the Balearic Islands, and in 2015 took up a teaching position in evolutionary psychology at Saragossa University and was assigned to its Teruel campus. This was where the 2016 summer school workshop was held on "The journey of the evolving mind: *Brain and behavioural evolution in great apes and extinct human ancestors*". M.J.Walker gave 3 talks: "Stone tools and the origins and evolution of early human technology: affordances, constraints, memory", "Observational learning and evolution of the human brain; aspects of neurophysiology and neuroanatomy; mirror neurone circuitry and shared attention; the relation between working memory and long-term procedural memory; prospective memory and multitasking", and "On wishful thinking: Did Palaeolithic humans customarily engage in symbolic behaviour before 40,000 years ago?"

In 2015 M.J.Walker gave an invited talk at Merton College of Oxford University to the 5th *Unravelling the Palaeolithic* conference; his talk was "Drawing neuroscience and palaeoanthropology together. *Palaeoneurophysiology and cognitive evolution in Pleistocene Homo*". A full version has just been published in English under the title "Drawing neuroscience and palaeoanthropology together. *Palaeo-neurophysiology and cognitive evolution in Early Pleistocene Homo: Biological and palaeoanthropological perspectives on the role of "haptic" working memory in the evolution of procedural long-term memory*", pp. 177-193 in: Ribot F. (Ed.), *Homenaje al Dr. José Gibert Clols. Una vida dedicada a la ciencia y a los primeros europeos* (Publicaciones de la Diputación de Granada, Granada, Spain). At the Oxford *Unravelling the Palaeolithic* conference M.J.Walker also showed two posters that he had put up two weeks before at the 57th Annual Meeting, held at Heidenheim in Germany, of the Hugo Obermaier Society for Quaternary Research and Archaeology of the Stone Age to which he belongs. M.J.Walker returned to Oxford in October 2015 because our young MUPANTQUAT member Gonzalo Linates Matás who was reading Archaeology there chaired the Oxford University Archaeological Society and invited M.J.Walker to address it at the Oxford University Institute of Archaeology on "The earliest Palaeolithic fire in Europe: *Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar*".

M.J.Walker had been busy in 2014, having been invited to present "Stone procurement and transport at the late Early Pleistocene site of *Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar (Murcia, SE Spain)*" at the 55th Annual Meeting of the Hugo Obermaier Society for Quaternary Research and Archaeology of the Stone Age held in April at the Braunschweig Landesmuseum in Germany. In early June M.J.Walker was Benjamin Meaker Visiting Professor at Bristol University, thanks to a joint research project with Bristol's Professor of Archaeology Kate Robson-Brown, and gave both a public lecture "Archaeological excavations at *Sima de las Palomas del Cabezo Gordo (Murcia, SE Spain) and palaeoanthropological research into its 50,000 year-old Neanderthal remains*" and a research seminar on "Cognitive evolution in Pleistocene Homo: *Biological and palaeoanthropological perspectives on the role of "haptic" working memory in the evolution of long-term procedural memory*". During his UK visit he was invited to talk about our Murcian research at Archaeology Departments at other English universities and lectured on "Pre-Neanderthals and Neanderthals: 25 years of research at *Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar and Sima de las Palomas del Cabezo Gordo (Murcia, Spain)*" at the universities of Reading, York, University College London and Oxford. He also gave a public talk at Torre Pacheco about the Sima de las Palomas Neanderthals

After the 2014 excavation campaign M.J.Walker was on the road once more. Early September saw Spain host the XVII Congress of the International Union of Prehistoric and Protohistoric Sciences (held in a different country every five years). It was held at Burgos University with visits to the nearby Atapuerca sites for the 1,800 Congress participants. M.J.Walker gave two invited talks, namely, "Hominin activities ~0.8 Ma at *Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar (Caravaca, Murcia, SE Spain): Fire, technological diversity, environmental exploitation*" and "Evidence of fire at the late Early Pleistocene Palaeolithic and hominin site of *Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar (Caravaca, Murcia, SE Spain)*" and also presented the poster "Neanderthal attention to the dead at *Sima de las Palomas del Cabezo Gordo (Murcia, Spain)*". Later that month, at Florence University in Italy, he presented the talk "Evidence of fire etc..." at 4th Annual Meeting of the European Society for the Study of Human Evolution. In October he was in Italy again, and spoke on "Palaeoneurophysiology and cognitive evolution in Pleistocene Homo: *Biological and palaeoanthropological perspectives on the role of "haptic" working memory in the evolution of long-term procedural memory*" at the meeting *What Made Us Human* held at the Fondazione Ettore Majorana e Centro di Cultura Scientifica, at Erice in Sicily. While there he was invited to give a version of that talk in November as a seminar to the Journal Club of the Psychology Faculty at the University of the Balearic Islands at Palma on Majorca.

In April 2013 M.J.Walker gave an invited talk about "The *Sima de las Palomas Neanderthals*" at the 55th Annual Meeting of the Hugo Obermaier Society for Quaternary Research and Archaeology of the Stone Age, held at Vienna's imposing Natural History Museum, and in April 2012 he addressed the 54th Annual Meeting on "Fossil Man in SE Spain" at the Toulouse Natural

History Museum. In June 2011 he presented a paper about both our sites in a monographic seminar on *Neanderthals in the Iberian Peninsula* during the XVII Congress of the Spanish Physical Anthropological Society held at Barcelona University, and in November he presented a paper on each of our sites during a week-long series of lectures on regional archaeology at Murcia's Archaeological Museum. In September 2010 he gave a lecture about Cueva Negra during the 16th Annual Meeting of the European Association of Archaeologists at the Hague in a Session on Palaeolithic Chronologies which he co-organised with Oxford's Professor Tom Higham. In September 2009 M.J.Walker gave a lecture about Sima de las Palomas during the 15th Annual Meeting of the European Association of Archaeologists at Riva del Garda, Italy, in a Session on the Middle and Upper Palaeolithic. In 2009 he also gave lectures about both our sites at the Society of Antiquaries of London of which he is a Fellow, and also at meetings in Spain, namely, at a symposium organised at Murcia by a leading bank here in honour of Charles Darwin, as well as at the Universidad Miguel Hernández at Elche, at the Cieza Museum in Murcia, and a lecture about Human Evolution at Murcia's Science and Water Resources Museum. In 2008 he gave public lectures about the sites at the Murcian Archaeological Museum in a series of lectures organised in association with an exhibition of the region's palaeontology, and another at a symposium at Orce, Granada, in honour of the late Dr Josep Gibert.

Several years ago we successfully undertook a very different kind of public enterprise, which was the *TRAVELLING PUBLIC EXHIBITION about our sites and research at them, called: "Archaic Europeans and Neanderthals: Project HOMO, Hominins, Technology and Environment in the Middle and early Upper Pleistocene"* which was all about our work at Cueva Negra and Sima de las Palomas, and travelled around the European Union, because it won funding from the European Commission's "Culture 2000" Programme (2000-0820CLTCA1A) so that the Commission paid for half (€150,000 euros) of its cost, the other half coming from the participating institutions that have agreed to display it, namely Murcia's Museo de la Ciencia y del Agua (Science and Water Resources Museum) where it was open to the public in 2002 for three months, the Austrian national Museum of Natural History at Vienna where the exhibition was unveiled for the first time in October 2001, the "Dr.M.Crusafont" Palaeontological Museum of Barcelona at Sabadell which displayed it during 2002, the Oxford University Museum of Natural History which showed it from September to Christmas 2002, and, near to our Sima de las Palomas site in Murcia, at the old Town Hall of Torre Pacheco where it was in Spring of 2003. After that it went to Logroño in northern Spain, and in October of 2003 it opened at the splendid Science Museum at San Sebastián in northern Spain's Basque Country for a six-month showing. Later in 2004 it was shown in the spacious foyer of Murcia University Library for three months, after which it visited a town in Murcia called Abarán. Currently the updated exhibition is displayed near to Sima de las Palomas in the town of Torre Pacheco at its historic Casa Consistorial. This exhibition has given research at our two sites great publicity around Europe – it received hundreds of visits from groups of high school students in all the centres where it was on display. I am not sure but perhaps you may be able still to open up a slot on the web about it at <http://www.contraplano.es/homo>

In April 2007 M.J.Walker gave a talk about our research at Sima de las Palomas and Cueva Negra at the invitation of Professor Svante Paäbo, the internationally renowned geneticist and 2022 Nobel Prize Winner for Medicine and Physiology, who conducts research into both mitochondrial and nuclear DNA from Neanderthal bones, who is the Director of the ultra-modern, seven-storey-high, Max-Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology at Leipzig in Germany, and whom M.J.Walker had first got to know at a meeting in Madrid back in 1993. The talk was well received and Svante Paäbo made useful suggestions about how we might best excavate the *Sima de las Palomas* Neanderthal skeletal remains, wearing face-masks and surgical gloves, and putting the fossils into sterile containers. This we did in summer 2007 and in the autumn Svante's PhD student, Oxford University Biology graduate (now Dr) Adrian Briggs, came to Murcia and we helped him as he extracted samples from our newly-excavated Neanderthal bones in a sterile operating theatre in Murcia University's Veterinary Science Faculty. Later on, he reported back from Leipzig that our excavation technique had been so good that almost no modern human DNA contamination could be detected, though so far, alas, neither has any Neanderthal DNA been identified – possibly because too few samples were taken by him and they may have been too small anyway (less than 200 milligrams each) given the high ambient temperature at *Sima de las Palomas* which may predispose to break up of the nucleotide fragments of DNA.

In September 2006 M.J.Walker gave a presentation entitled "The Demise of the Mysterians" based on our Cueva Negra research, in Colloquium 13 ("The Earliest Inhabitants of Europe") at the XV Congress of the International Union of Prehistoric and Protohistoric Sciences at Lisbon. In November 2005 he gave a lecture about our work at Cueva Negra and Sima de las Palomas at Oxford University's Institute of Archaeology in its Quaternary Seminar Series. In February 2006 he gave lectures on that work at Barcelona University and at the Jaime I University at Castellón. He gave an invited lecture about our research at Oxford University's Institute of Archaeology in November 2005, a public lecture at the San Sebastián Science Museum in October 2003, and in February 2002 another at Murcia's Science and Water Resources Museum. In 2001 he gave several public lectures at places which included Oxford University, the XIV International Congress of Prehistoric and Protohistoric Sciences which was held at Liège in Belgium, and at Austria's national Natural History Museum in Vienna. In November 2000, he gave a major lecture about human evolution during the Middle and earlier Upper Pleistocene, at an international scientific meeting in Valencia organised by the Spanish governmental institution known as the Menéndez Pelayo International University. Other participants included Professor Bernard Wood of the Washington University and Professor Günter Bräuer of Hamburg University, as well as Mexican and Spanish scientists, including our late lamented friend who was Emeritus Professor Emiliano Aguirre.

In 2000 national governmental recognition of our field research, by granting us R&D Project PB98-045, assisted us to acquire new international contacts and collaboration, as well as maintaining pre-existing ones, and most particularly favoured our obtaining the royal patronage of His Majesty King Juan Carlos I of Spain who graciously accepted Honorary Chairmanship for the (December 6-19, 2000) *International Colloquium and Workshop "The Iberian Peninsula and Human Evolution", A Symposium in Honour of Professor Phillip V. Tobias, F.R.S.*" which M.J.Walker organised at Murcia. Our late lamented friend, Professor Tobias, who was 75 in 2000, flew to Murcia from South Africa to take part, where he was Emeritus Professor of the Witwatersrand University at Johannesburg and directed its Palaeoanthropology Research Group. He was a frequent visitor to Spain. He gave a splendid address on "The role of water in the extra-African dispersal of humanity, with special reference to the peopling of the Iberian Peninsula." The programme included official visits to our sites of the Sima de las Palomas of Cabezo Gordo and Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar, on which M.J.Walker also gave an address entitled "Neanderthal Man in Murcia: Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar and Sima de las Palomas del Cabezo Gordo." Other participants gave addresses as follows. Professor

Geoffrey A. Clark of the University of Arizona State University gave an address on “Modern human origins research: putting Iberia in a global context.” Professor Derek A. Roe of Oxford University gave an address on “The Iberian Peninsula in the Palaeolithic: an outsider’s view.” The orthodontal surgeon and dental anthropologist Dr Vincent A. Lombardi, from Pittsburgh, gave an address on “Dental anthropology and Neanderthal Man.” Drs Joao Zilhao and Cidalia Duarte of the Portuguese government’s Archaeological Institute gave an address on “The Lagar Velho child: burial anatomy and implications for modern human origins in Iberia.” Professor Camilo José Cela Conde of the University of the Balearic Islands, a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, gave an address on “Just how stupid was *Homo habilis*? Problems over a suitable taxonomy of Pliocene hominins.” Dr José Gibert Clols of the “Dr M. Crusafont” Palaeontological Institute of Barcelona gave an address on “Cueva Victoria at Llano del Beal, Cartagena, Murcia”. Professor Enrique García Olivares of Granada University gave an address on “Molecular palaeontology: The study of biomolecules in fossils.” Professor Daniel Turbón of Barcelona University gave an address on “Ancient DNA in the Iberian Peninsula”. Professor José Enrique Egocheaga of Oviedo University gave an address on “Preliminary results of palaeoanthropological research into the Cueva de El Sidrón Neanderthals.” Professor Ignacio Martínez of Madrid’s Complutensian University gave an address on “The evolution of mind” on behalf of himself and Professor Juan Luis Arsuaga (who at the last minute was unable to attend because of another pressing commitment).

In 1997 M.J.Walker gave invited lectures to the Spanish National Archaeological Congress, at Harvard’s Peabody Museum, and at University College London’s Institute of Archaeology, while in 1996 he gave a lectures at Oxford University’s “Baden-Powell” Quaternary Research Centre, at the *International Symposium in Honour of Professor Phillip Tobias FRS* held at the University of the Balearic Islands at Palma de Mallorca, and at the Cartagena Cultural Centre at Cartagena, as well as during a week-long Murcia University Summer School to 40 international students on *Human Evolution and Palaeoanthropology* in September at which other leading Spanish scientists took part (Professors Emiliano Aguirre, Daniel Turbón, José Gibert and José Camilo Cela Conde) as well as other junior researchers (Drs Francesc Ribot and Miguel Martínez Andreu, Ms Florentina Sánchez, and Mr. José Isaac Serrano). In 1995 M.J.Walker gave two public lectures at the invitation of the municipal authorities of Torre Pacheco and another lecture and an exhibition at the invitation of those of Caravaca. He also gave invited scientific lectures at the Murcian Regional Archaeological Week (two lectures and an exhibition), at the Autonomous University of Barcelona (a lecture), at Barcelona University (a lecture), and at the *International Conference on Human Palaeontology* at Orce (two lectures and an exhibition, and he also guided an excursion to *Sima de las Palomas*). He also organised an exhibition at Murcia University’s “Biology Week” and a guided excursion to *Sima de las Palomas* for Murcia University’s Summer School on “Archaeology of Death”. In 1994 he gave several lectures on the two sites in England during his period as Oxford University Visiting Senior Research Fellow in Archaeology (3 in Oxford, one at the Natural History Museum in London, another at London University and yet another at Liverpool University. In most years since 1991, M.J.Walker, María Haber or Mariano López (codirectors of our Field School and excavations) have addressed the Murcia regional government’s annual symposium held at Murcia at which archaeological field research during the previous twelve months is presented in public.

SOME PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS ABOUT OUR SITES AND RELEVANT RESEARCH:

Since 2005 very important developments in research at both our sites have led to such significant changes in the way we understand them that most articles with publication dates earlier than 2008 are so out-of-date as to be now misleading in many respects (they can be found in M.J.Walker’s C.V. at the end of *BRIEFING YOU*); they have been wholly superseded by later publications of which the following are the main ones that we recommend (pdfs of many of these are available on request to us):

- 2022 .Bermejo-Fenoll, A.Panchón-Ruiz & M.J.Walker, “Neanderthal, Sapiens and chimpanzee mandibles: a comparative study in relation to articulated speech,” *Archaeological and Anthropological Sciences* 14:116, 2022, <https://doi.org/10.1107/s12520-22-01575-s>. The article is based on research on the Sima de las Palomas Neanderthal mandibles.
- 2022 Illustrated lecture by “zoom” at the 63rd Annual Meeting of the international *Hugo Obermaier Society for Quaternary Research and Archaeology of the Stone Age*, held at Berlin’s Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, Museum für Vor- und Frühgeschichte, April 19-23, entitled “*Microstratigraphical sampling at the late Early Pleistocene Palaeolithic site of Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar (Caravaca de la Cruz, Murcia, SE Spain)*” by Norman Fernández Ruiz, Gonzalo J. Linares Matás, María Haber Uriarte, Mariano López Martínez and Michael J. Walker.
- 2022 Poster presented on September 29th (which has relevance for the Cueva Negra hand-axe) at the 12th Annual Meeting, held at Tübingen, of the European Society for the Study of Human Evolution on “*Snakes and Ladders*” in *palaeoanthropology: from cognitive surprise to skillfulness a million years ago*” by Héctor Marín Manrique, Karl J. Friston and Michael J. Walker.
- 2022 M.J.Walker, M.Haber Uriarte, M.López Martínez, I.Martín Lerma, “La Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar en La Encarnación de Caravaca Cruz.” In: F.Brotans Yagüe, Coord., *Caravaca inédita. Un viaje de la prehistoria hasta nuestros días*. Caravaca de la Cruz, Ediciones Gollarin, pp. 79-95
- 2021 Illustrated lectures relating to Cueva Negra given during the XIX Congress of the International Union of Prehistoric and Protohistoric Sciences, held on-line from Meknès in Morocco (on account of covid-19), in the session on Sept. 4th of the Palaeolithic Commission (*Lower palaeolithic across time and space: what we are talking about*), M.J.Walker “*Snakes and ladders*” in the *Lower and Middle Palaeolithic: from cognitive surprise to “skill”*”, and on Sept. 6th in the Pyroarchaeology session (*Pyroarchaeology from hunter-gatherer contexts to sedentary and complex societies*), M.J.Walker “*Before pyrotechnology: pyroepignosis in the Lower Palaeolithic*”.
- 2021 Illustrated lecture about Cueva Negra and Sima de las Palomas, “*Neanderthals and their background: thirty years of research in Murcia*”, given at the University of Gibraltar on Sept. 24th during the “*25th Calpe Congress CALPE 21 Iberian Neanderthals*”.
- 2021 Exhibited: 4 posters at the 62nd Annual Meeting of the *Hugo Obermaier Society for Quaternary Research and Archaeology of the Stone Age*, held on-line during April 6th-8th 2021 at Brno’s Moravian Museum where on account of covid-19 the meeting was postponed from 2020 when the posters (suitably revised for 2021) would otherwise have been presented:
 - G.Linares-Matás, N.Fernández, M.Haber, M.López, M.J.Walker, “Sharing shelter: hyaenas and hominins in the upper levels (2c-2f) of the late Early Pleistocene site of Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar (Caravaca de la Cruz, Spain)”
 - M.J.Walker, M.Duval, R.Grün, M.Haber Uriarte, A.López Jiménez, M.López Martínez, “New chronological constraints for the Lower Palaeolithic site of Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar (Caravaca de la Cruz, Murcia, Spain): preliminary ESR dating of the late Early Pleistocene fauna”
 - M.J.Walker, M.Haber Uriarte, M.López Martínez, A.López Jiménez, J.Ortega Rodríguez, “Neanderthal cranial remains and elements of the axial skeleton from the Sima de las Palomas del Cabezo Gordo (Torre Pacheco, Murcia, Spain)”
 - M.J.Walker, M.Haber Uriarte, M.López Martínez, A.López Jiménez, J.Ortega Rodríguez, “Neanderthal post-cranial skeletal remains from the Sima de las Palomas del Cabezo Gordo (Torre Pacheco, Murcia, Spain)”

- 2021 G.J.Linares Matás, N.Fernández Ruiz, M.Haber Uriarte, M.López Martínez, M.J.Walker: "Hyaenas and early humans in the latest Early Pleistocene of South-Western Europe" *Scientific Reports* 11:24036 (ISSN 2045-2322) :<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-021-03547-7>.
- 2021 M.J.Walker, "Nuevas perspectivas paleoantropológicas en la Región de Murcia: La Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar en Caravaca de la Cruz y la Sima de las Palomas del Cabezo Gordo en Torre Pacheco". In: Bernal, M.A., Santiago, A., Eds., *Paleolítico, De los Primeros Pobladores al Ocaso Neandertal en la Península Ibérica* (Córdoba, Editorial Almuzara, and Jerez de la Frontera, Asociación de Amigos del Archivo, 2021, pp. 231-253, ISBN 9788418709456). This is a revised version of an invited lecture given at the meeting held at Jerez de la Frontera on October 5th-7th 2018 organised by the Asociación de Amigos del Archivo de Jerez entitled *Jornadas de Prehistoria, De los Primeros Pobladores al Ocaso Neandertal en la Península Ibérica*.
- 2021 J.A.Fellows Yates, I.M.Velsko, F.Aron, C.Posth, C.A.Hofman, R.M.Austin, C.E.Parker, A.E.Mann, K.Nägel, K.W.Arthur, J.W.Arthur, C.C.Bauer, I.Crèvecoeur, C.Cupillard, M.C.Curtis, L.Dalé, M.Díaz-Zorita Bonilla, J.C.Díez Fernández-Lomana, D.G.Drucker, E.Escribano Escrivá, M.Francken, V.E.Gibbon, M.R.González Morales, A.Grande Mateu, K.Harvati, A.G.Henry, L.Humphrey, M.Menéndez, D.Mihailovic, M.Peresani, S.Rodríguez Moroder, M.Roksandic, H.Rougier, S.Sázelová, J.T.Stock, L.G.Straus, J.Svoboda, B.Teßmann, M.J.Walker, R.C.Power, C.M.Lewis, K.Sankaranarayan, K.Guschanski, R.W.Wrangham, F.E.Dewhurst, D.C.Salazar-García, J.Krause, A.Herbig, C.Warinner. "The evolution and changing ecology of the African hominid oral microbiome." *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences USA*, 118 (20), e2021655118. (ISSN 1091-6490). (N.B. To find a reference to the Sima de las Palomas teeth that contributed to this article, because the sites are not named in it, you have to go on-line to the link to the article's Supplementary Information: <https://www.pnas.org/lookup/suppl/doi:10.1073/pnas.2021655118/-DCSupplemental>).
- 2020 M.J.Walker, M.Haber Uriarte, A.López Jiménez, M.López Martínez, I.Martín Lerma, J.van der Made, M.Duval, R.Grün, "Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar: a dated Late Early Pleistocene Palaeolithic site in Southeastern Spain." *Journal of Paleolithic Archaeology* 3 (4), 816-855, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s41982-020-00062-5> (ISSN:2520-8217).
- 2020 A.López Jiménez, M. Haber Uriarte, M. López Martínez, M.J.Walker, "Small-mammal indicators of biochronology at Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar (Caravaca de la Cruz, Murcia, SE Spain)". *Historical Biology* 32: 18-33. doi: 10.1080/08912963.2018.1462804 (ISSN: 08912963).
- 2019 J.S.Carrión, M.J.Walker, "Background to Neanderthal presence in Western Mediterranean Europe." *Quaternary Science Reviews* 217: 7-44 (ISSN: 0277-3791). (Refers to Cueva Negra.)
- 2019 J.S.Carrión, S.Fernández, J.M.Jiménez-Arenas, M.Munuera, J.Ochando, G.Amorós, M.Ponce de León, C.Zollikofer, I.Martín-Lerma, I.Toro-Moyano, I.Hajdas, M.J.Walker, The sequence at Carihuela Cave and its potential for research into Neanderthal ecology and the Mousterian in southern Spain. *Quaternary Science Reviews* 217, 194-216 (ISSN: 0277-3791). (pages 208-210 deal with Sima de las Palomas)
- 2019 M.J.Walker, M.Duval, R.Grün, M.Haber-Urriarte, A.López-Jiménez, M.López-Martínez, "New chronological constraints for the Lower Palaeolithic site of Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar, Caravaca de la Cruz, Murcia, Spain: Preliminary ESR dating of the late Early Pleistocene fauna." *Proceedings of the European Society for the Study of Human Evolution 8 (PESHE 8)* p. 197 (ISSN 21950776).
- 2018 R.C.Power, D.C.Salazar-García, D.C., M.Rubini, A.Darlas, K.Harvati, M.Walker, J-J.Hublin, A.G.Henry, "Dental calculus indicates widespread plant use within the stable Neanderthal dietary niche." *Journal of Human Evolution* 119, 27-41 (ISSN 0047-2484).
- 2017 E.Trinkaus, M.J.Walker, Eds., *The People of Palomas. The Neanderthals from the Sima de las Palomas del Cabezo Gordo, Southeastern Spain*. Texas A&M University Press, College Station, Texas, USA (ISBN 9781623494803).
- 2017 M.J. Walker, *Palaeolithic Pioneers, Behaviour, Abilities, and Activity of Early Homo in European Landscapes around the Western Mediterranean Basin ~1.3-0.05 Ma*. Archaeopress, Oxford, UK. (ISBN 9781784916206. e-book ISBN 9781784916213).
- 2017 H.M. Manrique, M.J.Walker, *Early Evolution of Human Memory. Great Apes, Tool-making, and Cognition*. "Palgrave Pivot", Palgrave Macmillan - Springer Nature, New York (ISBN 9783319644462, e-book ISBN 9783319644479).
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FIELD TRAINING

Topics covered by me in informal lectures, on-site briefings, and guided excursions to helpers and staff assistants include:

- *** excavation methodology and practice
- *** treatment and classification of finds
- *** fundamentals of hominin and human evolution
- *** Quaternary landscapes
- *** Palaeolithic archaeology and stone tools
- *** *Sima de las Palomas* and *Cueva Negra* in their context
- *** flora and fauna of the ice age
- *** field excursions to other Quaternary or archaeological sites, museums, and places of historical interest.

YOUR SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES

Each 3-week Session will begin on Day 1 (arrival day, Friday). Day 2 (Saturday) will be devoted to preparing the site for excavation, starting work there, and learning about our research project. Days 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21 (Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday,

Saturday, Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday) are all potential working days, though we shall most certainly have some excursions and rest days among them when you can have some free time, and we also have several afternoon seminars and talks relevant to our work (we encourage our helpers to talk about work elsewhere that they have taken part in, especially if you have a ten-minute powerpoint presentation you can bring). We usually work on Saturday and Sunday so as to prevent a possibility of interference with our unattended excavation equipment by uninvited weekend visitors and day-trippers in our absence. One Sunday morning during each session will be an Open Day when local visitors come to the site where our staff explain in Spanish to them what we are doing while field helpers like you have a free day for rest and recreation, R&R; you might choose to go to the municipal swimming pool at Caravaca if you are in session 1, or to the sea-side at Los Alcázares near Dolores de Pacheco if you are in session 2, ... or you may choose simply to laze the day away restfully and you still can take your meals as usual in the dining room, or sandwiches can be made that you can take away if you prefer. One day in each three-week session will be used for day-long excursions to sites of interest: in session 1 it may well be a visit to see prehistoric rock paintings, and in session 2 it will probably be a visit to Cartagena and perhaps Cueva Victoria. (Our staff occasionally needs to have its own rest and recreation, R&R day, particularly in the second session, in order to attend to their own affairs, after having already been some weeks in the field, on hand at everybody's beck and call, day in and day out; although on such a day there will be no excavation, meals will be served as usual.) Day 22 (Friday) is departure day, when there may be a chance in the morning for helpers at Cueva Negra to visit Sima de las Palomas provided their flight back home from *Murcia-Corvera International Airport* is after lunch. During session 2 we also try to find time to take helpers to see Cueva Negra if they have never seen it.

DAILY SCHEDULE

A typical daily schedule of a working day might be roughly as follows:

- 07.00 Reveille
- 07.30 *Light breakfast* of coffee, bread roll, cereals, fruit juice.
- 07.45 Leave for site in vehicles
- 08.30 Begin work at site
- 11.00 *Mid-morning break for sandwich*
- 11.30 Restart work
- 13.45 Clean up at site, return to vehicles and to accommodation
- 14.15 Shower and change
- 15.15 *Luncheon*
- 15.45 Comments on day's work, briefing for next day
- 16.00 Siesta (afternoon nap)
- 17.30 Washing, ordering and bagging of finds
- 20.00 Informal talk, discussion, or free time
- 21.00 *Dinner*
- 21.45 Free time

We have followed a similar schedule at excavations in southeastern Spain for many years and find it well suited to the hot climate which is unsuitable for work between about 14.00 and 17.30 hours. It has been a successful schedule for archaeological excavations carried out at Murcia University for 50 years.

DAY-BY-DAY FIELD SCHOOL PROGRAMME AND TEAM DEVELOPMENT

Team development is assisted by daily sessions after lunch when resumés of the day's activities and briefings for the next day can be commented on. The daily sessions after siesta when we are washing and sorting finds also bring everybody together in one place involved in common activities related to the finds from the day and sorting those which have dried out from the previous day. These work sessions may be followed by seminars or talks. On other days, there is time for leisure and relaxation before dinner. On other than R&R days, and whenever administrative matters do not demand that he absent himself after 20.00 hours, Michael Walker has tried to be present with the group upto and during dinner and sometimes has joined with all our members after dinner in visiting local entertainments. Increasingly administrative and representational obligations intrude on his time, when co-directors María Haber and Mariano López take full charge. Very many senior site helpers join in after-dinner events and our new helpers usually have a good time with them.

It is anticipated that helpers will take part in guided excursions to archaeological and historical sites of interest. We have found these to offer excellent opportunities for group development in surroundings which provide a complete alternative to those of the work situation at our two sites. Everybody gets to know not only each other, but also something new, interesting and different. We try to take in local bars and eating places, and sample local food and wine.

The following gives a very rough day-by-day idea of what the Field School programme may look like, though the final day-by-day programme will be finalised only in June 2023. In addition to talks and seminars given by our Field Staff and by MUPANTQUAT members (including researchers at the Universities of Murcia and Cartagena), **we hope to include additional talks by visiting specialists** from other universities and research centres who collaborate with us, depending on their availability and personal agendas: among some who have expressed their interest in visiting us in 2023 are **Prof. Dr. Hugues Blain** from Tarragona's Rovira I Virgili University (specialist in palaeontology of reptiles and amphibians), **Dr. Anna Rufà** from Universidade do Algarve and Bordeaux University (specialist in palaeontology and taphonomy of bird bones), **Dr. Ruth Blasco** from Spain's National Centre for Human Evolution Research at Burgos (specialist in bone taphonomy), Drs. J.M^º. Parès and Mathieu Duval from Spain's National Centre for Human Evolution Research at Burgos (geophysicists), **Prof. Dr. Héctor Manrique** from the Teruel campus of Saragossa University (evolutionary psychologist who has conducted experiments with great apes), and, we hope to receive a visit from the distinguished mammalian palaeontologist **Dr Jan van der Made** of Spain's national Museum of Natural Sciences at Madrid.

Morning activities: 07.30-14.00 hours; afternoon activities: 17.30-21.00 hours.

SESSION 1: June 30th – July 21st Cueva Negra excavation and Caravaca field base

Day 1 (Friday)

Murcia-Corvera International Airport pick-up and transport to Caravaca field base. Pick-up at Caravaca bus station for other helpers.

Day 2

Morning: open and set up the Cueva Negra excavation. Visit to Roman temple remains at nearby La Encarnación.

Afternoon: talk about *The "Cueva Negra-Sima de las Palomas" Research Project. Neanderthals and their background: 30 years of research in Murcia* (Michael Walker).

Day 3

Morning: excavation at Cueva Negra; instruction in field techniques, wet-sieving, recording finds, etc.

Afternoon: Afternoon: sorting finds in lab; brief talk about excavating the Caravaca *Camino del Molino Copper Age burial chamber with 1,300 crania and skeletal remains* (María Haber and Mariano López).

Day 4

Morning: excavation at Cueva Negra; anyone wanting to go shopping at Caravaca's open market can be taken there mid-morning

Afternoon: showing of animated film "*Cueva Negra*"; instruction in field lab; sorting finds.

Day 5

Morning: excavation at Cueva Negra.

Afternoon: free time (no afternoon lab)

Day 6

Morning: excavation at Cueva Negra.

Afternoon: sorting finds in lab; talk-seminar on *Human Evolution from the Pliocene to the Middle Pleistocene* (Michael Walker).

Day 7

Morning: excavation at Cueva Negra.

Afternoon: sorting finds in lab; talk-seminar on *Microstratigraphical research at Cueva Negra* (Norman Fernández).

Day 8 (Friday)

Excursion to see prehistoric rock paintings; picnic lunch at Nerpio swimming pool (no morning excavation, no afternoon lab).

Day 9

Morning: excavation at Cueva Negra.

Afternoon: sorting finds in lab; workshop on *Flint-knapping* (Mariano López Martínez).

Day 10

Morning: excavation at Cueva Negra.

Afternoon: sorting finds in lab; talk-seminar on *Faunal Remains, Taphonomy, and Biostratigraphy at Cueva Negra* (Antonio López, Gonzalo Linares, Ángel Buitrago)

Day 11

Morning: excavation at Cueva Negra.

Afternoon: sorting finds in lab; seminar on *The Evolution of the Human Brain and of the Early and Middle Palaeolithic* (Michael Walker).

Day 12

Morning: excavation at Cueva Negra.

Afternoon: sorting finds in lab; talk-seminar on *Use-wear Analysis and Stone Tools* (Dr Ignacio Martín).

Day 13

Morning: excavation at Cueva Negra.

Afternoon: sorting finds in lab; inspection of flint tools from Cueva Negra at Caravaca Municipal Archaeological Museum;

Day 14

Free time all day (no morning excavation; no afternoon lab)

Day 15

Morning: excavation at Cueva Negra.

Afternoon: sorting finds in lab; talk-seminar on *Pollen Analysis and Quaternary Climate* (José Carrión or Santiago Fernández or Juan Ochando).

Day 16

Morning: excavation at Cueva Negra.

Afternoon: sorting finds in lab; short talks by Field School helpers.

Day 17 (Sunday, July 16th) Open Day at Cueva Negra. Free time for helpers, because only Field School staff are involved with our local Spanish visitors.

Afternoon: free time (no afternoon lab).

Day 18

Morning: excavation at Cueva Negra.

Afternoon: sorting finds in lab.

Day 19

Morning: excavation at Cueva Negra; Press Conference Meet-the-Media at Cueva Negra.

Afternoon: sorting finds in lab; talk-seminar on *Before pyrotechnology: pyroepignosis in the Lower Palaeolithic - fire and flint at Cueva Negra* (Michael Walker)

Day 20

Morning: excavation at Cueva Negra; Press Conference Meet-the-Media at Cueva Negra.

Afternoon: sorting finds in lab

Day 21

Close up excavation and field lab; take down and pack up equipment and finds; Open Round Table: staff and helpers evaluate Session 1.

Day 22 (Friday)

Helpers who are leaving are taken either to Caravaca bus station or to see Sima de las Palomas and then to *Murcia-Corvera International Airport*. Finds are taken to Murcia and equipment to Dolores de Pacheco.

SESSION 2: July 21st–August 11th at Sima de las Palomas excavation and Dolores de Pacheco field base

Day 1 (Friday = Day 2 of Session 1) *Murcia-Corvera International Airport* pick-up and transport to Dolores de Pacheco field base. Pick-up of other helpers at Torre Pacheco bus station or Balsicas-Mar Menor railway station.

Day 2

Morning: open and set up the Sima de las Palomas excavation.

Afternoon: talk about *The “Cueva Negra-Sima de las Palomas” Research Project. Neanderthals and their background: 30 years of research in Murcia* (Michael Walker).

Day 3

Morning: excavation at Sima de las Palomas; instruction in field techniques, wet sieving, recording finds.

Afternoon: instruction in field lab; sorting finds.

Day 4

Morning: short excavation (8-10.30am) at Sima de las Palomas; excursion to Cueva Negra for whoever has never been there before.

Afternoon: sorting finds in lab; talk-seminar on *Cleaning and Scanning the Sima de las Palomas Neanderthal Skeletons* (Jon Ortega).

Day 5

Morning: excavation at Sima de las Palomas; instruction in field techniques, wet-sieving, recording finds, etc.

Afternoon: seminar on *Use-wear Analysis and Stone Tools* (Ignacio Martín); sorting finds in lab.

Day 6

Morning: excavation at Sima de las Palomas; instruction in field techniques, wet-sieving, recording finds, etc.

Afternoon: sorting finds in lab; talk-seminar *Faunal Remains from Sima de las Palomas* (Antonio López, Gonzalo Linares).

Day 7

Free time all day (no morning excavation; no afternoon lab)

Day 8

Morning: brief visit to the Sima de las Palomas laboratory at Torre Pacheco; excavation at Sima de las Palomas.

Afternoon: sorting finds in lab.

Day 9

Morning: excavation at Sima de las Palomas.

Afternoon: sorting finds in lab; seminar on *The Neanderthals* (Michael Walker)

Day 10

Morning: excavation at Sima de las Palomas.

Afternoon: sorting finds in lab.

Day 11 (Sunday July 30th)

Morning: *Open Day* at Sima de las Palomas. Free time for helpers, as only Field School staff are involved with our Spanish visitors.

Afternoon: free time (no afternoon lab).

Day 12

Morning: excavation at Sima de las Palomas.

Afternoon: sorting finds in lab; talk-seminar on *Pollen Analysis and Quaternary Climate* (José Carrión, Juan Ochando).

Day 12

Morning: excavation at Sima de las Palomas.

Afternoon: sorting finds in lab; short talks by Field School helpers.

Day 13

Morning: excavation at Sima de las Palomas.

Afternoon: sorting finds in lab; seminar on *Neanderthals in Spain* (María Haber).

Day 14

Morning: excavation at Sima de las Palomas.

Afternoon: sorting finds in lab; talk-seminar on *What Ever Happened to the Neanderthals?* (Michael Walker).

Day 15

Excursion to see archaeological sites and museums at Cartagena (no morning excavation, no afternoon lab).

Day 16

Morning: excavation at Sima de las Palomas.

Afternoon: sorting finds in lab.

Day 17

Morning: excavation at Sima de las Palomas.

Afternoon: sorting finds in lab; workshop on *Flint Knapping* (Mariano López).

Day 18

Morning: excavation at Sima de las Palomas.

Afternoon: showing of documentary “*Decoding Neanderthals*”; sorting finds in lab.

Day 19

Morning: excavation at Sima de las Palomas.

Afternoon: sorting finds in lab.

Day 20

Morning: excavation at Sima de las Palomas.

Afternoon: sorting finds in lab.

Day 21

Morning: close up excavation and field lab; take down and pack up equipment and finds.

Afternoon: Open Round Table of staff and helpers to evaluate Session 2.

Day 22 (Friday, August 12th)

Morning: helpers who are leaving are taken to *Murcia-Covera International Airport*, Torre Pacheco bus station, or Balsicas-Mar Menor railway station; equipment and finds are taken to Murcia.

YOUR ASSIGNMENTS

All our helpers are integrated into the project alongside staff assistants. Most senior site helpers are young university graduates or senior undergraduate students who have field experience at Palaeolithic sites, and most of them will be present for most of the six-week field season at our two sites. Their task includes assisting helpers who come for shorter periods or who have little or no prior experience in palaeolithic excavation.

The physical work of excavation is carried out in the morning. Morning assignments involve excavation, removing excavated material, and sieving it, as well as service tasks at the sites. Some heavy tasks, such as carrying bags of soil, are hard for some older participants, who may choose to carry out lighter tasks such as sieving or service tasks such as starting or stopping the water-pump.

Work assignments are usually given to task groups of between two and six members. These groups contain both senior site helpers and other helpers. Members of task groups are rotated during the morning, or from one morning to the next, so all members get a chance to participate in all aspects of the project if they wish.

Knowledge of basic Spanish is always helpful. Several of the senior site helpers speak English and helpers who come from overseas find all of them welcoming, friendly, helpful and patient. We do try to encourage those helpers who have no Spanish at all to help groups alongside those senior site helpers who can speak some English, wherever this is possible.

Don't feel bashful about trying out a few words of phrase-book Spanish! Much as I should like to be, I cannot be always on hand to answer every question that may occur to a helper, because some of my time is taken up giving instructions in Spanish to my senior site helpers or discussing scientific and technical issues with them or logistical matters that have your well-being as our aim. So please do make every effort, despite any language barrier, to address questions to senior site helpers or ask them for assistance, rather than bottling up your queries or worries to deluge the Field School directors with them whose explanations may hold up the Project from moving forwards just so as to help one person to look backwards - they can put a brake on the work not just of the one anxious helper but of perhaps a dozen others. So please do try to get to know the staff as well as just the director and co-directors. Your efforts here will be much appreciated, leading to a responsive social ambience both during working hours and leisure time.

Afternoon assignments involve washing materials found during the morning, arranging them for drying, and preliminary classification of materials which are dry (usually those found the day before). Helpers take part in these activities alongside staff assistants, who help them to recognise the principal categories of material finds, and how to help with their initial sorting and identification, in ways which greatly simplify later laboratory analysis of them.

Tasks do not change much over the duration of our field campaign, although the precise details of the ways in which the tasks are performed differ somewhat between the two sites because of their different topography.

Skills and talents which are useful to the project range from acquaintance with such intellectual disciplines as archaeology, physical anthropology, anatomy, geology, soil science or palaeontology, to such practical activities as draughtsmanship, photography, surveying, working with ropes, and familiarity with petrol-driven water-pumps, portable electricity generators, power drills or jack-hammers. We've incorporated some useful technical tips from helpers with engineering skills to others who go in for home mechanics or have built their own home...

Our staff members drive you to our bases, sites, and excursions. We do not require you to drive. In Spain all drivers must carry ID/passport **and** either an EU Member State driver's licence/permit **or** an International Driving Permit (which drivers with national licences/permits can get through their national motoring associations in countries such as the USA, Canada, Australia, and no doubt in the UK, post-Brexit); if you have a licence/permit please bring it because in a dire emergency you may just be able to help us out of some unforeseen difficulty. You will need it if you want to hire a car to drive around Spain before or after the session.

STAFF

Our staff are members of the Murcian Association for the Study of Palaeoanthropology and the Quaternary (MUPANTQUAT) and several also belong to the official Murcia University Research Group E005-11 "ECCE HOMO Evolución Cenozoico Cuaternario Ecología HOMO" (formerly "Quaternary Palaeoecology, Palaeoanthropology and Technology"); many are coauthors of our recently published articles in major scientific journals about *Cueva Negra* and *Sima de las Palomas*.

Michael J. Walker, DPhil., B.M., B.Ch., M.A., Dipl.Prehist.Archaeol (Oxon) which was the forerunner of the present Master's course at Oxford. Field School Co-ordinator and Co-director of excavations at Cueva Negra and Sima de las Palomas. I began field research at the sites in 1990 as principal investigator and project director. Despite my age (I shall be 82 in March) I shall try to be present with you as much as possible, health permitting, during working and instruction hours, often from eight o'clock in the morning to about eight o'clock in the evening. I am a physical anthropologist, palaeoanthropologist and prehistoric archaeologist. I trained in Medicine, Physiology and Prehistoric Archaeology at Oxford University. I have been a medical practitioner in general

ractice in Australia. After being Research Fellow in Archaeology at Oxford's The Queens' College, I lectured at Edinburgh and Sydney Universities before appointment in 1988 as foundation professor of Physical Anthropology at Murcia University which in 2011 named me Emeritus Professor. From 2012 to 2022 I chaired the Murcian Association for the Study of Palaeoanthropology and the Quaternary, MUPANTQUAT. In Murcia I have excavated sites of the initial Iron Age, Copper Age, and Mesolithic-Neolithic transition, and conducted fieldwork on Quaternary landscapes. For more details go to the end of **BRIEFING YOU** where you will find **YOUR FIELD SCHOOL CO-ORDINATOR, AS SEEN BY HIMSELF Michael Walker and his curriculum vitae**.

Mariano V. López-Martínez. Co-director of excavations at *Cueva Negra* since 2002 and at *Sima de las Palomas* since 2008. He is Secretary of MUPANTQUAT. He is a Murcia University graduate in History and Geography with specialisation in Prehistory, Archaeology and Ancient History, and took the 1-year postgraduate course in Palaeoanthropology in 1994, in which year he first helped at the *Cueva Negra* and *Sima de las Palomas* excavations. In 2001 he played a major part in preparing the European Commission-sponsored travelling exhibition about our two sites that opened at Vienna's Natural History Museum before being displayed at the Oxford University Natural History Museum and several museums in Spain. He is very much a "hands-on" archaeologist with wide practical experience of field and contract archaeology, directing rescue excavations throughout each year, and displaying the results. In addition to our Palaeolithic excavations he has conducted work at Mediaeval, Roman and other sites, including excavation of the important Camino del Molino Copper Age burial chamber at Caravaca, Murcia; see Lomba, J., **López-Martínez, M.**, Ramos F. & Avilés, A., 2009, *Trabajos de Prehistoria*, 66(2), 143-159. In November 2015 he gave a talk on "Cueva Negra de Caravaca. El fuego más antiguo de Europa" at the meeting "I Jornada de Arqueoturismo Tierra de Iberos" at Caravaca de la Cruz, and he published "20 años de excavaciones en la Sima de las Palomas del Cabezo Gordo" (**M.López Martínez**, M.J.Walker, M.Haber Uriarte) in *Orígenes y Raíces Revista de la Sociedad de Estudios Historiológicos y Etnográficos de las Tierras Altas del Argos, Quípar y Alhárabe*, 8, 1-6. Among more recent publications is Haber Uriarte, M., Fernández Azorín, T., **López Martínez, M.**, Gómez Marín, J., De la quincallería a la necrópolis tardoantigua de la calle Selgas número 6 (Lorca, Murcia), *Alberca* 19, 87-113, 2022. At our Field School he usually is in day-to-day charge of excavation, on-site recording, and the inventory and registry of excavated finds. For his coauthorship of publications about *Cueva Negra* and *Sima de las Palomas*, please see, above: **SOME PUBLICATIONS ABOUT WORK AT OUR SITES AND RELEVANT ASPECTS.**

María Haber-Uriarte, PhD. Co-director of excavations at *Cueva Negra* and *Sima de las Palomas* since 2010. She is an assistant lecturer at Murcia University's Department of Prehistory and Archaeology and Chair of MUPANTQUAT. She took her degree in archaeology at Salamanca University (1993) and subsequently studied physical anthropology at Granada University where her doctoral thesis (2003) was on Neanderthals in the Iberian Peninsula, and she maintains regular teaching and research activities with colleagues of both those universities. She has wide field experience in contract and rescue archaeological excavations and physical anthropological analysis at Roman, Mediaeval and Spanish Civil War sites, and of the very important Camino del Molino Copper Age burial chamber at Caravaca, Murcia, which is near our Field School accommodation base. In relation to the skeletal finds from this site, both **María Haber Uriarte** and MUPANTQUAT committee member and Field School staffer Biology graduate **Azucena Avilés Fernández** are co-authors in Fageräs, Z., Salazar García, D.C., **Haber Uriarte, M.**, **Avilés Fernández, A.**, Henry, A.G., Lomba Maurandi, J., Ozga, A.T., Velsko, I.M., Warinner, C., Understanding the microbial biogeography of ancient human dentitions to guide study design and interpretation, *FEMS Microbes* 3, 1-13, 2022. The following are some other publications which she co-authored about the Camino del Molino site. Lomba Maurandi, J., **Haber Uriarte, M.**, El registro funerario calcolítico en el extremo suroriental de la Península Ibérica: los valles del Guadalentín y el Segura (Murcia), in: Bonet Rosado, Ed., *Del Neolítico a l'Edat de Bronze en el Mediterrani occidental: Estudis en Homenatge a Bernat Martí Oliver* (Treballs Varis del SIP, Servei d'Investigació Prehistòrica, Diputació Provincial de València, València), pp. 349-364, 2016; Mendiola, S., Rissech, C., **Haber Uriarte, M.**, Lomba Maurandi, J., **Avilés Fernández, A.**, Turbón Borrega, D., "17 Salud y crecimiento en la Edad de Cobre. Un estudio preliminar de los individuos subadultos de Camino de Molino (Caravaca de la Cruz, Murcia, España). Un sepulcro colectivo de III milenio cal. BC", in: Sánchez Romero, M., Alarcón García, E., Aranda Jiménez, G., Eds., *Children, Spaces and Identity, Childhood in the Past* (Oxford, Oxbow) pp. 230-242, 2015. **María Haber Uriarte** is a coauthor both in Villalba-Mouco et al. "Genomic transformation and social organisation during the Copper Age–Bronze Age transition in southern Iberia", *Science Advances* 7 eabi7038, 2021, and also in Olalde et al. "The Beaker phenomenon and the genomic transformation of northwest Europe" *Nature* 555(7697), 190-196, 2018. Ruiz García-Vaso, C., Vázquez Autón, J.M., Lomba Maurandi, J., **Avilés Fernández, A.**, **Haber Uriarte, M.**, Orenes Hernández, M., Francisco Gil Cano, F., 2014, "El yacimiento calcolítico "Camino del Molino" (Caravaca de la Cruz, Murcia): una oportunidad excepcional para estudiar los cánidos que poblaron el sureste español hace 4000 años. Primeros resultados", *Orígenes y Raíces Revista de la Sociedad de Estudios Historiológicos y Etnográficos de las Tierras Altas del Argos, Quípar y Alhárabe*, 6, pp. 5-7; **Haber-Uriarte, M.**, **Avilés-Fernández, A.**, Lomba-Maurandi, J., 2012, "Estudio antropológico preliminar de los restos humanos calcolíticos del enterramiento múltiple de Camino del Molino (Carava de la Cruz, Murcia)", in: D.Turbón, L.Fañanás, C.Rissech, A.Rosa, Eds., *Biodiversidad Humana y Evolución: Actas del XVII Congreso de la Sociedad Española de Antropología Física, Barcelona 2-4 junio 2011* (Sociedad Española de Antropología Física and Universitat de Barcelona), pp. 106-108, 2012. **María Haber Uriarte** has been deeply involved with the archaeological excavation of Murcia city's Islamic heritage site beside the Palacio de San Esteban and the conservation and study of skeletal remains from the mediaeval cemetery. She also has been involved with the excavation and study of Roman skeletons from the Villaricos site at Mula (Murcia). Other publications by **María Haber Uriarte** include the following: Hernández Robles, A., **Haber Uriarte, M.**, Baño López, A., Fernández Azorín, T., La arqueología en femenino en la Región de Murcia: pasado y futuro, in *Voces in crescendo: del mutismo a la afonía en la historia de las mujeres en la arqueología Española* (Alicante, Universidad de Alicante, Instituto Universitario de Investigación en Arqueología y Patrimonio Histórico) pp. 297-313, 2022; Hernández Robles, A., **Haber Uriarte, M.**, Gómez Marín, J., Primeros resultados sobre el mantenimiento y la reproducción social en el conjunto arqueológico de San Esteban: una mirada arqueológica y arqueobiológica a las mujeres de la Murcia medieval, in: Ruiz Álvarez, R., Molina Fajardo, M.A., Hidalgo Fernández, F., Eds., *Ganarse la vida: género y trabajo a través de los siglos* (Dykinson S.L., 2022) pp. 48-50; Celma Martínez, M., Eiroa Rodríguez, J.A., González Ballesteros, J.A., Hernández Robles, A., **Haber Uriarte, M.**, Baño López, A., Mapping rural and urban confluences through the consumption of firewood in the medieval city of Murcia (Spain), *Quaternary International*, 2022 in press; Baño López, A., **Haber Uriarte, M.**, Proyecto de rehabilitación de las fachadas en la finca La

Peraleja (Sucina, Murcia), *XXVIII Jornadas de Patrimonio Cultural de la Región de Murcia*, 205-212,2022; Baño López, A., **Haber Uriarte,M.**, Proyecto de rehabilitación de la casa de Antonete Gálvez (Torreagüera, Murcia), *XXVIII Jornadas de Patrimonio Cultural de la Región de Murcia*, 213-220, 2022; **Haber Uriarte,M.**, Fernández Azorín,T., **López Martínez,M.**, Gómez Marín,J., De la quincallería a la necrópolis tardoantigua de la calle Selgas número 6 (Lorca, Murcia), *Alberca* 19, 87-113,2022. For **Maria Haber Uriarte's** coauthorship of publications about *Cueva Negra* and *Sima de las Palomas* please see, above: [SOME PUBLICATIONS ABOUT WORK AT OUR SITES AND RELEVANT ASPECTS.](#)

Ignacio Martín-Lerma, PhD. He is a tenured lecturer at Murcia University's Department of Prehistory and Archaeology and Vice-Chair of MUPANTQUAT. Trained in archaeology at Murcia University, Madrid's National University for Distance Studies (where he is a member of its Palaeolithic Studies Laboratory), and Madrid's Autonomous University, his doctoral thesis was on experimental and microscopic use-wear analysis of stone artifacts. He directs excavations at the important Mousterian and Upper Palaeolithic site of Cueva del Arco above the Almadenes Gorge of the River Segura at Cieza in Murcia, on behalf of the Cieza municipal council. He coordinated a splendid exhibition, at Murcia's Archaeological Museum during 2022, entitled "*Ancestros: Neandertales en la Región de Murcia*" with displays of archaeological and skeletal remains together with a superb audiovisual back-drop about the many Palaeolithic Neanderthal sites in Murcia; our MUPANTQUAT Field Schoolteams visited it in 2022 and were most impressed. *Chapeau!* He participates in the *Cueva Negra* and *Sima de las Palomas* research and is conducting use-wear analysis of their Palaeolithic stone tools. He has participated in major Palaeolithic excavation projects at Cueva Antón in Murcia (Mousterian), Rambla Perea in Murcia (Middle-to-Upper Palaeolithic), Cueva Ambrosio in Almería (Solutrean), La Peña de Estebanvela in Segovia (Magdalenian), Cerro del Buho in Murcia (Copper Age) and Camino del Molino in Murcia (Copper Age), among other sites. His publications include: **Martín-Lerma,I.**, *La Prehistoria en la mochila: Diario de viaje de un neandertal* (Madrid, Aguilar, 2022); Domínguez-Solera, S.D., Deschamps,M., **Martín Lerma,I.**, Linares-Matás,G., Zilhão,J., Organization of residential space, site function variability, and seasonality of activities among MIS 5 Iberian Neandertals, *Scientific Reports* 12(1),1-15,2022; **Martín-Lerma,I.**, Lower paleolithic butchery knives and carpentry tools: MODE 1 industry of "El Pino" (Campos del Paraíso, Cuenca, Spain), *Journal of Archaeological Science Reports*, 2022, in press; **Martín Lerma,I.**, Garrido,E., Moratilla del Río,L., Martín Cuadrado,I., La inclusión a través de la ciencia: arqueología y discapacidad intelectual, *Arteterapia: papeles de arteterapia y educación artística para la inclusión social* 17, 189-198, 2022; **Martín Lerma,I.**, Sánchez Martínez,N., Cuando empezábamos a ser nosotros. What was this made for? 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The shouldered points at the end of the outer-cantabrian solutrean period, in: *Human adaptations to the Last Glacial Maximum*, Cambridge Scholars Publishing, pp. 283-301, 2019; **Martín Lerma,I.**, Abriendo ventanas al pasado desde Chiapas (México): Los Lacandones, in: *Etnoarqueología Total* (Cuenca, Diputación Provincial de Cuenca), pp. 9-17, 2018; Lomba Maurandi, J., **Martín Lerma,I.**, El contexto: Prehistoria y Arqueología de Los Almadenes, in: Lomba Maurandi,J.,Ed., *Arte rupestre y Arqueología en Los Almadenes (Cieza, Murcia)*, (Murcia, Consejería de Educación, Cultura y Deporte), pp. 147-180, 2018; **Martín Lerma,I.**, Román Monroig,D., Intervenciones arqueológicas en la Cueva del Arco, in: *Arte rupestre y Arqueología en Los Almadenes (Cieza, Murcia)*, (Cieza, Ayuntamiento de Cieza), pp. 395-414, 2018; **Martín Lerma, I.**, Los primeros pobladores de la Provincia de Almería: los neandertales de la Cueva de Zájara, in: *Momentos estelares de la Historia de Almería*, (Almería, Arraez Editores), pp. 18-19, 2018; Zilhão,J., Anesin,D., Aubry,T., Badal,E.,Cabanes, Kehl,M., Klasen,N., Lucena,A., **Martín-Lerma, I.**, Martínez,S., Matias,H., Susini,D., Steier,P., Wild,E.M., Angelucci,D.E., Villaverde,V., Zapata,J., Precise dating of the Middle-to-Upper Paleolithic transition in Murcia (Spain) supports late Neanderthal persistence in Iberia, *Heliyon* 3 (11) e00435, 2017; Gutiérrez Sáez, C., Llorente Rodríguez, L., **Martín Lerma, I.**, Bashore Acero, C., 2015, La industria ósea del sector 3C, *Cuadernos de Prehistoria y Arqueología de la Universidad Autónoma de Madrid*. 1 Anejo, pp. 23-38,2015; Zilhao, J., Villaverde, V., Zapata, J., **Martín Lerma, I.**, 2015, Cueva Antón (Mula, Murcia), in *100 años de investigaciones arqueológicas en la Universidad de Murcia*, (Universidad de Murcia), pp. 32-33, 2015; **Martín Lerma, I.**, Cacho Quesada, C., 2014., Functional Analysis of a Magdalenian site from the Spanish Northern Meseta: a case study of endscrapers from la Peña de Estebanvela (Ayllón, Segovia), in J.Merreiros, N.Bico, J.Gibaja, Eds., *International Conference on Use-Wear Analysis*, (Cambridge Scholars Publishing), pp. 249-263, 2014; Gutiérrez Sáez,C., **Martín Lerma,I.**, Marín de Espinosa,J.A., Lomba Maurandi,J., Technology and function of the Chalcolithic dagger from Cabezos Viejos (Archena, Murcia, Spain), in J.Merreiros, N.Bicho and J.Gibaja, Eds., *International Conference on Use-Wear Analysis*,

(Cambridge Scholars Publishing), pp. 755-763, 2014; Gutiérrez Sáez, C., **Martín Lerma, I.**, López Del Estal, A., Bashore Acero, C., The functionality of Palmela Points as throwing weapons and projectiles: use-wear marks, in J.Merreiros, N.Bico, J.Gibaja, Eds., *International Conference on Use-Wear Analysis*, (Cambridge Scholars Publishing), pp. 450-464, 2014; Gutiérrez Sáez, C., **Martín Lerma, I.**, 2014, Traceology on metal. Use-wear marks on copper-based tools and weapons, in *Use-Wear and Residue Analysis in Archaeology*, (Springer, Manuals in Archaeological Method 10), pp. 171-188, 2014;. **Ignacio Martín Lerma** is coauthor of articles in *Trabajos de Prehistoria*, *Quaternary International* 272-273, pp.42-54, 2012, and our article in *Antiquity* on evidence for combustion at Cueva Negra, and has presented papers at national or international scientific meetings, talks, seminars and courses given at various universities, including, recently, the XVIII World UISPP Congress at Meknès, Morocco, in 2021, the *International Conference Retouching the Palaeolithic, Becoming Human and the Origins of Bone Tool Technology* (Schloss Herrenhause, Hannover, 21st-23rd October 2015), the *XI Congreso Ibérico de Arqueometría*, the 10th International Symposium on Knappable Materials at Barcelona University, the AWRANA Meeting 2015 at Leiden University, and 5 papers at the XVII World UISPP Congress at Burgos University in 2014. He also has produced 3 archaeological documentary films (“*Un encuentro con el pasado*”, 2008; “*Experimentar para comprender: Tecnología del Paleolítico*”, 2010; “*La vida a través de la muerte: Los enterramientos en la Prehistoria Reciente*”, 2013). For his coauthorship of various publications about *Cueva Negra* and *Sima de las Palomas* go to **SOME RECENT PUBLICATIONS ABOUT WORK AT OUR SITES THAT MAY WELL INTEREST YOU.**

Antonio López-Jiménez. Murcia University Biology graduate with a masters equivalent degree. He is a tenured, public high-school teacher of Biology. He undertakes faunal analysis and micromammalian Pleistocene biostratigraphy, biochronology and palaeobiology at *Cueva Negra*. For the past ten years at our Field School he has coordinated preliminary preparation, cleaning and registry of faunal remains at *Cueva Negra* and *Sima de las Palomas*. In 2018 his research on the *Cueva Negra* fossil micro-mammals has been published in the international palaeontological journal *Historical Biology*: “Small-mammal indicators of biochronology at *Cueva Negra* del Estrecho del Río Quípar (Caravaca de la Cruz, Murcia, SE Spain)”, López et al., in *Historical Biology* 32, 18-33, 2020 doi: 10.1080/08912963.2018.1462804. For his coauthorship of other publications about *Cueva Negra* and *Sima de las Palomas* go to **SOME RECENT PUBLICATIONS ABOUT WORK AT OUR SITES THAT MAY WELL INTEREST YOU.**

Jon Ortega-Rodrigáñez. Madrid Autonomous University Biology graduate with a masters equivalent degree. He is an expert in cleaning and identifying *Sima de las Palomas* Neanderthal skeletal remains. He has taken part in the *Cueva Negra* and *Sima de las Palomas* excavations for the past ten years and assists our helpers both on site and in the lab. In 2023 he is working on a museum project for displaying accurately the SP96 “Paloma” Neanderthal skeleton as it was found when we uncovered it during the *Sima de las Palomas* excavations. For his coauthorship of publications about *Cueva Negra* and *Sima de las Palomas* go to **SOME RECENT PUBLICATIONS ABOUT WORK AT OUR SITES THAT MAY WELL INTEREST YOU.**

Azucena Avilés-Fernández. Murcia University Biology graduate with further study of physical anthropology at Granada University, who assists with skeletal analysis of human and faunal remains. She teaches Natural Sciences and Biology at a private high school. She has taken part in the *Cueva Negra* and *Sima de las Palomas* excavations for the past ten years and assists our helpers both on site and in the lab. She has undertaken excavation and physical anthropological analysis at the important Camino del Molino copper-age burial chamber at Caravaca, Murcia; see Fagernäs, Z., Salazar García, D.C., Haber Uriarte, M., **Avilés Fernández, A.**, Henry, A.G., Lomba Maurandi, J., Ozga, A.T., Velsko, I.M., Warinner, C., Understanding the microbial biogeography of ancient human dentitions to guide study design and interpretation, *FEMS Microbes* 3, 1-13, 2022; Mendiola, S., Rissech, C., Haber Uriarte, M., Lomba Maurandi, J., **Avilés Fernández, A.**, Turbón Borrega, D., “17 Salud y crecimiento en la Edad de Cobre. Un estudio preliminar de los individuos subadultos de Camino de Molino (Caravaca de la Cruz, Murcia, España). Un sepulcro colectivo de III milenio cal. BC”, in: Sánchez Romero, M., Alarcón García, E., Aranda Jiménez, G., Eds., *Children, Spaces and Identity, Childhood in the Past* (Oxford, Oxbow) pp. 230-242, 2015; Ruiz García-Vaso, C., Vázquez Autón, J.M., Lomba Maurandi, J., **Avilés Fernández, A.**, Haber Uriarte, M., Orenes Hernández, M., Francisco Gil Cano, F., El yacimiento calcolítico “Camino del Molino” (Caravaca de la Cruz, Murcia): una oportunidad excepcional para estudiar los cánidos que poblaron el sureste español hace 4000 años. Primeros resultados, *Orígenes y Raíces Revista de la Sociedad de Estudios Historiológicos y Etnográficos de las Tierras Altas del Argos, Quípar y Alhárabe* 6., 5-7, 2014; Haber-Uriarte, M., **Avilés-Fernández, A.**, Lomba-Maurandi, J., Estudio antropológico preliminar de los restos humanos calcolíticos del enterramiento múltiple de Camino del Molino (Carava de la Cruz, Murcia), in: D.Turbón, L.Fañanás, C.Rissech, A.Rosa, Eds., *Biodiversidad Humana y Evolución: Actas del XVII Congreso de la Sociedad Española de Antropología Física, Barcelona 2-4 junio 2011* (Sociedad Española de Antropología Física and Universitat de Barcelona), pp. 106-108, 2012; Lomba, J., López-Martínez, M., Ramos, F., **Avilés, A.**, 2009, *Trabajos de Prehistoria* 66(2), 143-159, 2009; **Avilés, A.**, Haber, M., Lomba, J., 2012, pp. 106-108 in *Biodiversidad Humana y Evolución*, edited by D.Turbón, L.Fañanás, C.Rissech, A.Rosas (SEAF and Barcelona, Universitat de Barcelona). **Azucena Avilés Fernández** is one of 73 coauthors of the 2017 Creative Commons *bioRxiv* paper “The maternal genetic make-up of the Iberian Peninsula between the neolithic and the early bronze age” by Szécsényi-Nagy et al. (*Scientific Reports* doi: 10.1038/s41598-017-15480-9), and is coauthor in various publications about the Camino del Molino site at Caravaca, particularly those of Villalba-Mouco et al., Genomic transformation and social organisation during the copper age–bronze age transition in southern Iberia, *Science Advances* 7 eabi7038, 2021, and of Olalde et al., The Beaker phenomenon and the genomic transformation of northwest Europe, *Nature* 555(7697), 190-196, 2018. For her coauthorship of publications about *Cueva Negra* and *Sima de las Palomas* go to **SOME RECENT PUBLICATIONS ABOUT WORK AT OUR SITES THAT MAY WELL INTEREST YOU.**

Ángel Tomás Buitrago-López. Murcia University Biology graduate who assists with skeletal analysis of human and faunal remains. He has taken part in the *Cueva Negra* and *Sima de las Palomas* excavations for the past three years and assists our helpers both on site and in the lab.

Consuelo Caravaca Guerrero. Murcia University graduate in History and Archaeology and has a master’s degree. She is a tenured, public high-school teacher and has undertaken supervisory duties at our sites in recent field seasons.

Gonzalo Linares-Matás, D.Phil., MUPANTQUAT committee member, is a Murcian who in 2017G graduated in Archaeology with First Class Honours at Oxford University where he presented a dissertation based on bone taphonomy at Cueva Negra, and following a master's course wrote his doctoral thesis at Oxford with a prestigious grant for doctoral study under the Open-Oxford-Cambridge Doctoral Training Partnership (DTP), Baillie Gifford Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) Scholarship (2019-2023) on "Late Holocene Settlement Dynamics and Trans-Saharan Connections in Southeastern Mauritania: A Remote Sensing Approach"; in October 2022 he took up a Research Fellowship in Archaeology at Emmanuel College in Cambridge University. He founded and was executive editor of the *International Journal of Student Research in Archaeology* (ISSN 2398-2012). Gonzalo has undertaken supervisory duties and research at our sites in several field seasons. He has carried out important field research in Africa, especially in Mauritania, and has collaborated in various research projects in Africa and Europe. He has numerous publications: **Linares-Matás, G.J.** *under review*, "Shifting sands: climate change, non-linear settlement dynamics, and social resilience at a Saharo-Sahelian prehistoric frontier," *Journal of World Prehistory*; **Linares-Matás, G.J.** *in press*, "Memory, agency, and labour mobilisation in the funerary landscapes of southeastern Mauritania, West Africa," *Journal of Anthropological Archaeology*; **Linares-Matás, G.J.** and Lim, J.S. *in press*, "Connectivity and socio-economic interactions across time and space in the southern Sahara: Medieval Tegdaoust (Mauritania) and its hinterland," *GAO21 Conference Proceedings*, British Archaeological Reports; **G.Linares-Matás**, N.Fernández-Ruiz, M.Haber-Uriarte, M.López Martínez, M.J.Walker, 2022, "Hyaenas and early humans in the latest Early Pleistocene of South-Western Europe" *Scientific Reports* 11:24036, 2021; M.J.Walker, M. Haber Uriarte, M.López Martínez, **G.J Linares Matás**, N.Fernández Ruiz, "Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar: Comings and goings recorded in a late Early (Lower) Pleistocene microstratigraphical palimpsest" *L'Anthropologie* 126(1):102995; **G.Linares-Matás** and J.Clark "Seasonality and Oldowan behavioral variability in East Africa" *Journal of Human Evolution* 164:103070; **G.J.Linares-Matás** and J.Yravedra, J. 2021. 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González, D.González-Aguilera, **G.Linares-Matás**, J.Yravedra, 2019, "New technologies applied to modelling taphonomic alterations", *Quaternary International* 517:4-15; J.Yravedra, M.A.Maté-González, L.Courtenay, P.López-Cisneros, V.Estaca-Gómez, J.Aramendi, M.de Andrés-Herrero, **G.Linares-Matás**, D.González-Aguilera, D.Álvarez-Alonso, 2019, "Approaching raw material functionality in the Upper Magdalenian of Coimbre cave (Asturias, Spain) through geometric morphometrics", *Quaternary International* 517:97-106; J.Yravedra, D.Herranz, C.Sesé, M.Pernas-Hernández, **G.Linares-Matás**, et al., 2019, "Lagomorph exploitation during the Upper Palaeolithic in the Northern Iberian Peninsula. New evidence from Coimbre Cave (Asturias, Spain)", *Quaternary International*, 506:59-68; P.López-Cisneros, J.Yravedra, D.Álvarez-Alonso, **G.Linares-Matás**, 2019, "The exploitation of hunted resources during the Magdalenian in the Cantabrian Region. Systematisation of butchery processes at Coimbre cave (Asturias, Spain)", *Quaternary International*, 506, pp.46-58; **G.Linares-Matás**, 2019, "Cánidos y humanos en el Pleistoceno europeo. La domesticación del perro y sus orígenes", *Orígenes y Raíces Revista de la Sociedad de Estudios Historiológicos y Etnográficos de las Tierras Altas del Argos, Quípar y Alhárabe*, 13, pp.42-49; V.Estaca-Gómez, A.Malalana-Ureña, J.Yravedra, **G.Linares-Matás**, J.Morín de Pablos, 2018, "Economic implications of livestock management strategies in the center of the Iberian Peninsula, Tagus Basin, and Mancha Alta region between the eighth and the eleventh centuries AD", *Archaeological and Anthropological Sciences* <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12520-018-0607-9>; **G.Linares-Matás** et al., 2017, "Preliminary taphonomical assessment of the macromammalian zooarchaeological assemblage at the late Early Pleistocene site of Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar (Caravaca, Murcia, Spain)", *Proceedings of the European Society for the Study of Human Evolution*, 6:117; A.García-Álvarez, **G.Linares-Matás**, J.Yravedra, 2016, "Prey selection among Late Pleistocene hunter-gatherers in the Northern Iberian Peninsula", *Journal of Taphonomy*, 14(1):23-37; I.F.Cerdá Blanes, **G.Linares Matás**, 2016, "The global representation of the socio-political geographies of contagious diseases in the digital world", *U.Michigan Undergraduate Journal of Anthropology* 2:92-109; **G.Linares Matás**, 2016, "The nature of food production. How can Australasian evidence contribute to our understanding of the origins of this process and its global adoption by human societies?", *Dig It, Archaeology Journal of Flinders University Archaeological Society* (Australia) 3:70-75; **G.Linares Matás**, 2016, "A student perspective on the Present of Archaeology: IJSRA Editorial", *International Journal of Student Research in Archaeology* 1(1):i-vii; **G.Linares Matás**, 2015, "A new crisis in Europe: physical and social barriers to refugees", *SIR, Journal of the Oxford International Relations Society* 3: 44-46; **G.Linares Matás**, 2014, "New perspectives in zooarchaeology: Researching animals beyond diet", *Trowel, Archaeology Journal of University College Dublin*, 15:81-90; **G.Linares Matás**, M.Roberts, N.Telfer, 2014, "The Archaeology and Anthropology of WW1", *The Historian, Journal of The University of Exeter History Society* 3(3):19-24; **G.Linares Matás**, 2014, "Exploring the diversity of zooarchaeology", in Ellis, A., Ed., *Proceedings of the III OUAS Undergraduate Conference*, pp. 34-35 (Oxford University Archaeological Society, Oxford); **G.Linares Matás**, 2013, "The Mesolithic: an archaeological study", *The Historian, Journal of The University of Exeter History Society* 3(2):37-42.

Norman Fernández-Ruiz. Murcia University graduate with a masters degree, MUPANTQUAT committee member, and doctoral candidate in History and Archaeology at Murcia University supervised by Dr. Ignacio Martín Lerma. His fine master's thesis presented at Alicante University in 2017 was based on important three-dimensional analysis of finds in a level of Cueva Negra. His doctoral research takes a multivariate statistical approach to comparing the Cueva Negra assemblage of stone artefacts with those at other European and Near Eastern Early Pleistocene and early Middle Pleistocene sites. He has undertaken supervisory duties at our sites in recent field seasons and conducted important microstratigraphical analysis at Cueva Negra. He directs excavation of the small rock-shelter with Upper and Middle Palaeolithic artefacts which is the Cueva de la Capilla at Santomera in Murcia. In 2018-2020 he undertook a survey of the archaeological heritage of Santomera (Murcia), involving topographical and original field research covering Palaeolithic deposits, a copper-age settlement site and petroglyphs at Cabezo Malnobre and cave-burials in the Sierra de Orihuela, a bronze-age settlement site and petroglyphs at Cabezo de la Mina, and the iron-age settlement at the Sierra de Balumba. In 2018-2019 he co-directed the topographical survey and exploration of Murcian archaeological sites in the municipality of Mula and northern part of the Sierra de Espuña. He also carried out a topographical survey of the Cueva de Covarada Palaeolithic site (Cillorigo de Liébana, Cantabria). His publications include M.J.Walker, M. Haber Uriarte, M.López Martínez, G.J Linares Matás, **N.Fernández Ruiz**, 2022, "Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar: Comings and goings recorded in a late Early (Lower) Pleistocene microstratigraphical palimpsest" *L'Anthropologie* 126(1):102995; **N.Fernández Ruiz**, M.Pallarés Martínez, C. González Gómez, G.Linares Matás, 2022, "La Cueva de la Capilla (Santomera, Murcia): datos preliminares de una secuencia prehistórica en la comarca de la huerta murciana", *XXVIII Jornadas de Patrimonio Cultural Región de Murcia*, 65-72; G.Linares-Matás, **N.Fernández-Ruiz**, M.Haber-Uriarte, M.López Martínez, M.J.Walker, 2021, "Hyaenas and early humans in the latest Early Pleistocene of South-Western Europe" *Scientific Reports* 11:24036; **N.Fernández-Ruiz** et al., *in press*, "Metodología para la evaluación de palimpsestos y procesos de formación en yacimientos paleolíticos", *Anales de Prehistoria y Arqueología*, Universidad de Murcia, Murcia; **N.Fernández** et al., 2018, "Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar (Caravaca de la Cruz, Murcia, Spain): intrasite analysis of a late Early Pleistocene Palaeolithic palimpsest," *Proceedings of the European Society for the Study of Human Evolution* 7:63; G.Linares-Matás, **N.Fernández**, M.Haber, M.López, M.J.Walker, 2021, "Sharing shelter: hyaenas and hominins in the upper levels (2c-2f) of the late Early Pleistocene site of Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar (Caravaca de la Cruz, Spain)", poster exhibited at the 62nd Annual Meeting of the *Hugo Obermaier Society for Quaternary Research and Archaeology of the Stone Age*, held on-line during April 6th-8th 2021 at Brno's Moravian Museum; **N.Fernández Ruiz**, 2020, "Primeros pobladores en la comarca de la huerta de Murcia: Nuevos datos para el conocimiento del Paleolítico regional", *Orígenes y Raíces Revista de la Sociedad de Estudios Historiológicos y Etnográficos de las Tierras Altas del Argos, Quípar y Alhárabe*, 16; **N.Fernández Ruiz**, 2020, "El Patrimonio subterráneo de Santomera", *I Jornadas de Patrimonio Cultural de Santomera* 1-1:17-29; **N.Fernández Ruiz**, 2019, "El poblamiento prehistórico en la Cordillera Sur de Murcia", *Orígenes y Raíces Revista de la Sociedad de Estudios Historiológicos y Etnográficos de las Tierras Altas del Argos, Quípar y Alhárabe* 13:21-41; M.Pallarés Martínez, **N.Fernández Ruiz**, et al., 2019, "Contribución al conocimiento de la Prehistoria murciana: nuevos hallazgos en el T.M. de Santomera", *XXV Jornadas de Patrimonio Cultural de la Región de Murcia*, pp.147-156; **N.Fernández Ruiz**, M.Pallarés Martínez, 2019, "El yacimiento prehistórico del Cabezo Malnobre (Santomera, Murcia)", *Orígenes y Raíces Revista de la Sociedad de Estudios Historiológicos y Etnográficos de las Tierras Altas del Argos, Quípar y Alhárabe* 14:9-17; M.Pallarés Martínez, **N.Fernández Ruiz**, et al., 2020, "Hallazgo de dos conjuntos de insculturas en los cabezos La Mina y Malnobre", *XXVI Jornadas de Patrimonio Cultural de la Región de Murcia*, 2020; **N.Fernández Ruiz**, M.Haber Uriarte, M.López Martínez, M.J.Walker, 2018, "Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar (Caravaca de la Cruz,

Murcia, SE de España): análisis intrasite de un palimpsesto arqueológico del Pleistoceno inferior tardío”, *II Congreso Interdisciplinar de Jóvenes Investigadores*, Murcia; **N.Fernández Ruiz**, G. Linares Matás, I.Martín Lerma, M.Haber Uriarte, M.López Martínez, M.J.Walker, 2018, “Metodología para la evaluación de palimpsestos y procesos de formación en yacimientos paleolíticos: Cueva Negra del Río Quípar”, *IV Jornadas Doctorales de la Universidad de Murcia*, Murcia.

Hugo Cano-Fernández. Murcia University Biology graduate, and committee member of MUPANTQUAT, undertook the master's programme at University College University of London and is undertaking doctoral studies in evolutionary biology at Barcelona. He has undertaken supervisory duties at our sites in recent field seasons. He has developed a useful handbook for us about the identification of the bones and teeth of Quaternary mammals at our sites. His publications include **H.Cano Fernández**, A.Gómez Robles: “Assessing complexity in hominid dental evolution: fractal analysis of great ape and human molars” *American Journal of Physical Anthropology* 174(2), 352-362, 2021.

Our senior site helpers are young university graduates or senior undergraduate students who collaborate with us - some of them have already been named above, and there are other regular staffers who have worked with us for several years. There is roughly one senior site helper for each helper with little experience, so you are never left alone wondering just what you ought to be doing, because there is always someone alongside to help and show just what has to be done and how to do it.

At the Caravaca Asacruz public residential school we are very well looked after by our cooks, and its caretakers and cleaners. At Dolores de Pacheco we are also very well looked after by the caretaker and cleaners of the public school where we stay and sleep, and by the cooks Mariángeles and her husband Ginés at the Social Centre nearby where we take our meals.

At *Sima de las Palomas*, until his death in September 2007, co-director of excavations with Michael Walker was the geologist and palaeontologist, Dr Josep Gibert, who was both a good friend and a distinguished public-service research-scientist at the Instituto Paleontológico “Dr M.Crusafont” de la Diputación de Barcelona at Sabadell, a satellite city of Barcelona.

Several staff associates come to visit or give talks, as well as scientific collaboration, in our Day-by-Day Field School Programme and Team Development Activities. Among them are our *MUPANTQUAT* Committee Member communications expert **Jesús García-Torres** who until 2016 taught at the Murcia Catholic “San Antonio” University who has had wide professional experience in the media, Murcia University Professor of Plant Evolution palaeopalynologist **Dr José Carrión-García** and his team (which includes **Dr Santiago Fernández-Jiménez**, **Dr. Juan Ochando** and **Dr Manuel Munuera**), **Dr Tomás Rodríguez-Estrella** who is the retired Professor of Hydrogeology at the Cartagena Polytechnic University, palaeontologist **Dr Gregorio Romero Sánchez** of the Murcian Regional Government's Heritage Directorate-General.

Among visiting experts whom we expect to host for brief periods during our Field School, and who will give short talks to participants, are **Prof.Dr. Hugues Blain** from Tarragona's Rovira I Virgili University (specialist in palaeontology of reptiles and amphibians), **Dr. Anna Rufà** from Bordeaux University (specialist in palaeontology and taphonomy of bird bones), **Dr. Ruth Blasco** from Spain's National Centre for Human Evolution Research at Burgos (specialist in bone taphonomy), Drs. J.M^a. Parès and Mathieu Duval from Spain's National Centre for Human Evolution Research at Burgos (geophysicists), **Prof.Dr. Héctor Manrique** from the Teruel campus of Saragossa University (evolutionary psychologist who has conducted experiments with great apes), and, we hope, the distinguished mammalian palaeontologist **Dr Jan van der Made** of Spain's national Museum of Natural Sciences at Madrid.

We have very many specialists in different disciplines at centres around the world who collaborate with us actively, and possibly one or two may visit our sites during our summer field season and if so they usually share their knowledge and experience with us in talks, seminars or field expertise on site. Some are old hands at our Field School and excavations, or long-standing scientific collaborators. Among them are Pittsburgh dental anthropologist **Dr Vince Lombardi** (one-time adjunct professor at Harvard University Dental School), British archaeologist and engineer **John Simpson**, O.B.E., bioarchaeologist **Dr. Sara Rhodes** (who in 2019 obtained her PhD at Tübingen University), geoarchaeologist **Dr Diego Angelucci** and his PhD student **Daniela Anesin** who sampled sediment at our sites for micromorphological research at Trento University in Italy, Oxford University OSL Dating Laboratory head **Dr Jean-Luc Schwenninger**, and **Dr Mathieu Duval** of Spain's National Centre for the Investigation of Human Evolution at Burgos and Griffith University at Brisbane in Australia where he works with the eminent geochronologist **Professor Dr. Rainer Grün**. **Professor Hervé Bocherens** is undertaking stable isotope research in herbivore teeth from both our sites at Tübingen University's Biogeology Institute, from samples taken at Murcia by his colleague Dr. Christoph Wissing in 2019.

Among other eminent scientific collaborators are the paleoanthropologists Professor Erik Trinkaus (Washington University of St. Louis), who is the leading authority on Neanderthal anatomy, and Professor Bernard Wood of the George Washington University of Washington DC whose publications on early *Homo* in Africa are world-famous. We must mention also Professor Amanda of Leiden University who with her research team study phytoliths in the dental calculi of our *Sima de las Palomas* Neanderthals which tell us about plants eaten by them; members of her team. Drs Robert C.Power, Domingo Carlos Salazar García and Cynthia Spiteri, have taken samples at our sites in 2012 and 2013. The eminent palaeoanthropologist Professor Chris Stringer (Natural History Museum London and London University Imperial College) follows our research keenly and some years ago he sent his Head of Conservation, Chris Collins, here to give us the benefit of his experience in cleaning fossils. Professor Kate Robson-Brown of Bristol University Archaeology Department and Professor Priscilla Bayle of PACEA Bordeaux University have undertaken microtomography of teeth and small bones, particularly of the *Sima de las Palomas* Neanderthals. We have had considerable advice and help with tomography (CAT scanning) of larger skeletal elements from Professor Christoph Zollikofer and Dr Marcia Ponce de León from Zurich University where they have received us to give help for continuing research on the scans. Dr Francisco Giles-Pacheco and Juan José López-Amador from the El Puerto de Santa María Museum gave us useful advice about suitable (CTS) vibrosalpels for cleaning the skeletons.

Among relevant collaborators with our research mention must be made of thermoluminescence specialist Dr Daniel Richter (the Leipzig Max-Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology and Leuphana Universität Lüneburg), and the expert on optically stimulated luminescence sediment dating Dr. Jean-Luc Schwenninger (Oxford University Research Laboratory for Archaeology and the History of Art, RLHA), as well as the well-known radiocarbon dating specialist at RLHA, Professor Tom Higham, uranium-series

dating expert Dr Alistair Pike (Southampton University), Dr Stuart Black (Reading University), palaeomagnetism specialists Professor Gary Scott (Berkeley Geochronology Center) and Dr Lluís Gibert-Beotas (Barcelona University), cosmogenic nuclide dating expert Dr Régis Braucher (Laboratoire de Nucléides Cosmogéniques LN2C, CEREGE UMR 6635, CNRS, Aix-en-Provence), the specialist in Fourier-transform infra-red spectroscopic analysis of burnt remains Dr Francesco Berna (Simon Fraser University), the specialist in electron spin resonance palaeotemperature analysis of burnt remains Dr Anne Skinner of Williams College Boston, and the expert in spectroscopic characterization of rare-earth and crustal elements Dr Alex Andronikov of Arizona University's Planetary and Lunar Laboratory. Other relevant colleagues and collaborators include physical anthropologists Professor Alejandro Martínez-Pérez-Pérez (Barcelona University), Dr Kornelius Kupczik (University of Chile and Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Leipzig) and Dr Josefina Zapata-Crespo (Murcia University), Palaeolithic archaeologists Professor João Zilhão (Barcelona University), Emeritus Professor Nicolas Rolland (University of Victoria, Canada), Professor Wil Roebroeks (Leiden University), the late Professor Derek Roe (Oxford University) and Professor Tom Wynn (University of Colorado at Colorado Springs), anthracologist Dr Ernestina Badal (Valencia University), micromammalian palaeontologist the late Professor Antonio Ruiz-Bustos (Granada University), palaeontologists Professor Carles Ferrández (Barcelona University), Professor Xaber Murélagu (University of the Basque Country) and Professor Hugues Blain (Rovira I Virgili University, Tarragona); geomorphologist Dr. Yanni Gunnell (Lyons-2 University), archaeologist Professor Milton Núñez-Gilabert (Oulu University, Finland), archaeologist and physical anthropologist Dr Phillip Habgood (Queensland University), avian palaeontologist Anne Eastham (Cleddau Laboratory for Archaeozoology, Fishguard, Wales), archaeologist Miguel San Nicolás-del Toro (Instituto de Patrimonio Histórico, Comunidad Autónoma de Murcia), palaeoimmunology, and palaeobiochemistry expert Professor Enrique García-Olivares (Granada University).

FIELD LOGISTICS

VERY IMPORTANT ADVICE TO ALL TRAVELLERS

RENDEZ-VOUS

Rendez-vous is on **Fridays**

Cueva Negra: pick up Friday **June 30th**, set down Friday **July 21st 2023**

Sima de las Palomas: pick up Friday **July 21st**, set down Friday **August 11th, 2023**

Rendez-vous sites:
These vary according your means of travel.

For those field helpers signed up for *Cueva Negra* (Session 1) or *Sima de las Palomas* (Session 2) and who will arrive by planes landing at Murcia-Corvera International Airport we probably can arrange to meet you at it and return you to it when you leave, **provided (a) that before June 14th 2023 you have informed us of your flight times and (b) that we have replied to you telling you what we are prepared to do for you**, (regardless of whether you are coming to Session 1 or Session 2, as we need to file all the information about all of our helpers **well before** our Field School starts on June 30th because when we are in the field we cannot guarantee to reply to you because the excavations, practical work, and classes/seminars absorb fully all the time and energy of the Staff, and, moreover, often our internet and cell-phone cover is very poor, or even non-existent when we are excavating in our caves).

If you need to phone us on June 30th or July 21st, please call Field School co-director **Mariano López** on his cell phone +34-630-408806.

We refuse to meet or set down helpers on any days other than those Fridays that are the start and finish dates of each session, namely, June 30th, July 21st, and August 11th. On those 3 Fridays we can meet at *Murcia-Corvera International Airport* those helpers, and only those helpers, whose planes land at it on the first day of each session and set them down on the last.

Do **NOT** go to *Murcia-Corvera International Airport* **if you will be getting off (or on) a plane at any other airport (e.g., Madrid, Barcelona, or Alicante Airports).**

Do **NOT** go to *Murcia-Corvera International Airport* if you are coming **by train or by road** in order to join either of our sessions.

Rail and road travellers: For *Sima de las Palomas* (Session 2) we can meet helpers at the Balsicas-Mar Menor railway station where trains stop that go to Cartagena; however, the newly-opened (December 20th, 2022), costly, high-speed "Ave" train service from Madrid **ends** at Murcia where you'll need to change to a train to Cartagena. The services of cheaper, slower, through trains from Madrid and Barcelona to Cartagena that call at Murcia and Balsicas-Mar Menor have been suspended temporarily owing to ongoing reorganisation of the tracks around Murcia "El Carmen" railway station, but with luck they may resume in 2023. For the time being, therefore, the available trains end at Murcia "El Carmen" railway station, and are the high-speed "Ave" which are expensive.

Be aware (a) that on **all** long-distance trains in Spain you **must** book a seat in advance (e.g., on-line at the *RENFE* website or at a commercial website such as *Trainline*), and (b) that Spanish railway time-tables usually change in May for the Summer (which may mean that you cannot make a booking until May, when trains very quickly get fully booked by Spanish holidaymakers who spend holidays on Murcia's beaches). Unfortunately, until May 2023 when the summer time-table of Spain's rail network is published, it may not be possible to access precise and accurate information about rail time-tables and services. When booking from outside Spain, you may be given no other option by an on-line booking system than to book through to the nearest **major** railway station **beyond** the station where you intend to leave the train (e.g., to Cartagena if you intend to alight or board at Balsicas-Mar-Menor station. If you're a full-time student, get an *International Student Card* before you come: it may get you discounts on trains and long-distance coaches. Young people can buy *Interail* travel passes for Europe but will probably have to be prepared to pay supplements on

most of the Spanish trains that you would want to use – even so, the overall discount may be worth having if you're thinking of visiting other countries while in Europe.

We do **not** meet rail travellers at Murcia “El Carmen” railway station that often is far too crowded for us to be able to guarantee finding you! So, if you arrive at it, take a taxi to Murcia “San Andrés” bus station (as walking to it with luggage takes about forty-five minutes even if you don't get lost on the way!) and then take service buses to Caravaca bus station for Session 1 or Torre Pacheco bus station for Session 2. You must go to the Murcia bus station ticket office to buy a ticket for the cheap service buses to the bus stations at Caravaca for Session 1 or Torre Pacheco for Session 2. Once you are on a bus from Murcia to either Caravaca or Torre Pacheco, phone us so that we can meet you at those bus stations after your bus arrives. Buses leave Murcia for Caravaca hourly between 06.10 and 21.10 hours; the journey takes about an hour. Buses leave Murcia for Torre Pacheco roughly every 2 hours from 08.30 to 20.30 hours; the journey takes about 30 minutes. If you need to phone us on June 30th or July 21st, please call Field School co-director **Mariano López** on his cell phone +34-630-408806.

If you arrive by plane at *Madrid-Barajas International Airport* you can get a direct “ALSA” coach from the airport that leaves (I think from Terminal 4 perhaps) at 8.30 a.m. daily (you must book your seat on-line beforehand at the “ALSA” website: <https://www.alsa.com>) and stops at Murcia bus station and then at Torre Pacheco bus station (alas, not at Caravaca bus station). When you are on the coach and your Session 2 destination is Torre Pacheco, phone us so that we can meet you at Torre Pacheco bus station after your bus arrives. If you are coming for Session 1, get off the coach at Murcia city bus station, go to the ticket office, buy a ticket for the service bus to Caravaca, and once you're on it, phone us so we can meet you after your bus arrives at Caravaca bus station; service buses leave Murcia for Caravaca hourly between 06.10 and 21.10 hours; the journey takes about an hour. If you need to phone us on June 30th or July 21st, please call Field School co-director **Mariano López** on his cell phone +34-630-408806.

Because air passengers arrive in great swarms at *Alicante International Airport* and, moreover, because flights arriving there are delayed often, **we refuse absolutely to meet helpers there**, as we are unable to guarantee finding you in the throng! The airport is too far away from our bases for us to send our drivers to it. So, please note that even though there are *British Airways* flights between *London-Gatwick* and *Alicante International Airports*, **we refuse absolutely to pick up or set down travellers at Alicante Airport, under any circumstances whatsoever**. We refuse to do this because *Alicante International Airport* is too far from our centres of activity and its air-traffic density is so very great that the frequent long delays in arrival and departure times there can mean that our staff assistants who drive the vehicles can be inconveniently away for unpredictably long periods. Also, there are so many hundreds of flying holidaymakers there, at all times of the day and night during the summer, that you could easily miss us and we could easily miss you among the swarms of people, whereas *Murcia-Corvera International Airport* is less chaotic, and we've never missed meeting anyone at it yet! We appreciate this might disappoint some international travellers, but the smooth running of our project must take precedence over individual convenience of travellers.

If you do decide to travel through *Alicante International Airport*, then on your head be it! You will be there all on your own! You, and you alone, will be then responsible for getting from there to our field bases. You must go to them **directly** from Alicante Airport, **MAKING YOUR OWN WAY** to our **bases at Caravaca or Dolores de Pacheco**, respectively. **You will have to go first to Murcia.** A regular, fast, coach service connects *Alicante International Airport* with Murcia city bus station (taking 55 minutes), from 07.15 h to 21.15 h, and the return service leaves Murcia from 07.00 h to 21.00 h. You can buy your ticket at a stand inside Alicante Airport. On arrival at Murcia city bus station, you must go to its **ticket office** and buy a ticket for the cheap service buses to the bus stations at Caravaca for Session 1 or Torre Pacheco for Session 2. Once you are on a service bus from Murcia to either Caravaca or Torre Pacheco, phone us so that we can meet you at those bus stations after your bus arrives. Buses leave Murcia for Caravaca hourly between 06.10 and 21.10 hours; the journey takes about an hour. Buses leave Murcia for Torre Pacheco roughly every 2 hours from 08.30 to 20.30 hours; the journey takes about 30 minutes. If you need to phone us on June 30th or July 21st, please call Field School co-director **Mariano López** on his cell phone +34-630-408806.

If you are flying into or out of Murcia-Corvera International Airport you need to bear in mind the following:

June 30th (Friday) ARRIVALS: We can pick you up at *Murcia-Corvera International Airport* at almost any hour of the day or afternoon on this day, but, because the drive to our Caravaca base takes about 90 minutes, if you land late in the evening, say about 9 or 10 p.m., we shall not be able to get you to Caravaca base until late at night, when the most we can offer you to eat may be a sandwich or two and a salad, as everyone else will have had a hot dinner at 9 pm. So, please try to take a flight that lands before 7 p.m., but if the only one available for you lands later than that we shall do our best to pick you up **provided that you have informed us before June 14th whether you've signed up for Session 1 or Session 2.**

July 21st (Friday) DEPARTURES: We cannot take anyone to *Murcia-Corvera International Airport* for flights out of Murcia that have a departure time earlier than 11 a.m., so you should not book on a flight that departs earlier than that. Yes, indeed there are early morning flights out of Murcia, but if you book on one leaving early on July 21st you will have to take a private taxi from Caravaca at your own expense, which will cost you at least sixty or seventy euros. So, in order to avoid that expense, we can offer you an **alternative solution** if you must book on an **early** morning flight in order to make an international same-day connexion in, say, Madrid, Barcelona, London, etc., which is to book your early morning flight out of Murcia for Saturday July 22nd and stay the night of Friday 21st with us at our Dolores de Pacheco base and either we can take you to the airport or you can order a taxi which will be less expensive than it would be from Caravaca, and you will not be charged for the extra night accommodation if you want to do that, but we need to know in advance, and certainly before June 29th, in order to be sure that there are enough beds available at Dolores de Pacheco! After June 29th we are too busy excavating at Cueva Negra to be able to attend to administrative matters concerning session 2 at Dolores de Pacheco.

July 21st (Friday) ARRIVALS: We can pick you up at *Murcia-Corvera International Airport* at almost any time but if you land there before 11 a.m. you may have to hang around for a couple of hours until we arrive from Caravaca to set down departing Session 1 helpers, as it takes us 75-90 minutes to drive from Caravaca to *Murcia-Corvera International Airport*. Please let us know the arrival time of your plane well beforehand.

August 11th (Friday) DEPARTURES: Same as for July 21st, though because also our staff will be busy transporting excavation equipment and finds to various places during the day, we may have to drop you off at *Murcia-Corvera International Airport* in the morning and you will then have to hang around there until whatever time in the afternoon or evening your flight leaves that you may have booked on.

Murcia-Corvera International Airport is a new airport (opened in January 2019). Daily flights between the airport and Madrid or Barcelona by *Iberia Airlines* (the Spanish national carrier, or one of its subsidiary companies such as *AirNostrum* or *Vueling*) may be cancelled at short notice on Saturdays or Sundays. Because these internal flights are scheduled mainly to serve businessmen's weekday needs to do the return trip in one day, at weekends in Summer the weekend planes involved are sometimes withdrawn at short notice in order to serve tourists from Madrid or Barcelona flying to Majorca, Málaga, the Canary Islands, or other tourist destinations for which there is greatest demand by holidaymakers. To avoid problems for our helpers, our **Friday** rendez-vous allows those of you coming from other countries to transfer in Spain (at *Madrid-Barajas International Airport* or *Barcelona-El Prat International Airport*) to flights to *Murcia-Corvera International Airport*, which as yet receives no intercontinental flights; you may want to land in Spain on Thursday and stay the night in an hotel at Madrid or Barcelona before flying to Murcia on Friday. Alternatively, you might want to stay Thursday night in London (or maybe Dublin). On *Fridays* there are various flights between several **London** airports and *Murcia-Corvera International Airport* (flying time is two-and-a-half-hours; there is a 1-hour time-zone difference between Spain and the UK), though some airlines offer flights only on two or three weekdays, so you should consult their websites (or a travel agent) about their schedules for July and August 2023. *Ryanair* has flights from Dublin to Murcia.

Intercontinental travellers, please note that if you are flying back from **Murcia to London** in the afternoon – especially if flying on budget airlines, and then on to another destination from London, *you ought to arrange to spend the night in London* because flights from Spain to London are *very, very often delayed* in Summer when air traffic between northern Europe and the Mediterranean holiday coast is always *very heavy indeed* and because scheduled flights are given priority for take-off or landing budget airline flights can easily be delayed by a few hours without warning. Covid-related hassles and long queues at airports make delays longer still. You must take into account the likelihood of delays occurring *so as not to miss your onward connecting flight* (e.g. to the USA or wherever). It could be very imprudent indeed to think you can arrive at London Gatwick at, say, 19.00 h and be in time to catch a 22.00 h plane from that same airport to the USA - and if you have to change airports and get to Heathrow, allow at least a good six hours, as you may have to collect your luggage at Gatwick before getting the coach from Gatwick to Heathrow (which takes at least an hour - more if traffic is heavy) and once there you'll have to check it in again before your next flight is closed. Intercontinental travellers must bear in mind that surface connexions between London airports can be very time-consuming: even before covid- struck it could take 6 hours after landing at Gatwick or Heathrow airports that are south of London to get (with your luggage) to Luton or Stansted airports that are north of London (I once nearly missed a flight some years ago because it takes so long to get between London airports).

Our Field School Sessions 1 and 2 start and finish on Fridays in 2023 because there are often connecting *Iberia (Air Nostrum)* scheduled flights to *Murcia-Corvera International Airport* from *Madrid-Barajas International Airport* and *Barcelona-El Prat International Airport* on weekdays for intercontinental travellers arriving via the airports at Madrid or Barcelona from the U.S, Canada, Australia, *etcetera*, whereas there often are no connecting on Saturdays and Sundays. For logistical reasons related to our use of public-school buildings we start Session 1 at the very end of June or the very beginning of July.

Various budget airlines fly to the recently-opened (in 2019) *Murcia-Corvera International Airport*. Low-cost flights are offered by several "budget" airlines, such as *Ryanair* (from Stansted, Luton, Dublin, Birmingham, Manchester, Glasgow-Prestwick, Bournemouth, East Midlands, Leeds-Bradford, Frankfurt and Eindhoven), *Easyjet* (from Gatwick, Bristol and Newcastle), *Jet2*, *FlyBe*, *Vueling*, *Transavia*, *Germanwings*, *WizzAir*, *WowAir*, *Onur Air*, *TUI*, *FlyBelgium*, *Norwegian*, *Virgin*, *Niki*, *etcetera*, and even by some national flag carriers such as *Iberia*, *Aerlingus*, *British Airways*, and *Lufthansa-Air France*. However, only a handful of airlines fly to *Murcia-Corvera International Airport*. Web-sites such as *e-Dreams* and *Jetcost* offer a lot of detailed information about what is available. Airline timetables should be available in March 2023. (The old airport of Murcia-San Javier is now closed.)

We ask helpers to book on flights that are scheduled to land at Murcia no later than 7 p.m. (19 h) or depart from Murcia no earlier than 11 a.m.. We ask this especially of Session 1 helpers, on account of the time it takes to drive between our Caravaca base and the airport; earlier flight-departure or later flight-landing times may involve Session 1 helpers having to hire a taxi for the drive at their own expense. You will have to hire a taxi at your own expense if you land or depart on dates other than those set out above.

Remember that each 3-week period will begin on Day 1 (arrival day, Friday) with rendez-vous at *Murcia-Corvera International Airport* for only those helpers whose planes land there. We start and finish on Fridays because there are not only connecting *Iberia (Air Nostrum* or *Vueling)* flights from Madrid and Barcelona on weekdays for intercontinental travellers arriving in Spain from the USA, Australia or elsewhere (there often are no connecting *Iberia (Air Nostrum* or *Vueling)* flights on Saturdays and Sundays), but also low-cost budget airline flights from the UK and some other EU countries.

Only if you have told us in advance, AND WE HAVE REPLIED SAYING THAT WE SHALL, will our drivers pick up late arrivals after 19.00 hours on June 21st at *Murcia-Corvera International Airport*: the reason is because the drive to Caravaca takes 75-90 minutes and on the first evening of our first session we like all our helpers to have dinner together at our Caravaca base at 9 p.m. (21 hours). Because of the driving time and the requirement to be at the airport 1-2 hours before take-off, helpers leaving Session 1 should book flights scheduled to depart no earlier than 11 a.m. (see above). Because our Session 2 base is nearer to the airport Session 2 helpers can arrive later or leave earlier.

Provided that **beforehand** you have given us your **flight number**, then if your plane is delayed, and arrives late at *Murcia-Corvera International Airport*, we will wait for you, so don't panic! But if you have **not** given us your flight number beforehand, and your plane arrives late, it is unlikely there will be anybody to meet you at the airport (unless, if you're very lucky, a driver may be waiting for someone *else* off the same late flight who **had** given us the necessary details beforehand). **IT IS ALSO IMPORTANT TO STRESS THAT WE NEED YOUR FLIGHT DETAILS BEFORE JUNE 14th 2023, EVEN IF YOU ARE NOT COMING UNTIL JULY 21st, BECAUSE AFTER JUNE 30th WE DO NOT HAVE REGULAR OR RELIABLE INTERNET ACCESS OR CELL PHONE COVER**

WHEN WE ARE IN THE FIELD AT CUEVA NEGRA AT CARAVACA BECAUSE THE CAVE IS IN THE COUNTRYSIDE WHERE THERE IS NO INTERNET COVER AND ONLY VERY POOR AND INTERMITTENT CELL PHONE COVER, AND THEREFORE WE MAY WELL FAIL TO RECEIVE EMAIL MESSAGES OR TELEPHONE CALLS SENT BY YOU BETWEEN JUNE 30th AND JULY 21st: SO NO LATER THAN JUNE 14th WE NEED ALL YOUR FLIGHT DETAILS UPTO AUGUST 11th IF YOU WANT US TO PICK YOU UP BY US AT MURCIA-CORVERA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT. Transport between Murcia Airport and our accommodation bases is free of charge to those helpers who arrive for the Friday rendez-vous there **AND WHO HAVE SENT US THEIR FLIGHT DETAILS BEFORE JUNE 14th 2023.**

Please bear in mind that, at Spanish airports, flights are **closed one hour before scheduled take off**. This means that if you are going to change planes in Madrid or Barcelona, even between national flights, let alone for international and intercontinental flights, then when you arrange your flights, you must make sure that you allow around **two hours** between your plane's scheduled landing (it might be delayed) and the take-off of your next plane. If you're coming from the USA, it is probably quickest and cheapest to change from a U.S. carrier to *Iberia* or its subsidiaries *Air Nostrum* or *Vueling* at Madrid (*Air Nostrum* and *Vueling* are subsidiary companies belonging to *Iberia Airlines* and many internal flights in Spain are serviced by them), as your U.S. or intercontinental carrier may include the price of one onward flight within Europe in the cost of your ticket to Madrid or Barcelona.

Low-budget travellers from the British Isles might also be interested budget flights to **Madrid, Valencia, or Barcelona**, that fly out of other British and European cities. Coaches are ubiquitous in Spain and there are many overnight coaches from Madrid or Barcelona which save you the cost of a bed (whereas overnight trains nowadays have disappeared in Spain).

IT IS MOST IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER THE MURCIA-CORVERA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT IS QUITE NEAR TO THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA, AND THE MURCIAN COAST IS A MAJOR HOLIDAY RESORT AREA, SO HIGH-SEASON FLIGHTS IN THE JULY-AUGUST HOLIDAY PERIOD GET FULLY BOOKED UP SEVERAL WEEKS AHEAD. SO, IF YOU ARE COMING YOU SHOULD FINALISE YOUR TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS, BY THE END OF APRIL IF YOU WANT TO BE SURE OF GETTING A FLIGHT TO MURCIA-CORVERA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT. REMEMBER THAT ON-LINE BOOKING WITH COMPANIES LIKE RYANAIR OR EASYJET OFTEN GIVES YOU A VERY CHEAP DEAL IF YOU BOOK A FEW MONTHS BEFOREHAND.

IF YOU ARE MAKING ALTERNATIVE TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS AND WANT US TO TRY TO MEET YOU AT ANY OTHER TIME OR PLACE, IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT BY JUNE 14th YOU HAVE INFORMED US IN WRITING AND HAVE RECEIVED OUR REPLY. YOU MUST INFORM US DIRECTLY BEFORE JUNE 14th 2023 BY EMAIL to mjwalke@gmail.com with cc. to Field School co-directors **Dr. María Haber mariahaber@um.es or mariahaber@pi-ma.es and **Mariano López** marianolopez@hotmail.com. Please note that if we meet you at any place, date, or time of day other than the official rendez-vous sites, dates, and times you will be expected to pay for our petrol even if we have agreed to come to meet you or set you down, but **whether or not we agree to do so will depend on whether it is convenient for us**, because a major field project has many commitments which tie up our vehicles and staff.**

If you get into difficulties when travelling to us, and cannot arrive at the agreed time or place, try phoning us, so that we aren't hanging around unnecessarily, and can try to help you with an alternative rendez-vous. You can call Field School co-director Mariano Lopez' cell phone number (+34)-630-408806 though when we are in the field excavating his number is very likely to be out of cover (especially at *Cueva Negra*). You should ensure before leaving your country of origin that your own mobile phone is set up so as to be able to dial cheaply within Spain and not via a hideously expensive international phone call that re-routes your call first through your country of origin and back again to Spain!!! The best time to call is after 15.00 hours Central European Time (CET) when we have got back from the field. Check on the time zone before you phone; 14.00 hours UK time is equivalent to 15.00 hours CET, but if you're phoning from the USA there are several hours of difference!

If you arrive at any place, date, or time of day, *other* than the rendez-vous place, dates, and times, as specified above, you may very well have to make your own way to our base at your own expense. Whether or not we might be able to agree to meet you somewhere to get you to our base will depend on whether it is convenient for us, because a major field project has many commitments which tie up our vehicles and staff. Even if you have contacted us and we have agreed to help you out, you will be expected to pay for our petrol even if we have agreed to come to meet you or set you down.

Unless you have received a reply from us, telling you that we shall meet you, you MUST find your way to the accommodation base at your own expense. In that regard, the following information may be helpful:

Cueva Negra: From *Murcia-Corvera International Airport* to our accommodation base at *Caravaca's* "Colegio Público "Asacruz" de Educación Especial" (Residential Public School "Asacruz" for Disabled Children), the distance of 100 kilometres means your taxi fare will cost you at least €80 euros a head and maybe a good bit more. It could therefore be very expensive for you if you fly in on a day or at a time other than the scheduled rendez-vous ones. It may be possible to take a bus or taxi to Murcia city bus station and from there take the service bus to Caravaca bus station. The "Asacruz" school is on the edge of the town and about half-an-hour's walk from the bus station though if you phone us we may be able to drive to the bus station to collect you. If you need to phone us on June 30th or July 21st, please call Field School co-director **Mariano López** on his cell phone +34-630-408806.

Sima de las Palomas: From *Murcia-Corvera International Airport* it is about 30 kilometres to our accommodation at the village school at *Dolores de Pacheco* (where we eat three times a day at its village "Centro Social" or Social Centre) but there is no public transport to the village and a taxi might charge you 50 euros. If you are flying in on a day or at a time *other* than the scheduled rendez-vous ones, we may only be able to pick you up at the Airport if we have NOT ONLY advance information from you BUT ALSO enough vehicles and drivers free to allow us to do so - otherwise a taxi to Dolores de Pacheco from the Airport could well cost you about €50 euros. It may be possible for you to take a bus or taxi to Murcia city bus station and from there take the service bus to Torre Pacheco bus station, and if you phone us we may be able to drive to the bus station to collect you. If you need to phone us on June 30th or July 21st, please call Field School co-director **Mariano López** on his cell phone +34-630-408806.

The nationwide "ALSA" company (website: <https://www.alsa.com>) of long-distance coach services in Spain runs several coaches every day between Madrid "Estación del Sur" bus station and Murcia city bus station, and between Barcelona "Estació del Nord" bus station and Murcia city bus station, as well as coaches that leave (or return to) the *Madrid-Barajas International Airport* Terminal 4) and *Barcelona-El Prat International Airport* Terminal 1). There is a long-distance "ALSA" coach that leaves Madrid Barajas Airport Terminal 4 early in the morning (about 8.30 a.m.), calls at Madrid "Estación del Sur" bus station, and stops at Torre Pacheco bus station where we can meet helpers for Session 2 because it is quite near to our base at Dolores de Pacheco; it also calls at Murcia city bus station where helpers for Session 1 can change for the service bus to Caravaca bus station where we could meet them. You can book tickets for long-distance "ALSA" coaches at its website.

There are several other long-distance coach companies in Spain. Some of their coaches from Madrid or Barcelona go only as far as Murcia, whereas others stop at Murcia but then go on either to Cartagena and La Manga, or to Los Alcázares or Torre Pacheco (especially those from Madrid). Some coaches from Madrid or Barcelona to the Murcia coastal resorts do not go through Murcia city but instead go through the city of Elche. Some coaches (especially some from Barcelona) continue from Murcia city bus station and go on to the Andalusian cities of Almería, Granada, Málaga, Seville and Algeciras. Helpers for Session 1 (at Cueva Negra) will have to get off at Murcia city bus station and change there to the service bus to Caravaca bus station and if you phone us from the bus we can try to meet you there. Helpers for Session 2 (at Sima de las Palomas) can get off at Murcia city bus station and change to the service bus to Torre Pacheco bus station which is a few kilometres distant from our base at Dolores de Pacheco which, unfortunately, which is not served by any bus whatsoever, but if you phone us from the bus we can try to meet you at Torre Pacheco bus station. Coach and bus time-tables often undergo change in the high holiday season of July and August, and matters are made worse by delays owing to heavy traffic on crowded roads in an area densely packed with coastal holiday resorts.

Cueva Negra: If you plan on coming to *Caravaca* by coach/bus you will need to get a coach to Murcia city bus station and then change to the local service bus out to *Caravaca* bus station. From both Madrid and Barcelona there are several daily coaches to Murcia city bus-station; however, if you take a daytime coach - particularly from Barcelona, which is a long journey down to Murcia, or those which leave Madrid in the late afternoon rather than a morning coach - then you will arrive too late in the evening to catch the last Murcia-Caravaca bus, and you will have to find an hotel for the night in Murcia city. To avoid that expense, you could catch *overnight* coaches on Sunday from Madrid or Barcelona to Murcia city (though we don't think **women travelling alone** should do so) and then an early Friday morning bus from Murcia out to *Caravaca*. From the Caravaca bus station it is about a kilometre and a half to our accommodation base at the "*Colegio Público "Asacruz" de Educación Especial*" (Residential Public School "Asacruz" for Disabled Children). If you want us to pick you up at the *Caravaca* coach-stop, phone us when you're on the bus to say when you'll arrive at Caravaca bus station and if we are at the school we will pick you up (though we cannot do so between 07.30 and 14.30 hours because we are all at *Cueva Negra* excavating where our cell phones lack cover so we shall not be able to respond to your calls). Otherwise you can either take a taxi to the school, or walk if your luggage is a backpack.

If walking, try to ask, first, how to get to the large "Templete" monumental fountain (a neo-Classical structure of columns and a cupola). It is beside a set of traffic-lights where you take the road signposted to *Moratalla*. Walk up the road for about 300 metres until you see a sign on the left to "*Fuentes del Marqués*" and *Colegio Asacruz* which, after walking about 800 metres along a country lane, is a large concrete modern building up on a low bluff on your right. (There is a short-cut if you're daring enough: once you've left the *Templete* behind you, and have gone about a hundred metres along the road to Moratalla, at the next set of traffic-lights you come to (beside a bar called "Zaián"), you can take the left-hand street, and, after about another 200 metres, where the street suddenly bends to the left, you, instead, go straight ahead along a tree-lined pedestrian walk which passes some houses on your right and then becomes a very wide country footpath between a shady avenue of trees, which you follow for about 600 metres, until you reach a tarmac lane where you turn right and then take the first left up to the school which is on the left.)

Sima de las Palomas: If you plan on coming from Madrid or Barcelona by coach/bus to *Dolores de Pacheco*, you have several options. Mention was made above about the direct "ALSA" coach from *Madrid-Barajas International Airport* (Terminal 4, I seem to recall) that stops at Torre Pacheco bus station. From both cities there are long-distance coaches to Murcia city bus station. If you take overnight coaches to Murcia city from Madrid or Barcelona on Sunday (we don't think **women travelling alone** should do that) you can easily get services buses that leave daily from the Murcia city bus station for Torre Pacheco bus station where we can meet you if you phone us when you are on the bus and know at what time you will arrive.

About the service buses to Caravaca and Torre Pacheco from Murcia city bus station:

At Murcia city bus station, go to the ticket office and buy your ticket which you then show to the bus driver when you board.

On working week-days, service buses leave Murcia city bus station for **Caravaca** bus station at ten minutes past the hour, every hour from 06.10 h through to 21.10 h (there are fewer buses on public holidays and weekends) and the journey takes roughly an hour-and-a-half. Return buses leave Caravaca for Murcia at ten minutes past the hour, every hour from 06.10 h through to 21.10 h (except that instead of 15.10 h it leaves at 15.30 h). On working week-days, service buses leave Murcia city bus station for Torre Pacheco bus station at 08.30 h, 10.30, 11.30, 12.30, 14.00, 15.30, 18.00, 19.30, and 21.00 h (travel time is about an hour).

If you would like to spend a pleasant extra night or two before or after any of the sessions, in order to enjoy a relaxing day or two by the beach after a tiring long journey, or after a gruelling excavation session with us, we recommend an inexpensive friendly 2-star hotel at Los Narejos; it is the Hotel Los Narejos where bed-and-breakfast costs about 45-50 euros, and you can also buy lunch or dinner in its dining room. Several of our helpers from other countries have stayed there and been well satisfied. It is about a quarter of a mile or 0.5 km from the beach. Because July and August are high holiday-season months, when anything under 50 euros bed-and-breakfast is hard to find at coastal resorts like Los Narejos, you should book well in advance. Here are the details: Hotel Los Narejos, Avenida de la Constitución 67, Los Narejos, 30710 Los Alcázares, Murcia, tel. +34-968-575634. (If you stay there before Session 1, you will have to make your own way by bus to Caravaca bus station. If you stay there after Session 1, we can drop you off at the hotel on Day 21. It is near our Session 2 Dolores de Pacheco base, so if you stay there before or after Session 2, we can pick you up at the hotel in the evening of Day 1 or drop you off at the hotel on Day 21.)

RESEARCH AREA

Both *Cueva Negra* and *Sima de las Palomas* lie in the southeastern Spanish province of *Murcia*. It is a popular Summer tourist area, especially the *Mar Menor* ("Lesser Sea") which is a large coastal lagoon near to *Sima de las Palomas*. *Murcia* is extremely dry and its coastal region becomes is very warm from mid-June to mid-September: by noon the temperature is usually 30-40° C (85-105° F.).

The region has a *Mediterranean* scrub vegetation and its aridity means that for the most part its hills and mountains are not covered by dense woodland but, instead, show rocky slopes and cliffs. The majestic hills and peaks emit the heady scented fragrance of thyme, juniper, laurel, fennel, marjoram, camomile and rosemary.

Little is left of the original wildlife, apart from occasional eagles, vultures, and, in the hinterland near *Cueva Negra* wild boar, and occasional wild deer and cats. For the most part, only occasional herds of sheep or goats move across the landscape. All the same, a few less pleasant animals lurk among the rocks, from stinging tarantula spiders and small scorpions to poisonous vipers. If you wear boots when you are not on footpaths, these little creatures will scurry away quickly, so don't worry!

Dramatic visual contrasts in the landscape are provided between the bright rock of steep hillsides and the lush green agricultural crops on valley floors which are oases maintained by irrigation canals from the *River Segura* and its tributaries.

These canals were first dug by *Syrian* engineers after this part of Spain fell under *Muslim* domination in the eighth century A.D., when *Islamic* soldiers crossed the *Gibraltar Strait* from *North Africa* and soon conquered most of Spain. The very name *Murcia* is an old Arabic word, "*mursiyah*", which means "*Place of Waters*". It is the name both of the self-governing political region and of its administrative capital which is a city of 400,000 people. It was the capital of an important Muslim emirate or kingdom. (Geographical coordinates for Murcia city are: Latitude 37° 58' 35.5296" or 37.97653574833937; Longitude -1° 5' 35.304" or -1.0931396484375.)

Murcia was an important Muslim kingdom until it was reconquered by Christian Spaniards in the thirteenth century. The reconquest is celebrated every year at *Caravaca de la Cruz* by a mock battle between Christian knights and Moorish soldiers. *Caravaca* was the summer capital of the Muslim kings, who retreated there from *Murcia* which is stiflingly hot and humid in the summer. Helpers at *Cueva Negra* can visit their palace and castle at *Caravaca* now also contains a beautiful church which was built to commemorate a vision there of a Holy Cross with two cross-bars (like the Cross of Lorraine in France) that supposedly helped convert the people to Christianity. *Caravaca* is at 500 metres above sea level, and is cooler than is *Murcia* at a mere 50 m above sea level. *Cueva Negra* is just under 15 kilometres from *Caravaca*, and is higher still, at 750 metres above sea level. On the hill above the cave there are the walls and house-foundations of a late prehistoric Iberian (Iron Age) town and of an Iberian and early Roman temple over part of which a small church was later built. Helpers at *Cueva Negra* can visit these. Not far away, at *Mula*, there was an important Iberian town and there is an excellent museum of Iberian finds.

Murcia was long famous for its *silk* industry, based on its rich orchards of mulberry trees, although that industry has died out over the past 100 years, to be replaced by fruit orchards and canneries. Murcian *peaches* are the sweetest in Europe. Murcian tomatoes, lemons, oranges, melons, and fruit and vegetables of all kinds, from avocado pears and quinces, to date palms, asparagus, artichokes, lettuces, grapes, almonds and olives, are trucked up the 900-kilometre-long motorway which links Murcia to France, Germany, Scandinavia and Russia. Many reach northern markets long before fruit in other *European Union* countries has even started to ripen. The first tomato crop is picked in Murcia at New Year, thanks to a very warm climate which is really an extension of that of *North Africa*.

After dividing at the city of *Murcia* one branch of the motorway goes to Andalusia and the other heads south to link *Murcia* with its new international airport at Corvera 25 kilometres from the city, half-way to its sea-port of *Cartagena*, which is a corruption of the name given to it by the *Romans* of "*Cartago Nova*" meaning "*New Carthage*". This reminds us that the port was founded by *Carthaginians* from *North Africa* more than two hundred years before Christ, and formed part of the *Hannibal's Punic Empire* before it came under the Roman heel. Long before Rome was important in the world, *Cartagena's* enclosed natural harbour and its surrounding mountains rich in silver, lead and iron ores, were coveted by the *Carthaginians* who competed with Greece for control of Mediterranean sea-routes, because whereas the Greeks had silver mines for coinage near Athens itself, Tyre and Carthage had none. The Greeks established ports in Catalonia (Ampurias) and France (Marseilles), whereas Carthage maintained control of *Cartagena* until the Roman general Scipio besieged it and thereby also took control of its valuable silver mines.

To-day, *Cartagena* is the main port for the *Spanish Navy* and is an attractive city of 200,000 people with many remains of the *Carthaginian* and *Roman* periods which can be visited. They include part of the *Carthaginian* city wall built in 300 years before Christ, the *Roman* theatre, *Roman* house foundations and streets preserved as museums in the basements of modern buildings, part of the *Byzantine* city wall of 500 A.D., and much more besides. There is a breathtakingly splendid archaeological museum, a very attractive museum of maritime archaeology. It also has the world's first electrically-driven submarine, made in 1888 by *Spanish* naval engineer and inventor *Isaac Peral*, which weighs 80 tonnes, has 3 propellers and reached a speed of 7.7 knots. The city and its naval base were heavily fortified in the 18th century under King Carlos III, and his walls and forts dominate the hills and cliffs which enclose the superb natural harbour.

In the hills near *Cartagena* is another cave which was entered by miners, *Cueva Victoria*, where my friend, the late José Gibert excavated fossils in what was an Early Pleistocene hyaena den into which the carnivores brought one or two hominin bones, which are among the oldest in Europe (see "CV-0, an early Pleistocene human phalanx from *Cueva Victoria* (*Cartagena*, Spain)". J. Gibert, L. Gibert, F. Ribot, C. Ferrández-Cañadell, F. Sánchez, A. Iglesias, M.J. Walker, in *Journal of Human Evolution*, 2008), even older than those from *Atapuerca Cave* in northern Spain which only go back as far as the end of the Early Pleistocene 780,000 years ago. Helpers at *Sima de las Palomas* may have opportunities to visit *Cartagena* and perhaps *Cueva Victoria*, or they may prefer to visit

the city of *Murcia* instead. The late Dr Josep Gibert also excavated Lower Pleistocene hominin and early Palaeolithic sites at *Orce* in northern Granada.

Sima de las Palomas is roughly 45 kilometres from both *Cartagena* and *Murcia*. *Murcia* has a magnificent *cathedral* with a splendid baroque west front and an enormous tower which offers a fine view of the city. 1994 was the 600th anniversary of the founding of the cathedral. The centres of both *Murcia* and *Cartagena* are narrow pedestrian thoroughfares which are always thronged with people. During *Easter Week* both cities have enormous religious processions which are often televised throughout Spain.

Both cities have a very wide range of bars and taverns, where the strong dry Murcian *red wine* from the *Jumilla* vineyards and wineries should be drunk straight from the cask, accompanied by the wide variety of *tapas* or snacks for which Murcian bars are rightly famous. However, every Murcian town is rich in bars, taverns and discotheques, which come alive at night after dinner, which during the Summer means after about eleven o'clock at night. They are still going strong and noisily at five o'clock in the morning. Helpers at *Caravaca* can sample a wide range of them there, and those at *Dolores de Pacheco* can do so at the seaside resorts of *Santiago de la Ribera* and *Los Alcázares*.

Lack of time, alas, means it may not always be possible for helpers to visit *Murcia* city itself. Should you wish to spend some time in the cities of *Murcia* and *Cartagena*, you could do what some other helpers have done in the past, and come a few days early or stay on for a few days afterwards. Some of you may wish to visit the marvellous Alhambra palace at *Granada*, which can be reached by coach from *Murcia* though you will probably need to spend two nights at Granada in order to have a full day free to see everything. If you want to do any of these, do please let me know, so that I can offer you useful advice.

Murcians, like other Spaniards, are extraordinarily outgoing, effusive and noisy, especially in Summer. They are fundamentally egalitarian and democratic in outlook, and although most are Roman Catholic, they wear their Catholicism lightly and see its processions, baptisms, first communions and weddings as occasions for exuberant enjoyment and festivity, rather than solemnity. Even during solemn religious processions each penitent give out hundreds of sweets to eager children.

The Spanish economy is still weak, though slowly recovering from the aftermath of the worldwide economic crisis and more recently the covid-19 pandemic; unemployment is high at 14% and short-term employment predominates among those who can find work. We have had 2 general elections in 2019 with unclear outcomes. Spain's minority provisional government in Madrid is led by the socialist Pedro Sánchez. The conservative Popular Party is healthy, particularly in Murcia where it leads the regional and city governments.

PASSPORTS, VISAS AND RECONFIRMING YOUR TICKETS

CHECK THAT YOUR PASSPORT HAS NOT EXPIRED! IF IT HAS, GET IT RENEWED! People who are not citizens of a European Union Member State usually need *valid passports*, and may need *visa stamps* in them for visiting Spain and other European Union countries unless their country has reciprocal agreements for visitors to and from the European Union - thus I understand that visas are *NOT* required for US or Canadian visitors because such agreements exist, although citizens of many British Commonwealth nations do still need visas for entering Spain and all other EU countries. If in any doubt, travel agents or the nearest Spanish Consulate-General will advise whether or not a visa is required. Visas are issued at Spanish Consulate-General offices and there is always one attached to the Spanish Embassy in national capitals, and many large cities have one also (listed in the phone book).

Everyone must bring an internationally-valid, up to date, covid vaccination certificate that shows you have had three doses of vaccine and preferably also a fourth booster dose as well.

Irish citizens, even though they do not need visa stamps, should still carry their passport with them because these two Member States of the EU neither automatically assign each citizen with an ID card nor have they joined the "Schengen Group" of those EU nations which have abolished border control of travellers between the countries of this group. I believe that EU citizens from "Schengen Group" states need only carry their national ID card to enter Spain which belongs to the "Schengen Group".

Reconfirmation of your return flight is *not usually necessary* nowadays (*whatever* your travel agent tells you to the contrary), because international return flights on major airlines - and even charter flights - *are almost always reconfirmed automatically by the airline, without you having to contact them again at all*. Many tickets carry the rather confusing advice that reconfirmation should be 72 hours before departure, though you may well be able, in fact, to reconfirm a month before departure (especially on intercontinental flights) and so feel secure that you have got a seat reserved for you. You can often *even* reconfirm your return flight before you set out on your travels at all, at the desk of the airline in the airport from which you leave home; I myself often do this nowadays.

Some travellers still like to make sure later on. So if you are one of them *IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY AND YOURS ALONE* to reconfirm your ticketing -- not mine nor that of my staff. You can do it *MOST EASILY* like this. If you arrive in Madrid by plane from outside Europe you can reconfirm your international return flight at *ANY* airline desk (including that of Iberia Airlines) in *Madrid-Barajas International Airport BEFORE* you leave the international section of the airport -- regardless of whether you are going to spend a few days in the city or are simply going straight to the national section of the airport to catch a connecting national *Iberia Airlines* flights down to the new *Murcia-Corvera International Airport* (which is about 30 kilometres from Dolores de Pacheco).

The reason *WHY* you should do that *straight away* in *MADRID* is that once you get to the new *Murcia-Corvera International Airport* you could find that it is possible to reconfirm *ONLY Iberia Airlines* international outward flights from Madrid or Barcelona, but perhaps not those of other international carriers. You can, however, reconfirm local return flights (*i.e.* flights within Spain) out of *Murcia-Corvera Airport* at the *Iberia Airlines* desk; so if you are addicted to reconfirming your flights you should reconfirm your return flight back to Madrid on *Iberia Airlines* on your arrival at *Murcia-Corvera* also. If you are coming from *London* by *Ryanair*, *Easyjet* or other

companies, then see to it that *YOU* find the receptionist of the flight in question on your arrival in order to reconfirm your return flight with him or her, if you are addicted to reconfirming return flights.

Again, all this is *YOUR* responsibility, not mine nor that of my senior site helpers. People are often forgetting to do this on arrival, and then continually pestering us to organise telephone calls for them from *Caravaca* or *Dolores de Pacheco* to international carriers in Madrid. I and my senior site helpers are busy enough, as it is, running a research project; we are *NOT* tour-operators nor a travel agency for wayward or forgetful new helpers, let alone for those who are merely neurotic obsessives.

IMPORTANT MONEY MATTERS

Currency exchange rates: On January first, 2023:

1\$ US = 0.93€ (0.93 euros, *i.e.* 93 cents of a euro); 1€ = 1.07\$ US

£1 GB = 1.13€; 1€ = £0.88 (88p)

In Spain you can both get cash or pay for things with **VISA** or **MASTERCARD** credit cards. Please note, however, that **AMEX** cards and **DINERS CLUB** cards are often refused here (because most retailers or hoteliers won't accept the stiff terms imposed by those two credit-card companies), and, furthermore, my experience of our helpers' difficulties has shown me that bank cash cards (e.g. **ATT**) from your home banks (especially from US banks) *tend not to work in Spain* when you try to use them in automatic ATM cash machines here (whatever you may have been told to the contrary back home!) so don't rely on your bank cash card. Therefore you should also bring a **VISA** or **MASTERCARD**, and most particularly you must make sure that it has been **configured by your home bank for European Union countries**, and most especially for **Spain**. Don't be slack about insisting on this because I've even had trouble getting my Spanish-issued **VISA** card to work in France and my son had trouble with his in the UK! (Yeah, I know you've got to pay interest charges with **VISA** and **MASTERCARD**: That's how the cookie crumbles!). If your personal bank account is in a currency *other than euros* (for instance, if it is in dollars or sterling) you may very well find in Spain that you are *unable* to pay for things here by trying to make a transfer to a payee by using your mobile or cell phone app.

In order to pre-empt possible problems you may have with a card or app on your arrival here, it is a good idea *before* you leave your own country to buy there some euro banknotes to bring with you, say around one hundred euros in five twenty-euro banknotes (for which shops or taxi-drivers usually carry enough change to be able to accept them for your in payments, unlike bigger denominations such as fifty-euro notes), that you can carry in safety around your waist discretely in a cloth money-belt under your clothes.

Over the past several years we have found that local banks in the towns where we have our bases **are refusing to cash traveller's cheques**. This is because they now have to enforce a very restrictive interpretation imposed on them by Spain's government of European Union regulations intended to prevent money-laundering. The Spanish authorities will now only allow banks in Spain to credit pre-existing customers' bank accounts with money paid in to them from non-account-holders' traveller checks -such as the US-dollar traveller checks of our helpers from other countries; the bank account holders here (us) would then have to pay those helpers back in euros from their (our) personal bank accounts, but the money paid into our accounts in that way is treated by Spanish tax authorities as part of our personal income on which we, the account holders, have to pay income tax to the Spanish government, **so we now refuse to do that for you!** **THE BOTTOM LINE IS THAT YOU MUST NOT BRING TRAVELLER'S CHEQUES HERE.** So what to do? The only alternative is to bring as many euro banknotes with you as you think you will need here in the possible event of having problems when using your **VISA** or **MASTERCARD** in ATM machines. One way that seems to work quite safely is to get a cloth money-belt you can wear under your clothes and bring with you some euro banknotes in denominations no bigger than 50 euros.

EARLY AND LATE ARRIVALS; STAYING ON IN SPAIN AFTERWARDS

We are used to coping with both early arrivals and requests for assistance from helpers who want to visit Murcia, Cartagena, or other places in Spain, after excavating with us. In all of these cases (including late arrivals), it helps us to help you if we have received advance notice of your needs and wishes - preferably by May 1st and, in any case **NO LATER** than June 1st because once we are looking after you in the field we cease to be immediately contactable by phone, fax or e-mail.

Phone calls after June 30th from late arrivals should be made between 15.00 and 24.00 hours Central European Time, to Field School co-director Mariano López whose cell phone is (+34)-630-408806 (+34 is needed only if you're dialling from *outside* Spain).

Don't despair! In worst case scenarios, we have offered hospitality to helpers who have arrived early, and we have helped others organise both hotel accommodation after they have excavated with us and guest-house ("pensión") accommodation and personal tutors in the Spanish language! So, the short answer is, "Yes, we will do our best to help your personal requirements", and the long answer is, "We can do that best, if you help us by giving us two or three months' advance notice of what you want to do". Remember, we are in a prime tourist area and planes and accommodation are in great demand during July and August, **SO DO YOUR BOOKING EARLY IN THE SPRING.**

For **EMERGENCY RAPID CONTACT**, up to about June 14th please contact Michael Walker by e-mail at mjwalke@gmail.com (with cc. to Field School co-directors Dr. María Haber mariahaber@um.es or Haber mariahaber@pi-ma.es and Mariano López marianolopez@hotmail.com). If there is an **EXTREME EMERGENCY**, and you need urgently to phone **BEFORE June 30th**, then *provided you find out from the international operator that the time is between 6 a.m. and midnight CENTRAL EUROPEAN TIME* - so

as not to wake up the family during the night, you can try to reach Mariano López whose cell phone is (+34)-630-408806 or Michael Walker whose cell phone is (+34)-620-267104 (and who has land-line phones (+34)-968-265608 or (+34)-966-769367). +34 is needed only if you are dialling from *outside* Spain.

Seeing Granada and the Alhambra Palace

From Murcia bus station there are several coaches every day to Granada which take roughly four or five hours each way. Coaches for Granada leave Murcia city bus station at 08.30 (fast), 09.00 (slow), 11.30 (fast), 16.00 (both slow and fast coaches) and 22.00 hours (slow) - the 16.00 fast one is very convenient as it gets you there in a fast three-and-half hours so you arrive in good time to check in to your hotel and get a good night's sleep before waking early to go up to the Alhambra palace. To see the breathtakingly beautiful Moorish architecture of the mediaeval Alhambra palace you need to stay overnight in Granada (I recommend the *Hotel Tilos* in the Plaza Birrambla in the heart of the old city) and get up at 6 o'clock to climb the hill to the palace and get a good place in the queue for tickets so that you can join the morning visits and don't end up only with an afternoon ticket that means going back down into the city and then having to trudge back again up the hill in the sizzling early afternoon heat - so you'll need to spend two nights there at least. You could get a coach on the Friday when your stay ends, see the Alhambra on the Tuesday, get a coach up to Madrid after that if you are flying out of Madrid. You could hire a drive-yourself-car which you could prebook to pick up on the Friday at *Murcia-Corvera Airport* and return, say, to *Madrid-Barajas Airport* on the Saturday, and you'll find *Hertz*, *Avis* or *Eurocar* will give you cheaper rates than those they give in Spain provided that you book it from outside Spain *BEFORE* you leave your own country (shift-stick gears are much cheaper to hire than automatics). **Drivers in Spain are required to carry with them both ID/passport and either an EU Member State driver's licence or an International Driving Permit (which can be got through your national motoring association in countries such as the USA, Canada, Australia - and now in the UK, post-Brexit) - please bring it because in a dire emergency you may be help us out of an unanticipated difficulty.**

FUNDING OUR FIELD RESEARCH

CONTRIBUTIONS AND RELATED MATTERS

For attendance at one full 21-day session your contribution is rated at 50 euros, 50€, per day, for bed, light breakfast, mid-morning sandwich, cooked lunch, cooked supper, laundry, instruction, transport between base camp and site, excursions, transport between Murcia Airport to our base on official pick-up and set-down dates, 2023 membership of MUPANTQUAT. All participants must pay for their own air/rail/coach fares to our pick-up/set-down points and for their personal expenses. Attendance at both sessions entitles you to a reduction to 45€ per day First-time attendance for less than a full 21-day session is rated normally at 60€ per a day, though on a case-by-case basis, and provided it does not produce numerical imbalance of helpers within a session, consideration may be given to allowing youngsters, who can justify impeccable circumstances and are first-time participants, to take part for 45€ per day (450€ altogether) during the first or second 10-day period of one session only June30-July 9/10; July 9/10-July 21; July 21-July30/Aug1; July30/Aug1-August 11, though such participation means missing half of the 20-day programme of the session and receiving certification for only 80 hours of attendance, instead of the 160 hours for attendance at a full session.

A non-returnable deposit is required and because of that you might want to take out holiday insurance in case of last-minute inability to come. The deposits are made to MUPANTQUAT and are rated at 250€ per week for each week of your intended stay, with the full balance payable on arrival.

Deposits guarantee your reservation so it is advisable to make them, for whichever session (whether Session 1 or Session 2) before June 1st in order to avoid disappointment. If no deposit has been made by June 1st the place will be reassigned to applicants on the waiting-list.

Deposits, alas, are non-returnable. The reason for that is as follows. Because the Murcian region is a Mediterranean coastal holiday-resort area that is very popular with both Spaniards and other European vacationers, inward-bound and outward-bound flights and trains are heavily booked well in advance of the July-August high summer season. They are often fully booked up by early June. So even if we have someone on the waiting-list when you drop out, that person might not be able to book a flight only a very few weeks before the session begins. This means we might well have to use deposited moneys in order to try to tempt one of our local undergrads to take your place instead of taking a well-paid vacation job in a bar or restaurant beside the packed beaches or at a golf resort, because, in order to have adequate help on site at all times so that we can carry out our excavations efficiently we need always to have on site a basic minimum number of people, below which we cannot work smoothly.

Our annual summer field school and excavations rely heavily on self-funding. As just stated, a major field project has a number of fixed costs that must be met; indeed, one such cost is in maintaining a skeleton staff on hand to conduct the basic physical work of excavation in the event of a short-fall in participants. If intending short-listed helpers who have paid their deposit are unable to come at the last minute, it will very probably be far too late even for airline tickets to be obtained at all by any other possible helpers who had been relegated to a waiting-list, and perhaps too late even for us to contact them in order to ask if they would be willing to come in place of whoever has not been able to. This is why we are not able to return deposits; there are simply too many fixed costs for this to be feasible. Under particularly exceptional circumstances responsible for inability to attend, though, and providing our principal costs were more or less covered, it may just be possible for us to be able occasionally to offer to offset a deposit made in one year against cost of participation by the helper in a following year, though we cannot guarantee to do so.

A few years ago we reserved places for some people who had not sent deposits whom we felt we could trust, but who for medical or other understandable reasons found themselves unable to attend, when it was too late for us to contact other people who might well have liked to have taken their places and paid the due amount. As a result we were struggling financially to make ends meet. So we had to take the hard decision **NOT**, from then on, to hold any place if the deposit for it has not been received by May 31st; nor can deposits be returned, as by then it is getting too late to find replacements for you – even if they are willing to come, flights may be fully booked already in May (let alone June), because July and August are the summer “high season” and Murcia’s beaches and golf-courses attract dense international tourist traffic. It might therefore be useful to take out insurance against inability to attend; then, in the event of having to make a claim to your insurance company, a statement from us indicating the deposit received and its purpose would be sent *directly to your insurance company* provided you send us the reference number to your claim and your company’s (or its official agent’s) address.

Currency exchange rates: In January 2023:

1\$ US = 0.93€ (0.93 euros, i.e. 93 cents of a euro); 1€ = 1.07\$ US

£1 GB = 1.13€; 1€ = £0.88 (88p)

Currency fluctuations can cause problems. In order to minimise these we insist that payments must be made always in € euros, including payment of outstanding balances of your contributions on arrival. We have a Spanish bank account thanks to the creation of our new association MUPANTQUAT into which deposits should be paid in euros by international bank transfer. If you decide that you wish to take part you will be sent details by ordinary postal airmail (because we think it is unsafe to send bank details over internet, whatever some people may say to the contrary).

We do not have credit card facilities. Quite often credit cards issued in countries outside Spain fail to work in Spanish automatic cash machines or automatic teller (ATMs). You must insist at your local bank branch that it validates your cards so that they can work in other countries. Alas, even when the cards have allegedly undergone electronic modification by your home bank to enable them to work outside your own country, they may not work. (I once found my validated Spanish credit card failed to work in neighbouring France!) That is why you should bring at least 100€ in euro bank-notes to guard against having your having no cash here if your card gets swallowed up by an ATM machine that claims it to be invalid and retains it because it thinks it might have been stolen or be a fake. This was to my advantage when my credit card was stolen and thieves tried using it at an ATM machine 100 km away; I had alerted my bank and police, so when they tried using it at an ATM the card was retained within the machine, the bank alarm went off, and the police soon rounded up the thieves!

We cannot accept either bank cheques or travellers’ cheques (not even American Express cheques) because in the past few years tight EU banking regulations demand that nowadays they can only be cleared by banks in EU Member States if intrusive personal details are provided of people who have signed cheques and sent them (such as full names, addresses, ID, and 20-digit international personal bank account information), and travellers’ cheques can no longer be cashed at Spanish banks which will only clear them if they are paid into a named bank account at the branch in question when they are treated for tax purposes in Spain as personal earned income by the holder of that account, so nobody is prepared to receive such money from you!

By no means all countries of the European Union use the euro €, but nevertheless there is a common flat-rate fee for currency conversion within the EU, and there are never any problems. Fees are charged here by banks for converting currencies from outside the EU, such as the U.K., U.S., etc. Bank charges can be steep. for conversion to euros of non-EU currencies. For unfathomable reasons, even though daily newspapers world-wide offer exchange rates, and worldwide currency conversion is available at the click of a mouse, US and Canadian banks seem utterly clueless, and their witless bank clerks often allege to clients that they cannot frontload a debit from an account in order to make a currency purchase of euros by adding the corresponding charge for currency conversion to that debit. This is utter rubbish. The truth is that they either cannot be bothered to find out how to do it, or have been instructed from above not to do it because it allegedly takes up too much of the company’s time. Don’t take no for an answer! Remember, the customer is always right! You can always use the nuclear option of threatening to take your account to another bank! (Curiously, Australian banks rarely give problems of this kind, unlike North American banks.) However, be warned that if the deposit in euros received by us is less than the amount in euros required for the deposit, because your bank has failed to frontload a debit from your account with currency-conversion/transfer costs, then a surcharge of 25€ will be added to the balance outstanding for your contribution payable on arrival, so it is very much to your advantage to hassle the clerks at the branch where you bank back home before you travel!

INSURANCE

During their attendance at our Field School all participants are insured by us for accident and third-person liability (required by legislation applying to excavations) during their participation, thanks to a formal agreement of cooperation signed between the University of Murcia and MUPANTQUAT to which the University **extends its insurance cover to all of us for accident and third-person liability** under the same terms as those that apply to all students and staff of the university. Nevertheless, we advise participants also to arrange their own health (and, if desired, personal accident) insurance cover before leaving home, because helpers are **not** covered before or after the period of attendance at the Field School - in other words, if you have an accident or illness on your way coming to us, or on your way going back home after you have left us, our Field School insurance does not cover you. EU residents should bring the EU form from their country, which entitles them to public health care in other EU Member States (public health care is free in Spain, as in the U.K.). Participants are advised to take out **holiday-travel insurance**, especially against an unforeseen need to cancel your travel arrangements.

WHERE YOUR MONEY GOES TO

Accommodation and food are included in the overall charge, as is instruction and local transportation by us, including group excursions. A major field project has a number of fixed costs that must be met. One such cost is in maintaining part-time staff. Our

basic staff largely consists of about half-a-dozen local undergraduate and graduate students who help in the study of the excavated material throughout the year at our research laboratory. In the field, they help with giving basic instruction, and one or two even bring a private vehicle to give us greater transportational flexibility. Several staffers have long experience of our field techniques, some of which require special technical skills. Most have neither regular income nor undergraduate or postgraduate student grants. In return for their services, paying for their board and lodging is one of our fixed costs in the field, therefore, and one or two of the most experienced graduates receive a small emolument. Another fixed cost, of course, is the wages of our professional cooks and cleaning staff - wages that are the same whether we be fifteen or thirty at table! Yet another set of irreducible costs is the maintenance of vehicles and maintenance or acquisition of field equipment, and sometimes its replacement after seasons of wear and tear. Recently, our *MUPANTQUAT* association which since 2012 runs the excavations and Field School has invested considerable money in acquiring new equipment, notably, 12 new geological sieves, a new field microscope, a strong safe cabinet for the safe-keeping of the Sima de las Palomas Neanderthal skeletons, and a compressor and vibroscalpels for cleaning them.

WHY DEPOSITS ARE NON-REFUNDABLE

Our annual summer field school and excavations rely heavily on self-funding. As just stated, a major field project has a number of fixed costs that must be met; indeed, one such cost is in maintaining a skeleton staff on hand to conduct the basic physical work of excavation in the event of a short-fall in participants. If intending short-listed helpers who have paid their deposit are unable to come at the last minute, it will very probably be far too late even for airline tickets to be obtained at all by any other possible helpers who had been relegated to a waiting-list, and perhaps too late even for us to contact them in order to ask if they would be willing to come in place of whoever has not been able to. Because the Murcian region is a Mediterranean coastal holiday-resort area that is very popular with both Spaniards and other European vacationers, inward-bound and outward-bound flights and trains are heavily booked well in advance of the July-August high summer season. They are often fully booked up by early June. So even if we have someone on the waiting-list when you drop out, that person might not be able to book a flight only a very few weeks before the session begins. This means we might well have to use deposited moneys in order to try to tempt one of our local undergrads to take your place instead of taking a well-paid vacation job in a bar or restaurant beside the packed beaches or at a golf resort, because, in order to have adequate help on site at all times so that we can carry out our excavations efficiently we need always to have on site a basic minimum number of people, below which we cannot work smoothly. This is why we are not able to return deposits; there are simply too many fixed costs for this to be feasible. Under particularly exceptional circumstances responsible for inability to attend, though, and providing our principal costs were more or less covered, it may just be possible for us to be able occasionally to offer to offset a deposit made in one year against cost of participation by the helper in a following year, though we cannot guarantee to do so.

OTHER SOURCES OF INCOME

Self-funding is necessary for our summer field school and excavations to take place every year. Why? The answer is that there is extremely little money available in Spain for research, particularly for field research, whether from the public purse or foundations. Whenever calls for applications for funding are published we put in an application. Unfortunately the conditions attached to them are often so very restrictive as to exclude associations such as *MUPANTQUAT* or participating staff lacking contracts of employment with an authorised public institution. Often they impose severe limits on the proportion of a grant which may be assigned to living expenses or travelling expenses (because bureaucrats prefer to see receipts for material purchases that give "added value" to the stock-inventory of the institution that is officially in receipt of the grant, because their political masters think that the main purpose of official grants is, first and foremost, to upgrade the physical infrastructure required for institutional research). The last grants of state or regional governmental aid for our research were in 2008 and 2009. We are very grateful for access to facilities (schools; laboratory) made available by town councils and their sporadic financial assistance.

LOOKING AFTER YOU

ACCOMMODATION

Cueva Negra helpers will be accommodated throughout in *Caravaca de la Cruz* at the "*Colegio Público "Asacruz" de Educación Especial*" (Residential Public School "Asacruz" for Disabled Children). The children are away on holiday when we use the school. There are hot and cold showers and conventional sanitation, in separate men's and women's facilities. Meals are provided in a dining room by our cooks (self-cooking is not allowed). There is a common room and also a large well-lit workshop where we wash and sort our finds. There are bunks in separate men's and women's dormitories. There is one communal washroom with showers and toilets for men and another for women. A separate bedroom may be made available for a couple, depending on how many people we are altogether and how many dormitories we need. You need only bring towel, sheets and pillowslip. You must bring soap or shower-gel and shampoo. Our catering staff take men's dirty clothes one day alternating with women's clothes another day, for washing separately in the large industrial washing-machine at the school, which can only work with full loads; once washed, the clothes are hung out on the washing-line to dry, before being ready for you again. There is an iron if you want to use one. All of us have to make our own beds and help keep dormitories tidy, and keep toilets clean by using the lavatory brushes. A professional cleaning staff sweeps and mops the floors and bathrooms.

Sima de las Palomas helpers will be accommodated throughout in the village of Dolores de Pacheco, where we take three meals a day at the restaurant of the "*Centro Social*" (Social Centre) which has its own cooks (self-cooking is not allowed). 400 metres away, we sleep in bunks in separate men's and women's dormitories, converted temporarily for us from class-rooms in the roomy village school which has showers with hot and cold water. There is one communal washroom with showers and toilets for men and another for women. We use large class-rooms for washing and sorting finds. A separate room may be made available for a couple

should this be requested in advance. We use the village swimming pool and its shower block with hot and cold showers, which is half-way between the Civic Centre and the school. You need bring only towel, sheets and pillowslip. You must bring soap or shower-gel and shampoo. We collect men's dirty clothes one day, alternating with women's clothes another day, for washing separately in a large industrial washing-machine and drier at a nearby establishment, which can only work with full loads. All of us have to make our own beds and help keep dormitories tidy, and keep toilets clean by using the lavatory brushes. A professional cleaning staff sweeps and mops the floors and bathrooms.

FOOD

All meals you take are covered by your financial contribution. It helps us pay for the food and cooks whose responsibility it is to organise the catering in accordance with their experience and skills. The standard of catering is high. The Spanish cooks at both the Caravaca "Asacruz" Residential School and the Dolores de Pacheco Civic Centre are of the highest calibre.

We CANNOT offer vegan, kosher, or halal cooking. Self-catering and self-cooking are **not** possible. Helpers may **NOT** use the kitchens to cook for themselves. Special diets **CANNOT** be provided, **and that goes for vegetarians too**, although those non-rigid vegetarians who eat fish, shell-fish, milk, cheese, yoghurt, and eggs, or who have no objection to sauces or soups based on strained meat or chicken broths, will find they will easily get enough to eat if they simply avoid eating pieces of actual meat; eggs or cheese can readily be supplied for them if they feel hungry -- **"Vegans" and all others who adhere to rigid dietary restrictions CANNOT BE CATERED FOR.** Provided helpers have advised us in advance, our cooks **can** cater for intolerances (e.g., gluten and lactose intolerances).

Murcian lunches and dinners are invariably accompanied by communal platters of mixed salad, and there is no shortage of fresh fruit. Because our word "salad" simply means "salted", and salted is the meaning of the Spanish word "ensalada", it is no surprise that in Spain the platters are obviously served prepared with salt, olive-oil and vinegar or lemon-juice, and everyone digs in with his/her fork into the comunal platters (it is considered the height of bad manners in Spain to remove some of it onto your own plate). Lettuce with tomato cannot by itself be a "salad" without violating the meaning of the word! Diabetics, or people who require low fat or low sodium diets will have to juggle with these options for themselves, bearing in mind that vegetable oil (olive oil) is used far more in Mediterranean cooking than unhealthy animal fats. **Special diets CANNOT be offered, however.**

It should be remembered that meals are of typical Spanish food, and eaten at typical Spanish hours which are much later than those in northern Europe or North America. Breakfasts are light and taken early: coffee, bread rolls or toast, cereals, fruit juice. A mid-morning sandwich is taken to the site together with appropriate cold water. Luncheon is usually after 15.00 hours and is a copious cooked meal. Dinner is no earlier than 21.00 hours and is another copious cooked meal. Wine, beer, soft drinks, and water are provided with lunch and dinner. Tap water is safe to drink, but bottled water is also available. We all usually sit down at table as one man to main meals which are an opportunity for chitchat and relaxing.

Spanish cooking contains two ingredients that are not to everybody's taste, but which simply cannot be eliminated, namely, olive oil and garlic. For people who have no problems with those, the meals are delicious and very filling. Typical dishes range from delicious barbecued yearling lamb chops, pork chops, steak, fried chicken, fish, stews based on potatoes, chickpeas, lentils or beans, stir-fried vegetable dishes, and rice dishes based either on chicken and rabbit or on chicken and shellfish.

Soups, hors d'oeuvres, pastas, and omelettes - especially the potato and onion omelette known as "tortilla española" - are often served as first courses at lunch. A local Murcian speciality is a meat pie baked in mouth-watering flaked pastry ("pastel de carne").

Murcia is renowned in southern Spain for its gastronomy. It has a staggeringly wide range of taverns and restaurants for eating out. You can either eat out on the basis of drinks and *tapas* (snacks) or you can have slap-up sit-down meals. Depending on the venue, you can reckon on paying anywhere from €10 euros to €70 euros. Often the cheapest places offer food and wine every bit as good as the most expensive. That is where our Spanish project volunteer and senior site helpers - especially our students - can assist other helpers, especially those from other countries, because they go to places which are within their modest means! Our excursions often take in typical bars and eating places, allowing us to sample local food and wine.

Although olive oil and garlic are fundamental ingredients of Murcian cooking, it is not heavily spiced by and large, although some dishes traditionally contain cloves, chili peppers, or other spices. Usually, however, hot peppers are offered on small dishes, together with olives, for people who wish to accompany their meals with those.

People from northern Europe or North America often feel that Spanish cooking has much stronger flavours than they are used to at home. It is a very healthy low cholesterol and high fibre diet -- which in itself is enough to make your bowels looser than you might be accustomed to. These aspects, together with hard work in great heat, can sometimes make people feel queasy and uncomfortable - not just foreigners, because Spaniards, too, get funny tummy troubles in summer. The solution is to come armed with a standby of a kilogram of your favourite, high-calorie, concentrated nibbles, and to drink still fruit juice rather than fizzy drinks or cheap Spanish spirits. By contrast, most proprietary pharmaceutical preparations (such as "Enterovioform" pills) are of questionable pharmacological worth. If you need medication, we can make sure you take something which is medically appropriate; M.J.Walker is a British medical graduate and for many years was a medical practitioner in the Australian state of New South Wales.

PHYSICAL CONDITIONING/MEDICAL ADVICE

Everyone must bring an internationally valid, up to date "covid certificate" that shows you have had three doses of vaccine and preferably also a fourth booster dose as well.

Although no great physical fitness is necessary, the project is not suitable for severely physically or mentally disabled, lame, deaf, or poor-sighted people, nor for people who are very overweight, suffer from advanced degenerative joint disease, or from haemophilia, cardiovascular or heart ailments, or suffer great discomfort or extreme sunburn in hot weather. There are daily uphill walks of about 15 minutes up to the sites from where our vehicles have to stop. This may have to be repeated during the morning in order to carry out service tasks.

Physical demands on you may involve any or all of the following: walking and scrambling, kneeling and scraping, digging with mattock or pick, bending and sieving, pushing wheelbarrows, carrying loads, sitting. None of these is likely to last for longer than a couple of hours at a stretch on any one day, since you can be switched from one task to another if you feel uncomfortable. Probably the heaviest tasks involve heavy digging and carrying 10 kilogram bags of soil downhill at *Sima de las Palomas* when the sun's heat is severe.

It is *ESSENTIAL* that you inform us of any health problems before you come so that they can be taken account of fully.

For the walk up to *Cueva Negra*, you only really need stout shoes or trainers (joggers), although walking boots are useful for field excursions and walking off the footpaths; once inside *Cueva Negra*, however, you must bring footwear to change into which has no pattern on the sole, such as flat-soled sneakers, plimsolls, pumps, slippers or sandals, because otherwise hideous footprints are left behind in the soil which spoil our photographic records. At *Sima de las Palomas* conditions are very different, and firm boots with a heel should be worn at all times, both because of the rocky nature of the hillslope and the demands of working on scaffolding. When we are wet-sieving at *Sima de las Palomas*, several pairs of rubber boots are available for those who don't like getting their other footwear soaked by water from the high-pressure hosepipe we use.

Shorts, sun-hats and gardening or work gloves are appropriate wear, along with sun-glasses and your preferred sun-tan lotions or creams. There will be opportunities for swimming also, so remember to pack swimming togs.

As a British medical graduate and registered medical practitioner in New South Wales (Australia), M.J.Walker strongly recommends all intending helpers to ensure their anti-tetanus vaccination is upto date, and that, if they are asthmatic, diabetic, or suffer from allergic disorders they bring with them their customary medications. Those with back or knee problems should bring with them appropriate corsets, girdles or elastic athletic supports.

People who suffer from vertigo in high places, or from claustrophobia in enclosed ones, are recommended to come to *Cueva Negra* in preference to *Sima de las Palomas* though even at *Sima de las Palomas* they can be given tasks on the hillside which avoid exposing them to conditions that otherwise might precipitate attacks on the hillside, inside the shaft or on the scaffolding tower.

There are well-equipped modern public hospitals with 24-hour attention 7 days a week, about 15 minutes' drive from each of our sites: namely, near *Cueva Negra*, *Hospital Comarcal del Noroeste* (address: Avenida Miguel Espinosa 1, 30400 Caravaca de la Cruz; tel +34-968-709100), and, near *Sima de las Palomas*, *Hospital General Universitario de Los Arcos del Mar Menor*, (address: Paraje Torre Octavio 54, 30739 Pozo Aledo, San Javier; tel. +34-968-565000). **Furthermore**, the city of Murcia has 3 large, modern, university teaching hospitals about an hour's drive from our sites. Should a medical emergency arise it will be dealt with speedily and efficiently. During 30 years we have had no major emergency.

Helpers should find out whether their home country has reciprocal health agreements for automatic free treatment at Spanish public hospitals. Most European Union countries do, **but you nevertheless have to fill out a form before you leave your home E.U. Member State which allows you to be given the card you must bring here entitling you to public treatment in other EU countries on the same basis as their own nationals.** If your home country is outside the EU and therefore has no reciprocal arrangement with it, then Spanish public hospitals will demand accounts to be settled on discharge by patients, who may then present the official receipts afterwards to their own health insurance companies for possible reimbursement on their return home. Be sure to find out *precisely how* your private health insurance company requires receipts you present to be made out by the purveyor of services involving your hospital, medical, dental or pharmaceutical expenditure, lest it reject them when you return home. MUPANTQUAT is not responsible for paying hospital, medical, dental or pharmaceutical bills of helpers. Before you come, you should have made your own arrangements for health, injury or disability insurance in connexion with illness or accidents which might be sustained during your participation in the Field School.

Helpers who prefer private health treatment in Spain will usually have to pay immediately in cash for treatment, and present the official receipts afterwards to their own health insurance companies for possible reimbursement on their return home. There are, however, some private hospitals and doctors who work with private health insurance schemes which have reciprocal arrangements with those in some other countries (thus, British BUPA members could ask in Britain if there are reciprocal arrangements with BUPA's affiliated company in Spain). Health arrangements around the world are constantly changing; we recommend you consult your local public health department or, in the U.S. the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta at (404)639-2572 for the latest health information for travellers.

FIELD COMMUNICATIONS, PHONE, INTERNET

Internet access is available often at both our field bases though it can be **erratic** for reasons beyond our control; nevertheless, we usually get buy! Our field bases usually have cell phone cover though Dolores de Pacheco is in a coastal holiday area where there is often saturation of the phone system in July and August which sometimes means that telephone calls from elsewhere do not always get through. At our **excavation** sites, however, there is usually neither internet cover nor reliable cell phone cover.

You can be reached by mail. It is advisable for letters to be REGISTERED and marked AIRMAIL and URGENT in order to ensure fast delivery, which may still mean up to 5 consecutive working days from the U.K. to Spain, or more from outside Europe.

Addresses and phone numbers of our accommodation bases are given below. Please advise friends and relatives to make phone calls only between **15.00 and 24.00 hours Central European Time** (if in doubt about European time, check with your international operator):

Julne 30th– July 21st, 2023: Cueva Negra

**Colegio Público "Asacruz" de Educación Especial
Camino Mayrena 13 (El Copo)
30400 CARAVACA DE LA CRUZ
Murcia
Spain**

Urgent or emergency phone calls should be made to FieldSchool co-director Mariano López: from outside Spain dial +34-630-408806, within Spain 630-408806. Bear in mind that when he is at the excavation (08.00-14.00 hours Central European Time) his cell phone may well not have mobile phone cover so callers may be unable to reach him. The school itself does have telephones but often nobody mans them in July because the children and teachers are on vacation though often there is someone in the school office between 09.00 and 14.00 hours Central European Time and our kitchen staff often is too busy to answer the phone; none of those people speak English, only Spanish, though if we are around, 15.00-22.00 hours Central European Time, they can ask us to come to the phone; the school's numbers are as follows: if you dial from outside Spain +34-968-700844, -708151, or from within Spain +34-968-700844, -708151.)

July 21st - August 11th, 2023: Sima de las Palomas

**Colegio Público "Nuestra Señora de Dolores"
30739 DOLORES DE PACHECO
Torre Pacheco
Murcia
Spain**

Urgent or emergency phone calls should be made to FieldSchool co-director Mariano López: from outside Spain dial +34-630-408806, within Spain 630-408806. Bear in mind that when he is at the excavation (08.00-14.00 hours Central European Time) his cell phone may well not have mobile phone cover so callers may be unable to reach him.

(The school's telephone is locked in the Principal's office and unavailable during the school vacation in July and August.)

FIELD SUPPLIES

You **must bring** sheets, pillowslip and towel, as well as soap and shower gel and shampoo. The warm nights mean you do not need blankets or insulated sleeping-bags. Sheet sleeping-bags (Youth Hostel type or similar) are fine, however. Recommended clothes are shorts, sun-hat, sun-glasses, and work or gardening gloves. Swimming togs can be used at the pool, especially at Dolores de Pacheco. Firm boots are useful for field excursions and essential for fieldwork at *Sima de las Palomas*. Inside *Cueva Negra*, it is essential to wear flat-soled footwear which has no pattern on the sole whatsoever, such as flat-soled sneakers, plimsolls, pumps, slippers or sandals. I recommend helpers to bring a small haversack or backpack to carry their personal daily bits and pieces to the site. Your clothes can be brought out in a backpack, grip, or suitcase.

Lost luggage is a recurrent problem for travellers, whether taking short domestic flights or journeys around the globe. We recommend that you take a carry-on bag with a set of field clothes - and shoes - plus any personal essentials so that you will not be uncomfortable or incapacitated if your baggage takes several days to catch up with you.

READING SUGGESTIONS

NON-FICTION

Here are some reader-friendly, well-illustrated, easy-to-handle general books by reputable scientists that I like:

The Complete World of Human Evolution by Chris Stringer and Peter Andrews (2005, London, Thames and Hudson; this probably has a different US publisher, and there is also a Spanish edition published by Akal) (Chris is professor at London University's Imperial College and director of Palaeontology at the London Natural History Museum);

Processes in Human Evolution by Francisco J. Ayala and Camilo José Cela-Conde (2017, Oxford University Press) There is also a Spanish edition: *Evolución Humana: El Camino hacia nuestra Especie* (Alianza, 2013).

The First Humans edited by G. Burenhult (1993, University of Queensland Press - there is a different US publisher of the United Nations-sponsored series to which this volume belongs, but I don't know who it is).

Among attractively-produced books, I like the French (2001) and Spanish (2004) editions of the well-illustrated, user-friendly, two-volume book by Yves Coppens and Pascal Picq which is *Aux Origines de l'Humanité: De l'Apparition de la Vie à l'Homme Moderne* (2001, Librairie Armand Fayard) *Los Orígenes de la Humanidad: De la Aparición de la Vida al Hombre Moderno* (2004, Espasa Calpe) and the well-illustrated, user-friendly book edited by Allain Galley *Comment l'Homme? A la Découverte des Premiers Hominidés d'Afrique de l'Est* (1999, Editions Errance)

Among new books, the following are attractive and quite easy to read, though I have reservations about their arguments: *La Prehistoria en la mochila: Diario de viaje de un neandertal* by Ignacio Martín-Lerma (2022, Madrid, Aguilar); *Human Prehistory: Exploring the Past to Understand the Future* by Deborah Barsky (2023, Cambridge University Press); *The Earliest Europeans. A Year in the Life: Seasonal Survival Strategies in the Lower Palaeolithic* by Rob Hosfield (2020, Oxbow Books); *Climate, Clothing, and Agriculture in Prehistory. Linking Evidence, Causes, and Effects* by Ian Gilligan (2019, Cambridge University Press). Ian is an friend and former student of mine who has participated in our excavations.

Absolute novices who feel human evolution might be a daunting subject to tackle, especially middle-aged readers approaching it for the first time in their life, might do worse than thumb through the brief *Early Man* by Paul Jordan (1999, Sutton Pocket Histories) before reading anything else.

I always recommended my undergraduates to get back to basics, and read the brief and well-illustrated *The Old Stone Age* by the late François Bordes (1968, London, Weidenfeld & Nicolson) and also *The Palaeolithic Age* by the late John Wymer (1982, London, Croom-Helm), both of which should be in university or museum libraries and possibly in major public libraries.

Two magnificently illustrated coffee-table books that certainly should not be missed are: *The Last Neanderthal* by Ian Tattersall (1995, New York, Macmillan) and *From Lucy to Language* by Don Johanson (1996, New York, Simon and Schuster).

I wrote *Palaeolithic Pioneers, Behaviour, Abilities, and Activity of Early Homo in European Landscapes around the Western Mediterranean Basin ~1.3-0.05 Ma* (M.J.Walker, 2017, Archaeopress, Oxford) – a long title for a short book! - because few books deal well with Early and Middle Pleistocene human evolution in Europe before the Neanderthals. Usually it is relegated to a short section in books that give a worldwide account of human evolution, and among the better ones is *Reconstructing Human Origins: A Modern Synthesis* by Glenn C.Conroy (1998, New York, W.W.Norton). Whereas I prefer to take up an intermediate stance, a problem common to most books is that they tend to favour extreme one-size-fits-all theoretical explanations, either appealing, on the one hand, to “multiregional” Pleistocene human evolution in the case of the weighty *Palaeoanthropology* by Michigan University professor Milford H.Wolpoff (1999, New York, McGraw-Hill), or, on the other, to dogmatically “cladogenetical” Pleistocene human evolution in the cases of *The Human Career, Human Biological and Cultural Origins* by Stanford University professor Richard Klein (2009, London and Chicago, Chicago University Press, 3rd edition - a redeeming feature is the book's combination of human skeletal evolution with Palaeolithic archaeology) and of *The Origin of Modern Humans* by journalist Roger Lewin (1993, New York, Scientific American Library) and *Principles of human evolution* also by Roger Lewin (1998, Oxford, Blackwell Science). For early stone tool-making I recommend *Stone Tools in Human Evolution: Behavioral Differences among Technological Primates* by John Shea (2016, Cambridge University Press) and our brief *Early Evolution of Human Memory: Great Apes, Tool-Making and Cognition* (H.M.Manrique & M.J. Walker, 2017 Palgrave-Macmillan/Springer-Nature, New York). More daunting is *Squeezing Minds from Stones: Cognitive Archaeology and the Evolution of the Human Mind* edited by Karenleigh Overman and Frederick Coolidge (2019, Oxford University Press, 2019). I quite like both *Landscape of the Mind: Human Evolution and the Archaeology of Thought* by John Hoffecker (2011, New York, Columbia University Press), and the thoughtful *Timewalkers: The Prehistory of Global Colonization* by Southampton University professor Clive Gamble (1993, Stroud, Alan Sutton) which takes an interesting approach to biology, though it is short on drawings and illustrations. A quite short but most authoritative book is *The Evolution of Homo erectus: Comparative Anatomical Studies of an Extinct Species* by SUNY Binghamton professor G.Philip Rightmire (1990, Cambridge University Press).

First-year undergraduate textbooks on physical anthropology for beginners are, alas, far too general and far, far too cursory with regard to human evolution in Eurasia between 1,500,000 and 15,000 years ago, though among better textbooks for beginners are:

The Human Lineage by Matt Cartmill and Fred H. Smith (2009, Wiley-Blackwell, New York).
Exploring Biological Anthropology: The Essentials by Craig Stanford, John S.Allen and Susan C.Antón (2009, Upper Saddle River, New Jersey, Pearson Prentice-Hall)
How Humans Evolved by Robert Boyd and Joan B. Silk (2010, New York, W.W. Norton)
Introduction to Physical Anthropology by Robert Jurmain, Lynn Kilgore, Wenda Trevathan and Russell L.Ciochon (2013-2014, Wadsworth Publishing, “Cengage Learning”)

Here are some other quite short books that could interest you:

Catching Fire: How Cooking Made Us Human by Richard Wrangham (2009, London,Profile; New York, Bantam)
The Palaeolithic Origins of Human Burial by Paul Pettitt (2010, London, Routledge)
How to Think like a Neanderthal by Fred Coolidge and Tom Wynn (2012, Oxford University Press)
A Brain for All Seasons: Homo erectus and Abrupt Climate Change by William H.Calvin (2002, London and Chicago, University of Chicago Press)
Genetics and the Search for Modern Human Origins by John Relethford (2001, Chichester and New York, Wiley-Liss)

There are several books that home in on Neanderthal folk and here are some easy reads by reputable authors:
In Search of the Neanderthals by Chris Stringer and Clive Gamble (1993, London, Thames and Hudson)

Neanderthal Man by Myra Shackley (1980, London, Duckworth)
Neanderthal Man: In Search of Lost Genes by Svante Pääbo (2014, New York, Basic Books)
Wild Men: Yeti, Sasquatch and the Neanderthal Enigma by Myra Shackley (1983, London, Thames & Hudson)
The Humans Who Went Extinct. Why Neanderthals Died Out and We Survived by Clive Finlayson (2009, Oxford University Press)
How To Think Like A Neanderthal by Thomas Wynn and Frederick Coolidge (2012, Oxford University Press)
Neanderthal by Paul Jordan (1999 and 2001, Stroud, Alan Sutton),
The Neanderthal Enigma by James Shreeve (1995, New York, William Morrow)
The Neanderthals Rediscovered by Dimitra Papagianni and Michael A. Morse (2013, London, Thames & Hudson)

Slightly more challenging but quite short are:

The Rise of Homo sapiens: The Evolution of Modern Thinking by Frederick Coolidge and Thomas Wynn (2009, Chichester and New York, John Wiley)
Cognitive Archaeology and Human Evolution, edited by Sophie Archambault de Beaune, Frederick Coolidge and Thomas Wynn (2009 Cambridge University Press)
The Foundations of Cognitive Archaeology by Marc A. Abramiuk (2012, London and Cambridge Mass., MIT Press)
Cognitive Models in Palaeolithic Archaeology edited by Frederick Coolidge and Thomas Wynn (2016, Oxford University Press);

Somewhat longer and in my opinion rather dated is:

Human Evolution, Language and Mind. A Psychological and Archaeological Inquiry by William Noble and Iain Davidson (1996, Cambridge University Press)

Longer still, but well worth the effort of reading, is

The Evolution of the Human Head by Harvard University professor Daniel E. Lieberman (2011 The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press).

And of course there is our weighty (unreadable) *The People of Palomas. The Neanderthals from the Sima de las Palomas del Cabezo Gordo, Southeastern Spain*, edited by Erik Trinkaus and Michael J. Walker (2017, Texas A&M University Press, College Station, Texas).

The past thirty years have seen some excellent new books for specialist students majoring in Prehistoric Archaeology, Human Palaeontology and Physical Anthropology, and for graduates in the subjects. A useful short picture book with explanatory text is *Handbook of Palaeolithic Typology Vol. 1 Lower and Middle Palaeolithic of Europe* by André Debenath and Harold L. Dibble (1994, Philadelphia, University of Pennsylvania University Museum). Most important is the authoritative *The Neanderthal Legacy* by Cambridge's Professor Sir Paul Mellars (1996, Princeton, Princeton University Press). *The Palaeolithic Societies of Europe* by Clive Gamble (1999, Cambridge University Press) is interesting but somewhat heavy going - it presumes readers already have a reasonable grasp of European Palaeolithic archaeology and typology and makes few concessions to those who lack them. Advanced students will find some articles relevant to SE Spanish Early Pleistocene archaeology in *The Cutting Edge: New Approaches to the Archaeology of Human Origins*, edited by Kathy Schick and Nicholas Toth (2009, Gosport IN, The Stone Age Institute, and Bloomington IN, Indiana University, The Stone Age Institute Press, Stone Age Institute Publication Series Number 3).

Recent decades have witnessed a flood of edited volumes, particularly about Neanderthals and how anatomically modern humans after about 45,000 years ago in Europe are to be regarded in relation to them by physical anthropologists and Palaeolithic archaeologists. I have most of these books in my private library, but it would be invidious to mention just one or two of them, particularly because our Field School excavations do not deal with times later than about 45,000 years ago nor with anatomically modern humans, let alone Upper Palaeolithic archaeological artifacts. All the same, there are a couple of books you might be interested in looking at, namely, *The Nature of Paleolithic Art* by R. Dale Guthrie (2005, Chicago and London, University of Chicago Press), and *Rock Art of the Spanish Levant* by Antonio Beltrán (1982, Cambridge University Press) – a Session 1 excursion will visit some sites shown in Beltrán's book.

FICTION

Very distinguished writers have written about Neanderthals in fictional form. Among them are H.G. Wells (of *War of the Worlds* and *Time Machine* fame) whose 1921 short story "*The Grisly Folk*" can be found in any good public library, republished in his *Selected Short Stories* (Harmondsworth, Penguin Books, 1958). You should also be able to find there William Golding's novel *The Inheritors* (London, Faber & Faber, 1955) - Golding won a Nobel Prize for Literature and his most famous novel is *Lord of the Flies* (about schoolboys on a desert island). The eminent Quaternary palaeontologist Björn Kurtén also tried his hand at an excellent novel called *The Dance of the Tiger* (1980) which you may be lucky enough to find it in the library. Isaac Asimov also had a go, with his short story "*The Ugly Little Boy*" which you can find in his book *The Best Fiction of Isaac Asimov* (1958, London, Grafton) and your library most likely has it too. Other well-known novels include J.H. Rosny-Aîné's *The Quest for Fire* (1982, Harmondsworth, Penguin - originally published way back in 1911 in French) - which also was made into an excellent film that your local video shop no doubt can get you - and Jean Auel's *The Clan of the Cave Bear* (1980, Toronto & New York, Bantam Books) which was also made into a (not so good) film; Jean Auel subsequently published another novel, *The Mammoth Hunters*. Finally, there is the Spielberg film of John Darnton's novel *Neanderthal* (1996, London: Hutchinson and New York, Random House) about which the less said the better!

NEANDERTHAL VIDEOS

Research at our two sites has stimulated public interest, reflected in several documentary films, which include "*Decoding Neanderthals*" shown by PBS-Nova in USA and elsewhere on January 13 2013, produced by the London-based company Arrow Productions (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3nH1fqd0Ryo>; http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R00ZT_1JU1g; <http://video.pbs.org/video/2323758207>); "*Neandertaler – Warum haben wir ihn überlebt?*" shown in Germany on 24 and 25 May 2012, and (dubbed) in France, and elsewhere, on the European Arte television channel, produced by the Berlin-based company X-enius AVE Gesellschaft (<http://videos.arte.tv/de/videos/x-enius-7367218.html>; mirror.dokujunkies.org/?r=8281&download=Neandertaler.-.Warum.Haben).

Wir.Ihn.überlebt%.F.GERMAN.DOKU.WS.dTV.SAMPLEFIX.XViD-GEO) Mirrojunkies is pay-to-view; the last three letters refer to whoever has uploaded the video, and I have chosen GEO though there are many alternative uploaders.

"*Arqueomanía: Dossieres sobre Evolución Humana*" (especially in parts 1 and 4 of this 4-part series shown on October 6, 113, 20, 27 2013 by TVE (Spanish national television), produced by former government minister Manuel Pimentel's Arqueomanía production company; also in documentary made by the same company "*El Paso del Estrecho de Gibraltar*" show by TVE on July 28 2013;

"*Lo que nos une a los neandertales*" shown on TVE (Spanish national television) produced by the Barcelona team of channel "Tres14", June 4, 2011 (<http://www.rtve.es/television/20110921/une-neandertales/463099.shtml>);

"*Cueva Negra*", an animated educational documentary that gained an award at the Spanish festival of short films at Málaga in 2013, produced by the Murcian regional government's Fundación Integra, with various public showing in the Murcian region in 2012 and 2013 (we have a copy that will be shown during Session 1 at Cueva Negra);

"*Piedra sobre piedra*", shown on ten occasions via Hispasat (the Spanish government TVE satellite television service to Latin America), made in 2004 by the Madrid production company Cuarto Creciente (www.cuartocreciente.es/piedra-sobre-piedra)

"*Neanderthal*" is a full-length video and not too appalling – I bought a copy in the UK in February 2001 for thirteen pounds 99 pence at an "HMV" high-street store in London. It was made by the Visual Corporation Ltd in 2000 for television broadcasting in 2001 in the UK via Wall-To-Wall Television Ltd. If the video is still available, you may be able to find out more at <http://itel.co.uk/neanderthal>

YOUR FIELD SCHOOL CO-ORDINATOR, MICHAEL WALKER, AS SEEN BY HIMSELF

RECENT

I was appointed foundation Professor of Physical Anthropology since 1988 at Murcia University, Spain, where I set up the Sub-Department of Physical Anthropology ("Área de Conocimiento de Antropología Física") in the Department of Zoology and Physical Anthropology in the Biology Faculty. I had to teach in Spanish, which I coped with, more or less. I have taught undergraduate course units on both Biological Anthropology and in Human Evolution, as well as postgraduate courses on The Origins of Modern Humans and on Human Ecology, Today and Yesterday, and in addition I supervise graduate students undertaking research, as well as directing research at *Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar* and *Sima de las Palomas del Cabezo Gordo*. I have been designated Honorific Emeritus Professor by Murcia University. I ceased to teach formal course units in June 2013 and now my time is taken up with research both in the Murcia University research group whose P.I. is the palaeopalynologist Professor José Carrión "'Ecce Homo: Quaternary Palaeoecology, Palaeoanthropology and Technology" Research Group, and also in the Murcian Association for the Study of Palaeoanthropology and the Quaternary (*MUPANTQUAT*) which was established in 2012.

LIFE HISTORY

I was born at Colchester in England in 1941. This was appropriate for an archaeologist, because, even before Julius Caesar reached England, Colchester was the capital of the prehistoric Celtic King Cunobelinus, or Cymbeline as Shakespeare called him, though English children know him even better from the nursery rhyme as "Old Kind Cole was a Merry Old Soul...". King Cunobelinus was almost alone among prehistoric British rulers in being important enough to mint his own coins. A century later, in A.D. 40 the Roman Emperor Caesar Augustus set up the first capital of his new British colony at Colchester, or Camulodunum as it was known in Latin. However, the Celtic Queen Boudicca (or Boadicea) ransacked it, and a new, safer capital was established on the River Thames at London in A.D. 61.

During World War 2, my father was away from home, being an officer in the Royal Air Force, so my mother took me away from German bombs dropping over Colchester, to her family's home in Yorkshire. After his demobilization in 1948, my father, also a Yorkshireman, came back from Germany to join us.

As a boy in Yorkshire, I studied Maths, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Latin, Greek, French and German at the Bradford Grammar School in Yorkshire, where the great archaeologist Sir Mortimer Wheeler had studied long before me. The composer Delius had been at my school, as had the historian Sir Alan Bullock.

My hobbies were archaeology (I founded an Archaeological Society at the school), rowing, squash, mountaineering, spelaeology, hiking and Scouting (I was a Queen's Scout). I kept up several of them for many years afterwards - up to leaving Sydney in 1988, I was in charge of all Venture Scouts in an inner-city Scout District and also helped both on Scout-Leader training-teams and Scout spelaeology training-teams.

I went up to Oxford University to University College (the poet Shelley was expelled from it!) where I took degrees in Animal Physiology (1963) and Medicine and Surgery (1967). I was awarded Oxford University's Near Eastern Archaeological Essay Prize, its Faculty of Medicine's Ophthalmology Prize, and the British Association for the Advancement of Science's Endeavour Prize for a published physiological review of muscular contractility. I spent a while beside the Thames in London's St. Thomas' Hospital Medical School (where Florence Nightingale founded professional nursing after the Crimean War).

While I was in London, I met my future wife, María Teresa Pina Velasco, a Spaniard from Murcia who was working in Bond Street in haute couture. We were married since 1968 until my wife's sad death from cancer in 1998. I have 3 admirable grown-up sons and four grand-children. I live in a flat in Murcia and have a beach-house at La Torre de la Horadada 15 kilometres from *Sima de las Palomas*.

RESEARCH CAREER

In 1968 I took the (first ever!) "Distinction" in what was then Oxford University's Postgraduate Diploma in Prehistoric Archaeology (now grandly renamed Master of Studies in Prehistoric Archaeology), studying under the Palaeolithic expert the late Professor Derek Roe, who published with the late Mary Leakey the monumental 1995 volume on the Olduvai Gorge stone tools, in the Cambridge University Press *Olduvai Gorge* (vol. 5) series of monographs. I then went on to take my DPhil from Oxford for a thesis on the prehistory and physical anthropology of southeast Spain which was supervised by the eminent scholar Professor John Evans who was Director London University's prestigious Institute of Archaeology at that time (now called University College London Institute of Archaeology).

From 1967 to 1969 I was Randall Maclver Research Fellow in Archaeology at The Queen's College at Oxford University. In 1969 I became university lecturer in Human Anatomy at the Edinburgh University Medical School in Scotland. Although I liked Edinburgh and was on full tenure, but I left in 1973 and emigrated to Australia, where I was first university lecturer, again on full tenure, and later senior lecturer, in Anthropology in the Arts Faculty at Sydney University. As well as being a British citizen by birth, I am also an Australian citizen, and for many years ran a part-time general practice in Sydney, especially for Spanish-speaking patients from Spain and South America.

From Sydney, I carried out research in Indonesia and continued to do fieldwork in southeastern Spain with colleagues at Murcia University. Much of this fieldwork was financed by Australian Government Research Grants Scheme and or by the National Geographic Society of the USA. In 1986 the Spanish Government financed me as a Visiting Professor for 12 months in the Department of Anthropology and Genetics in the Science Faculty at Madrid's Autonomous University. While I was there, the Spanish Government brought in a change to the law, in order to enable foreigners to become *tenured* university teachers in Spain, which had been forbidden under General's Franco dictatorship (1939-1975). There had been foreigners before the Spanish Civil War (1936-1939). I was the *first* non-Spaniard to be given a any *permanent Full Professorial-level position* since the Civil War. By a strange quirk of history, the *last* foreigner to hold one had also been a prehistorian, namely, the German scientist Hugo von Obermaier, who left Madrid University after the Spanish Civil War broke out and retired to the Catholic university at Freiburg in Switzerland until his death in 1946.

So, in 1988, I came back to Europe to set up the Sub-Department of Physical Anthropology (Área de Antropología Física) in the Biology Faculty at Murcia University, under a Spanish Government programme ("PROPIO") designed to pump new blood and ideas into collaborating universities. In 1989 I was elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London. I returned to Oxford as its official Senior Visiting Research Fellow in Archaeology during 1993 and 1994 from time to time, when I was also Visiting Fellow at St. Cross College. I ran official scientific exchanges, sponsored by the Spanish and British Governments (*Anglo-Spanish Joint Actions HB1992-104B and HB1995-0002B*) together with the late Derek Roe, Oxford University's first Professor of Palaeolithic Archaeology and Director of its Baden-Powell Quaternary Research Centre.

I was also Senior Researcher responsible for the 3-year Spanish Governmental DGICYT Research Project *PB92-0971* and in 1993 was the same for the 1-year Murcia Regional Government Research Project *PSH93-52*, at my two sites of *Cueva Negra* and *Sima de las Palomas*. At the end of 1999, a new Spanish Government *Major Research Grant PB98-0405* was awarded to help with the *Sima de las Palomas* and *Cueva Negra* research in the 3-year period 2000-2001-2002, and a further similar three-year grant was made, *BOS2002-02375*, for the triennium 2003-2004-2006. In 2005 it made available a small grant for 2006 (CGL2005-02410/BTE). In 2007 the Murcian Regional Government's research funding body, *Fundación Séneca*, awarded a grant of 30,000 euros for research at *Cueva Negra* and *Sima de las Palomas* (*05584/ARQ/07*); the same body awarded me 900 euros in 2006 to present a communication at the XV Congress of the International Union of Prehistoric and Protohistoric Sciences at Lisbon. In 2009 we received a grant of about 25,000 euros for archaeological research at our sites from funds released by the Murcian regional government for archaeological excavations administered by Murcia University. Alas, since 2009 no further public money has been made available for archaeology in Murcia, but our recently formed *Murcian Association for the Study of Palaeoanthropology and the Quaternary, MUPANTQUAT*, and our Field School activities are helping to keep the fieldwork going forward. .

The 1999 official recognition by *PB98-045* undoubtedly helped us to acquire new international contacts and collaboration, as well as maintaining pre-existing ones, and most particularly favoured our obtaining the royal patronage of King Juan Carlos I of Spain who graciously accepted Honorary Chairmanship for the (December 6-19, 2000) *International Colloquium and Workshop "The Iberian Peninsula and Human Evolution", A Symposium in Honour of Professor Phillip V. Tobias, F.R.S.* which I organised at Murcia. The late Professor Tobias, who was 75 in 2000, flew to Murcia from South Africa where he was Emeritus Professor of the Witwatersrand University at Johannesburg and directed its Palaeoanthropology Research Group. We had known each other since 1974 and he stayed at my house and visited our Murcian sites.

I directed the scientific content of a travelling European Union-cofunded public exhibition about our sites and research at them, called "**Archaic Europeans and Neanderthals: Project HOMO, Hominins, Technology and Environment in the Middle and early Upper Pleistocene**", which was about our work at *Cueva Negra* and *Sima de las Palomas*, and travelled around the European Union, because it was winner of the European Commission's "Culture 2000" Programme (2000-0820CLTCA1A) so that the Commission paid for half (€150,000 euros) of its cost, the other half coming from the participating institutions that have agreed to display it, namely Murcia's Museo de la Ciencia y del Agua (Science and Water Resources Museum), the Austrian national Museum of Natural History at Vienna (where the exhibition opened in October 2001), the Palaeontological Museum of Barcelona at Sabadell, the Oxford University Museum of Natural History, Logroño Museum, San Sebastián's Science Museum, and other places in Spain.

In February 2000, the Rector (*i.e.* President or Vice-Chancellor) of Murcia University and Mayor of Torre Pacheco signed an agreement to study whether it was feasible to establish a museum and residential field-study centre near Dolores de Pacheco beside *Sima de las Palomas* del Cabezo Gordo. The Torre Pacheco Town Council was enthusiastic about developing the site and its environment and has received from the European Union a modest development grant with a view to preserving the hillside around the site. In February 2007 the Murcian Regional government made available eight million euros, later increased to ten, for building the regional **Museum of Palaeontology and Human Evolution** near *Sima de las Palomas* in Torre Pacheco municipality and the

foundation stone was laid finally in September 2010; building started in 2011 and although the structure was built by 2013, subsequent economic hardship, alas, means that it still awaits being fitted out so that the exhibition halls and laboratories can be up and running. Meanwhile, in 2016 Torre Pacheco town council ceded to MUPANTQUAT a spanking new laboratory in its brand-new building that houses both its municipal police department and a library and reading room facility for students, as well as a lecture theatre or meeting room, and we shall be working in it during our forthcoming 2023 field season at Sima de las Palomas.

My principal academic interests include prehistoric communities, their habitat, and their evolution, with special reference to the palaeoanthropology, prehistoric archaeology and human palaeoecology of the Old World, and in particular the Iberian Peninsula. I am interested in the application to these matters of strategies, methods, and techniques of the natural sciences via investigations into (and attempts to refute) working hypotheses about remains from the past, in endeavours to define appropriate models for its interpretation.

My teaching at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels reflected those interests: palaeoeconomic and palaeoecological interpretations of human evolution and Quaternary prehistory; human evolution and biological anthropology in their Pleistocene and Holocene environmental setting; Quaternary environmental studies; human and mammalian osteology and osteometry; multivariate statistical analysis; characterization analyses of materials; field programmes of excavation at Pleistocene and Holocene sites. At Murcia University I had to teach in Spanish. I have also published papers in Catalan and French, and can read German and Italian tolerably.

Southeastern Spain is a Mediterranean region with spectacularly abundant palaeoanthropological, palaeoecological, palaeoeconomic, and prehistoric remains from both the Holocene and the Pleistocene. At present I am carrying out fieldwork at two important Murcian sites that straddle the period 250,000-50,000 years ago: *Cueva Negra* and *Sima de las Palomas*. Both provide hominin remains of early *Homo sapiens neanderthalensis*, together with Middle Palaeolithic artifacts and extinct fauna.

Although my own research projects take up most of my time, I have also collaborated with research into Lower Pleistocene hominin remains *Orce*, in Granada, and *Cueva Victoria*, near Cartagena in Murcia, in DGICYT Project *PB-91-0044*, under the leadership of my dear friend, the late Dr. Josep Gibert. We have presented at the 1995 *International Conference on Human Palaeontology*, held at Orce, a published study, together with other colleagues, of early hominin humeri from the Venta Micena site at Orce; this eventually appeared in the scientific journal *Human Evolution* at the end of 1999. I was on the Scientific Committee of the Conference and gave two papers on my work at *Sima de las Palomas* and *Cueva Negra*, as well as guiding an excursion of international scientists around *Sima de las Palomas*.

I participated in the Murcian Regional Government Project *PSH91-31*, led by Professor Jorge Eiroa of Murcia University's Prehistory and Archaeology Department, as second principal researcher, undertaking osteological analysis of Copper-Age skeletons from northwestern Murcian sites of *Bagil*, excavated by Professor Eiroa, and *Cueva de los Alcores*. Furthermore, I have collaborated with Murcian Regional Government archaeologist Miguel San Nicolás in other analyses of human skeletons from caves he has excavated, including *Cueva de El Milano* and *Cueva de Pajasola*, and in 1995 we published together a 60-page chapter in a volume edited by the late Dr. Bill Waldren (who, like me, had studied under Dr. Roe at Oxford) called *Ritual, Rites and Religion in Prehistory* (Oxford: Tempus Reparatum, 1995). At Pajasola a former research student and colleague, Dr. Josefina Zapata did good work, identifying, consolidating and cleaning the hundreds of jumbled human bones, and her doctoral thesis on a study of a late Roman cemetery population at *Mazarrón* on the southern Murcian coast was published *British Archaeological Reports International Series*.

When I was at Sydney University I supervised the doctoral theses of Phillip Habgood, who undertook a multivariate statistical analysis of Middle and early Upper Pleistocene hominin skulls which is in press with *British Archaeological Reports International Series (BAR)*, and of American Cheryl Swanson who undertook a similar study on Australian Aboriginal skulls, and I was co-supervisor of Dimitri Anson's thesis which involved characterization studies of Lapita pottery from the Bismarck Archipelago. For over 20 years I was involved in the examination of doctoral candidates at several universities.

In the Biology Faculty at Murcia University a modern, well-equipped Anthropology Research Laboratory and a spacious Teaching Laboratory were equipped, thanks to a special Spanish government grant to complement my appointment as foundation professor, with osteometrical equipment, a Leica MZ-12 binocular microscope, a binocular petrographic Zeiss "Jenapol" microscope with photographic accessories, a low-power binocular Olympus microscope with extension arms and photographic accessories, student microscopes, and four microcomputers with digitalizer, plotter, printers, scanners, etc., an oven for drying materials, racks and shelving for bone collections, and a growing library of upto date monographs. A Tata 7-seater 4-wheel drive vehicle was acquired in November 2005 by the Physical Anthropology Subdepartment for fieldwork, thanks to a special grant from Murcia University for infrastructure. The Faculty Library has also been expanded with textbooks, monographs and a dozen international journals of Physical Anthropology and Quaternary studies.

Thanks to the generosity of Torre Pacheco town council, with which *MUPANTQUAT* has signed an agreement of collaboration, we can now use a new laboratory that in 2016 was assigned for Sima de las Palomas research in a spanking new building that houses the municipal police department, a library facility for high-school students, and a large meeting room. We fitted out the lab in 2017. We shall be working in it during our forthcoming 2023 field season at Sima de las Palomas. Our *MUPANTQUAT* association has invested considerable money in acquiring new equipment: a water pump, 12 new geological sieves, a field microscope, a strong safe cabinet for preserving the Sima de las Palomas Neanderthal skeletons, and a compressor and vibroscalpels to clean them with.

Our research enjoys a close relationship with scientists in various Murcia University departments, especially the Prehistory and Archaeology Department, the Department of Analytical Chemistry, the Botany Department, the Department of Geology and Soil Science, and the Veterinary Faculty's Veterinary Hospital CAT scanning unit. Comprising physical anthropologists, archaeologists, geologists and analytical chemists, an official university Research Group on "Quaternary technology, anthropology and ecology" was established at Murcia University, under my direction from 1992 to 2013, which had both local colleagues and external collaborators

(officially-recognised as such by Murcia University) who are attached to other institutions (Barcelona University; Cartagena Polytechnic University; Instituto de Patrimonio Histórico of the Murcian regional administration, etc.). This Research Group merged on January 1st 2013 with another Murcia University Research Group concerned with palaeopalynology and palaeoenvironmental studies directed by Dr José Carrión García, Professor of Evolutionary Botany. The new entity is called t Dr Carrión is an editor of *Quaternary Science Reviews* and editor-in-chief of the *Review of Paleobotany and Palynology*; he heads the new group officially, though within it the two former groups have each retained de facto autonomy and elect their own separate coordinators for their respective spheres of research interests and activities; Dr María Haber Uriarte who, together with archaeologist Mariano López Martínez, co-directs with me the excavations at *Cueva Negra* and *Sima de las Palomas*, is the coordinator of the Palaeoanthropology & Technology section.

I am also interested in developing interpretations of Southeastern Spanish palaeodemography in the Mesolithic, Neolithic, /Copper and Early Bronze Ages, which take into consideration palaeoeconomic and palaeoenvironmental aspects of settlement. Reconsideration of the evidence suggests population and settlement densities far below the levels which are inferred by some prehistorians whose monographs have received wide circulation in recent years. Palaeoanthropological findings, as well as archaeological evidence, suggest an extremely sparse population indeed between 8,000 and 4,000 years ago in this region, which many prehistorians have considered as one of prehistoric Europe's dynamic growth regions from a standpoint of cultural evolution. I have written a chapter in Spanish for a volume that I being prepared about the rock paintings of the Murcian Region which includes a reconsideration of my excavations at the Barranco de los Grajos which I carried out 40 years ago.

MEMBERSHIP OF SOCIETIES AND ASSOCIATIONS

Fellowship:

Society of Antiquaries of London
Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain
Society of Antiquaries of Scotland

Emeritus membership:

American Association of Biological Anthropologists

Membership:

Prehistoric Society of Great Britain
European Society for the Study of Human Evolution
Hugo Obermaier Society for Quaternary Research and Archaeology of the Stone Age (Hugo Obermaier-Gesellschaft für Erforschung des Eiszeitalters und der Steinzeit e.V.)
Sociedad Española de Antropología Biológica
European Anthropological Association
Asociación Española para el Estudio del Cuaternario
British Cave Research Association.
Sociedad Española de Paleontología
Palaeoanthropology Society
Lithics Studies Society
Murcian Association for the Study of Palaeoanthropology and the Quaternary

Life membership:

Oxford Union Society

FORTHCOMING ONLINE PRESENTATIONS FROM THE ACTIVE INFERENCE INSTITUTE

Livestream seminars coordinated by Dr. Daniel A. Friedman, Dept. of Entomology, University of California at Davis. These will be available online at the *Active Inference* Institute and YouTube and Twitter:

<https://www.ActiveInference.org>
<https://www.youtube.com/c/ActiveInference>
<https://twitter.com/InferenceActive>

1. 23 March 2023, 15.00-17.00 hours Central European Time CET (Madrid)

<https://ucdavis.zoom.us/my/active.inference?pwd=aFFHMWE0SVpab0p5RXErQ0cvTGJEdz09>

Guest speakers: Héctor M. Manrique & Michael J. Walker: “*Snakes and Ladders in Paleanthropology: From cognitive surprise to skillfulness a million years ago.*” (An open online *Livestream* seminar and open discussion, with reference to the 2022 preprint with the same title by H. M.

Manrique, K.J. Friston & M. J. Walker available online at <https://psyarxiv.com/9rkgh/>)

2. 30 March 2023, 16.00-18.00 hours Central European Time CET (Madrid)*

<https://ucdavis.zoom.us/my/active.inference?pwd=aFFHMWE0SVpab0p5RXErQ0cvTGJEdz09>

Guest speakers: Héctor M. Manrique & Michael J. Walker: “*To copy or not to copy? That is the question! From chimpanzees to the foundation of human technological culture.*” (An open online *Livestream* seminar and open discussion, with reference to the 2022 preprint with the same title by H. M. Manrique & M. J. Walker available online at <https://psyarxiv.com/g5je4/>)

SOME RECENT OR FORTHCOMING PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

2022 Submitted for publication: A.Bermejo-Fenoll, A.Panchón-Ruiz, M.J.Walker, “Aspects of Neanderthal and modern human chins.”

2022 H.M.Manrique, M.J.Walker, “To copy or not to copy? That is the question! From chimpanzees to the foundation of human technological culture.” Pre-print in *PsyArxiv*. <https://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/g5je4>

2022 H.M.Manrique, K.J.Friston, M.J.Walker, “Snakes and Ladders” in paleoanthropology: from cognitive surprise to skillfulness a million years ago.” Pre-print in *PsyArxiv*. [PsyArxiv.com 9rkgh](https://psyarxiv.com/9rkgh) or <https://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/9rkgh>.

2022 H.M.Manrique, K.J.Friston, M.J.Walker, (Abstract) “Snakes and Ladders” in paleoanthropology: from cognitive surprise to skillfulness a million years ago.” In: 12th Annual Meeting of the European Society for the Study of Human Evolution, Tübingen, 22-24 September, 2022. *PaleoAnthropology 2022*.

2022 H.M.Manrique, M.J.Walker, “PSITA”: A protracted sensory integration theory of autism, based on primary intersubjectivity and the Free Energy Principle.” Pre-print in *PsyArxiv*. [PsyArxiv.com 2k63x](https://psyarxiv.com/2k63x) or <https://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/2k63x>.

2022 M.J.Walker, Review of Deborah Barsky's *Human prehistory: exploring the past to understand the future* (Cambridge Univ.Press, 2023), *Antiquity* Dec.2022 <https://doi.org/10.15184/aqy.2022.153> (ISSN)

2022 M.J.Walker, M.Haber Uriarte, M.López Martínez, I.Martín Lerma, “La Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quipar en La Encarnación de Caravaca Cruz.” In: F.Brotons Yagüe, Coord., *Caravaca inédita. Un viaje de la prehistoria hasta nuestros días*. Caravaca de la Cruz, Ediciones Gollarín, 79-95 (ISBN 9788412219630).

2022 A.Bermejo-Fenoll, A.Panchón-Ruiz, M.J.Walker, “Neanderthal, Sapiens and chimpanzee mandibles: a comparative study in relation to

- articulated speech." *Archaeological and Anthropological Sciences* 14:116 (ISSN: 1866-9565) <https://doi.org/10.1107/s12520-22-01575-s>
- 2022 M.J.Walker, M.Haber Uriarte, M.López Martínez, G.J.Linares Matás, N.Fernández Ruiz, "Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar: Comings and goings recorded in a late Early (Lower) Pleistocene microstratigraphical palimpsest." *L'Anthropologie* 126(1): 102995 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.anthro.2021.102995> (ISSN 0003-5521).
- 2022 D.W.Read, H.M.Manrique, M.J.Walker, "On the working memory of humans and great apes: strikingly similar or remarkably different?" *Neuroscience and Biobehavioral Reviews* 134:104496 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.neubiorev.2021.12.019> (ISSN 0149-7634)
- 2022 M.J.Walker, Review of R.Hosfield's *The earliest Europeans. A year in the life: seasonal survival strategies in the Lower Palaeolithic* (Oxbow Books, 2020). *L'Anthropologie* 126 (1) <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.anthro.2021.102995>. (ISSN 0003-5521)
- 2022 M.J.Walker, Review of M.Carandell Baruzzi's *The Orce Man: controversy, media and politics in human origins research* (Brill, 2021) *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute* 28 (1) (ISSN: 1467-9655)
- 2021 H.M.Manrique, H.Zeidler, G.Roberts, P.Barclay, M.Walker, F.Samu, A.Fariña, R.Bshary, N.Raihani: "The psychological foundations of reputation-based cooperation". *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B* 376: 2020287 (ISSN 09628436, 14712970) <https://doi.org/10.1098/rstb.2020.0287>
- 2021 G.J.Linares Matás, N.Fernández Ruiz, M.Haber Uriarte, M.López Martínez, M.J.Walker: "Hyaenas and early humans in the latest Early Pleistocene of South-Western Europe" *Scientific Reports* 11:24036 (ISSN 2045-2322) <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-021-03547-7>.
- 2021 M.J.Walker, "Nuevas perspectivas paleoantropológicas en la Región de Murcia: La Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar en Caravaca de la Cruz y la Sima de las Palomas del Cabezo Gordo en Torre Pacheco". In: M.A.Bernal Gómez & A.Santiago Pérez, Eds., *Paleolítico. De los primeros pobladores al ocaso neandertal en la Península Ibérica*. Córdoba, Editorial Almuzara, "Colección Historia, Serie Huellas del Pasado", y Jerez de la Frontera, Asociación Jerezana de Amigos del Archivo, 231-253. (ISBN 9788418709456).
- 2021 J.A.Fellows Yates,I.M.Velsko, F.Aron, C.Posth,C.A.Hofman, R.M.Austin, C.E.Parker, A.E.Mann, K.Nägel, K.W.Arthur, J.W.Arthur, C.C.Bauer, I.Crèvecoeur, C.Cupillard, M.C.Curtis, L.Dalé, M.Díaz-Zorita Bonilla, J.C.Díez Fernández-Lomana, D.G.Drucker, E.Escribano Escrivá, M.Francken, V.E.Gibbon, M.R.González Morales, A.Grande Mateu, K.Harvati, A.G.Henry, L.Humphrey, M.Menéndez, D.Mihailovic, M.Peresani, S.Rodríguez Moroder, M.Roksandic, H.Rougier, S.Sázelová, J.T.Stock, L.G.Straus, J.Svoboda, B.Teßmann, M.J.Walker, R.C.Power, C.M.Lewis, K.Sankaranarayan, K.Guschanski, R.W.Wrangham, F.E.Dewhurst, D.C.Salazar-García, J.Krause, A.Herbig, C.Warinner, 2021. The evolution and changing ecology of the African hominid oral microbiome.*Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences USA*, 118 (20), e2021655118. doi: 10.1073/pnas.2021655118 (ISSN 1091-6490)
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- 2021 M.J.Walker, "Neanderthals and their background: thirty years of research in Murcia," in: *25th Calpe Conference, CALPE 21 Iberian Neanderthals, Book of Abstracts*, (Gibraltar, The Gibraltar National Museum) p. 23. (Lecture given at the University of Gibraltar on Sept. 24th 2021).
- 2021 M.J.Walker, ""Snakes and ladders" in the Lower and Middle Palaeolithic: from cognitive surprise to "skill"". Illustrated talk on topics related to Cueva Negra given in the Lower Palaeolithic Commission session (*Lower palaeolithic across time and space: what we are talking about*) on Sept. 4th 2021 at the XIX Congress of the International Union of Prehistoric and Protohistoric Sciences that was held entirely on-line from Meknès in Morocco on account of the covid-19 pandemic. The link to the Abstract that was put on the UISPP web-site is hard to access but I have a personal copy available.
- 2021 M.J.Walker, "Before pyrotechnology: pyroepignosis in the Lower Palaeolithic." Illustrated talk on a matter related to Cueva Negra, given in the Pyroarchaeology session (*Pyroarchaeology from hunter-gatherer contexts to sedentary and complex societies*) on Sept. 6th 2021 at the XIX Congress of the International Union of Prehistoric and Protohistoric Sciences that was held entirely on-line from Meknès in Morocco on account of the covid-19 pandemic. The link to the Abstract that was put on the UISPP web-site is hard to access but I have a personal copy available.
- 2021 G.Linares-Matás, N.Fernández, M.Haber, M.López, M.J.Walker, "Sharing shelter: hyaenas and hominins in the upper levels (2c-2f) of the late Early Pleistocene site of Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar (Caravaca de la Cruz, Spain)." Poster exhibited at the 62nd Annual Meeting of the *Hugo Obermaier Society for Quaternary Research and Archaeology of the Stone Age*, April 6th-8th 2021 held at Brno's Moravian Museum online on account of covid-19. Abstract published in A.Maier, Ed., *Back to the Gravettian. 62nd Conference of the Hugo Obermaier Society April 6th-8th 2021 Bno Online Conference* (Erlangen, Friedrich-Alexander Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg, Institut für Ur- und Frühgeschichte, Hugo Obermaier Gesellschaft für Erforschung des Eiszeitalters und der Steinzeit, ISBN 978-3-946387-34-2), pp. 56-58.
- 2021 M.J.Walker, M.Duval, R.Grün, M.Haber Uriarte, A.López Jiménez, M.López Martínez, "New chronological constraints for the Lower Palaeolithic site of Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar (Caravaca de la Cruz, Murcia, Spain): preliminary ESR dating of the late Early Pleistocene fauna." Poster exhibited at the 62nd Annual Meeting of the *Hugo Obermaier Society for Quaternary Research and Archaeology of the Stone Age*, April 6th-8th 2021 held at Brno's Moravian Museum online on account of covid-19. Abstract published in A.Maier, Ed., *Back to the Gravettian. 62nd Conference of the Hugo Obermaier Society April 6th-8th 2021 Bno Online Conference* (Erlangen, Friedrich-Alexander Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg, Institut für Ur- und Frühgeschichte, Hugo Obermaier Gesellschaft für Erforschung des Eiszeitalters und der Steinzeit, ISBN 978-3-946387-34-2), pp. 99-101.
- 2021 M.J.Walker, M.Haber Uriarte, M.López Martínez, A.López Jiménez, J.Ortega Rodríguez, "Neanderthal cranial remains and elements of the axial skeleton from the Sima de las Palomas del Cabezo Gordo (Torre Pacheco, Murcia, Spain)." Poster exhibited at the 62nd Annual Meeting of the *Hugo Obermaier Society for Quaternary Research and Archaeology of the Stone Age*, April 6th 2021 held at Brno's Moravian Museum online on account of covid-19. Abstract published in A.Maier, Ed., *Back to the Gravettian. 62nd Conference of the Hugo Obermaier Society April 6th-8th 2021 Bno Online Conference* (Erlangen, Friedrich-Alexander Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg, Institut für Ur- und Frühgeschichte, Hugo Obermaier Gesellschaft für Erforschung des Eiszeitalters und der Steinzeit, ISBN 978-3-946387-34-2), pp.101-103.
- 2021 M.J.Walker, M.Haber Uriarte, M.López Martínez, A.López Jiménez, J.Ortega Rodríguez, "Neanderthal post-cranial skeletal remains from the Sima de las Palomas del Cabezo Gordo (Torre Pacheco, Murcia, Spain)." Poster exhibited at the 62nd Annual Meeting of the *Hugo Obermaier Society for Quaternary Research and Archaeology of the Stone Age*, April 6th-8th 2021 held at Brno's Moravian Museum online on account of covid-19. Abstract published in A.Maier, Ed., *Back to the Gravettian. 62nd Conference of the Hugo Obermaier Society April 6th-8th 2021 Bno Online Conference* (Erlangen, Friedrich-Alexander Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg, Institut für Ur- und Frühgeschichte, Hugo Obermaier Gesellschaft für Erforschung des Eiszeitalters und der Steinzeit, ISBN 978-3-946387-34-2), pp.103-104.
- 2020 M.J.Walker, M.Haber Uriarte, A.López Jiménez, M.López Martínez, I.Martin Lerma, J.van der Made, M.Duval, R.Grün, "Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar: a dated Late Early Pleistocene Palaeolithic site in Southeastern Spain." *Journal of Paleolithic Archaeology* 3 (4), 816-855, (ISSN:2520-8217).

- 2020 A.López Jiménez, M.Haber Uriarte, M.López Martínez, M.J.Walker, "Small-mammal indicators of biochronology at Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar (Caravaca de la Cruz, Murcia, SE Spain)". *Historical Biology* 32, 18-33 (ISSN: 08912963).
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- 2019 J.S.Carrión, S.Fernández, J.M.Jiménez-Arenas, M.Munuera, J.Ochando, G.Amorós, M.Ponce de León, C.Zollikofer, I.Martín-Lerma, I.Toro-Moyano, I.Hajdas, M.J.Walker, The sequence at Carihuella Cave and its potential for research into Neanderthal ecology and the Mousterian in southern Spain. *Quaternary Science Reviews* 217, 194-216 (ISSN: 0277-3791).
- 2019 M.J.Walker, M.Duval, R.Grün, M.Haber-Uriarte, A.López-Jiménez, M.López-Martínez, "New chronological constraints for the Lower Palaeolithic site of Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar, Caravaca de la Cruz, Murcia, Spain: Preliminary ESR dating of the late Early Pleistocene fauna" (9th Annual Meeting of the European Society for the Study of Human Evolution ESHE Liège, Belgium, 18-23 September 2019) *Proceedings of the European Society for the Study of Human Evolution 8 (PESHE 8)* p. 197 (ISSN 21950776).
- 2019 M.J.Walker, "Cuatro preguntas sobre el arte rupestre del Holoceno en Murcia con respuestas de M.J.Walker." *Orígenes y Raíces. Revista de la Sociedad de Estudios Historiológicos y Etnográficos de las Tierras Altas del Argos, Quípar y Alhárabe* 13, 1-20 (ISSN 2254-5, 2605-1877).
- 2019 M.J.Walker. Review of T.Wynn & F.L.Coolidge, Eds, *Cognitive Models in Palaeolithic Archaeology* (Oxford University Press, 2016). *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute* 25: 398-399 (ISSN: 1467-9655).
- 2018 R.C.Power, D.C.Salazar-García, D.C., M.Rubini, A.Darlas, K.Harvati, M.Walker, J-J.Hublin, A.G.Henry, "Dental calculus indicates widespread plant use within the stable Neanderthal dietary niche." *Journal of Human Evolution* 119, 27-41 (ISSN 0047-2484).
- 2018 A.López Jiménez, M. Haber Uriarte, M. López Martínez, M.J.Walker, "Small-mammal indicators of biochronology at Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar (Caravaca de la Cruz, Murcia, SE Spain)". *Historical Biology* doi: 10.1080/08912963.2018.1462804 (ISSN: 08912963) (Advance online version)
- 2018 M.J.Walker, M.Haber Uriarte, M.López Martínez, J.Ortega Rodríguez, A.López Jiménez, A.Avilés Fernández, C.I.Caravaca Guerrero, G.Linares Matás, H.Cano Fernández, N.Fernández Ruiz, J.García Torres, Á.T.Buitrago, "Neanderthal activities between ~130 ka and ~40 ka at Sima de las Palomas del Cabezo Gordo (Torre Pacheco, Murcia, Spain)". (60th Annual Meeting, Tarragona, 3rd-7th of April, 2018, Hugo Obermaier Society for Quaternary Research and Archaeology of the Stone Age, Hugo Obermaier-Gesellschaft für Erforschung des Eiszeitalters und der Steinzeit e.V.). In A. Maier, ed, *Neanderthal Behaviour and Ecology in the Mediterranean Area April 3-April 7, 2018, in Tarragona*, Hugo Obermaier-Gesellschaft für Erforschung des Eiszeitalters und der Steinzeit e.V., Institut für Ur- und Frühgeschichte der Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg, Erlangen, pp. 58-60 (ISBN 9783946387121).
- 2018 M.J.Walker, "The earliest European Acheulian: The significance of recent findings for human evolution in Europe." (8th Annual Meeting of the European Society for the Study of Human Evolution ESHE Faro, Portugal, 13-15 September 2018) *Proceedings of the European Society for the Study of Human Evolution 7 (PESHE 7)*, p.198. (ISSN 21950776).
- 2018 N.Fernández, M.Haber, M.López, M.J.Walker, "Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar (Caravaca de la Cruz, Murcia, Spain): Intrasite analysis of a late Early Pleistocene Palaeolithic palimpsest." (8th Annual Meeting of the European Society for the Study of Human Evolution ESHE Faro, Portugal, 13-15 September 2018) *Proceedings of the European Society for the Study of Human Evolution 7 (PESHE 7)*, p. 63. (ISSN 21950776)
- 2018 M.J.Walker, "Early tool-making and the biological evolution of memory systems in brains of early *Homo*". (Session IV-1 Old stones, new eyes? Charting future directions in lithic analysis) In: *Book of Abstracts, 18th UISPP World Congress, Paris, June 4-9 2018 – XVIII^e Congrès UISPP, Paris, 4-9 juin 2018 "Exploring the World's Prehistory"* (UISPP, Union des Sciences Préhistoriques et Protohistoriques, Paris), pp. 482-483.
- 2018 M.J.Walker, "Artifact or advantageous accident? The problem of combustion at the late Early Pleistocene site of Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar (Caravaca de la Cruz, Murcia, Spain)". (Session IV-4 Fire as an artefact: Advances in the study of Paleolithic combustion features) In: *Book of Abstracts, 18th UISPP World Congress, Paris, June 4-9 2018 – XVIII^e Congrès UISPP, Paris, 4-9 juin 2018 "Exploring the World's Prehistory"* (UISPP, Union des Sciences Préhistoriques et Protohistoriques, Paris), pp. 564-565.
- 2018 M.J.Walker, A.López Jiménez, M.Haber Uriarte, M.López Martínez, "Late Early Pleistocene age of the hand-axe and Palaeolithic assemblage at Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar (Caravaca de la Cruz, Murcia, Spain)". (Session XIV-1 First peopling of Europe) In: *Book of Abstracts, 18th UISPP World Congress, Paris, June 4-9 2018 – XVIII^e Congrès UISPP, Paris, 4-9 juin 2018 "Exploring the World's Prehistory"* (UISPP, Union des Sciences Préhistoriques et Protohistoriques, Paris), pp. 1012-1013.
- 2018 M.J.Walker, I.Martín Lerma, W.Zack, M.Haber Uriarte, M.López Martínez, A.López Jiménez, "Raw-material variety and Palaeolithic variability ca. 0.8 Ma at Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar (Caravaca de la Cruz, Murcia, Spain)". (Session XIV-5 From natural to cultural object: raw material-related human behaviors in the early technologies) In: *Book of Abstracts, 18th UISPP World Congress, Paris, June 4-9 2018 – XVIII^e Congrès UISPP, Paris, 4-9 juin 2018 "Exploring the World's Prehistory"* (UISPP, Union des Sciences Préhistoriques et Protohistoriques, Paris), pp. 1114-1115. (This presentation was signed by M.J.Walker, M.López Martínez, M.Haber Uriarte, A.López Jiménez, I.Martín Lerma, A.Avilés Fernández, J.Ortega Rodríguez, A.T.Buitrago López, N.Fernández Ruiz, G.Linares Matás, H.Cano Fernández, J.García Torres, C.I.Caravaca Guerrero, W.Zack, T.Rodríguez Estrella.)
- 2018 M.López, M.J.Walker, M.Haber Uriarte. "Chronological and behavioural discontinuities at the Neanderthal site of Sima de las Palomas del Cabezo Gordo (Torre Pacheco, Murcia, Spain)". (Session XVI-7 Is 'Neanderthal behaviour' a useful concept?) In: *Book of Abstracts, 18th UISPP World Congress, Paris, June 4-9 2018 – XVIII^e Congrès UISPP, Paris, 4-9 juin 2018 "Exploring the World's Prehistory"* (UISPP, Union des Sciences Préhistoriques et Protohistoriques, Paris), pp. 1333-1334. (The presentation was signed by M.Walker, M.Haber Uriarte, M.López Martínez, J.Ortega Rodríguez, A.López Jiménez, C.I.Caravaca Guerrero, G.Linares Matás, H.Cano Fernández, Norman Fernández Ruiz, J.García Torres, A.T.Buitrago López.)
- 2017 E. Trinkaus and M.J.Walker, Eds., *The People of Palomas, Neandertals from the Sima de las Palomas del Cabezo Gordo, Southeastern Spain* (Texas A&M University Press, College Station, Texas, USA, ISBN 9781623494797).
- 2017 M.J.Walker, *Palaeolithic Pioneers. Behaviour, abilities, and activity of early Homo in European landscapes around the western Mediterranean basin ~1.3-0.05 Ma* (Archaeopress, Oxford, ISBN 9781784916206. e-book ISBN 9781784916213).
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RESEARCH ACTIVITY

Field School for Quaternary Palaeoanthropology and Prehistory of Murcia, S.E. Spain. The 31st annual field season was held in 2022 and the 32nd field season is scheduled for July-August 2023. It will resume field research at two Pleistocene sites with human and Palaeolithic remains in the southeastern Spanish region of Murcia, namely:

Sima de las Palomas del Cabezo Gordo at Dolores de Pacheco near Torre Pacheco, Murcia

Sima de las Palomas is a natural karstic shaft opening at 125 metres above sea-level on Cabezo Gordo, an isolated hill of Mesozoic marble rising majestically out of the Murcian coastal plain. In 1991 a speleologist abseiling down the shaft extracted, from the upper part of an 18-metre deep fossiliferous conglomerate ("breccia"), a fossil that after cleaning turned out to be the upper and lower jaws of a Neanderthal adult in anatomical connexion. Such articulated hominid remains are very rarely found. Our subsequent excavations in the upper part of the breccia column have uncovered important remains that correspond to Neanderthal skeletons in anatomical connexion of two adults and a child in deposits characterised by Mousterian Palaeolithic artifacts. One is the almost complete skeleton of a woman with skull and mandible in articulation, as well as the only intact adult female Neanderthal pelvis to have been found anywhere in the world. The child's skeleton has its skull and mandible in articulation, and one of its hands is still cemented to the forehead and the other was excavated beside the face; the woman's hands were excavated beside her face: both seem to have been laid out in a "sleeping" position, which has been reported also for skeletons elsewhere at Mousterian sites. The third articulated skeleton could correspond to the facial fragments found in 1991. Mandibular and other skeletal finds from the site correspond to another nine Neanderthal individuals. The articulated skeletons were clearly not scavenged by leopards, hyaenas or porcupines, remains of which have been found, including two articulated leopard paws that may have been kept as hunting trophies; perhaps the bodies had been covered with big stones, intentionally, to discourage scavenging. Charred animal bones imply that meat was roasted at the site (a leopard skull temporal bone was burnt). However, phytoliths in Neanderthal dental plaque show that plant foodstuffs were eaten also, and findings of caries are consistent with that. The articulated skeletons date from about 55-50,000 years ago, according to a minimal view of radiocarbon, optical luminescence, uranium-series and electron spin resonance dating methods. They lie above a solid conglomerate bed dated by uranium-series to 68-65,000 years ago. Below that bed a further depth of 2.5 m of sediments, undergoing excavation, is dated by optical luminescence to 130-100,000 years ago and has yielded up part of a Neanderthal mandible, two Neanderthal teeth, Mousterian Palaeolithic artifacts, and burnt and unburnt bone fragments of ungulates, lagomorphs and tortoise, with sporadic carnivores. Excavation of these sediments will continue in 2019. The Murcia Regional Museo de Paleontología y Evolución Humana has been built below Sima de las Palomas though it is an empty concrete structure, awaiting funding in order to fit out exhibition halls for the Sima de las Palomas Neanderthals, laboratories, workshops, store-rooms and other amenities. Meanwhile Torre Pacheco city council has made available a new laboratory in order to enable the continuation of research on the finds from the Sima de las Palomas. In the mean-time Torre Pacheco town council has provided us with a laboratory in its central police headquarters where we study the excavated finds.

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Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar at La Encarnación near Caravaca de la Cruz, Murcia.

Cueva Negra overlooking the R.Quípar, a R.Segura tributary, is an upland rock-shelter 75 km N of the Mediterranean coast and 110 W of the Segura river-mouth. It contains undisturbed sediment 5m deep assigned by magnetostratigraphy to >0.772 Ma (0.772 million years ago). Therefore the deposit is slightly earlier than the 0.78 Ma boundary between the Matuyama and Brunhes magnetochrons and regarded as separating the Early Pleistocene from the Middle Pleistocene. Optically stimulated sediment luminescence implies an age >0.5 Ma and mammalian biochronology (notably, of Arvicolid rodents) correlates with extinct species known between 1 and 0.6 Ma. Remains include teeth of *Homo* (cf *heidelbergensis*), an Acheulian limestone handaxe, and small chert, limestone or quartzite artifacts, knapped on site, often by bipolar reduction or repetitive centripetal flaking of small discoidal cores. Retouched artifacts include small irregular chert fragments, resembling chert at an adjacent conglomerate outcrop according to laser-ablation inductively-coupled plasma mass-spectrometry of 19 lanthanide elements, though some chert was likely procured ~25 km away (one radiolarite artifact from ~40 km). Mammals, birds (including waterfowl), reptiles, amphibians and fish corroborate pollen typical of mild (MIS-21?), damp, fluvio-lacustrine environments. The fauna includes mammoth, rhinoceros, giant deer and bison. Evidence of fire in a deep, sealed layer includes thermally-altered, lustreless chert, with pot-lid fractures and conjoined splintering caused by thermal shock; charred burnt bone, and white calcined fragments showing conjoined lengthwise long-bone spalling typical of circumferential shrinkage after thermal volatilization of organic components. Taphonomical analysis and electron microscopy of bone fragments attribute discolouration to burning, not to post-depositional mineral staining. Sediment geochemistry and thin-section micromorphology suggest thermal alteration; Fourier Transform infrared spectroscopy and electron spin resonance analysis of chert and bone imply firing temperatures >400°C <700/800°C. Fire ~0.8 Ma supported hominin cognitive versatility, techno-manual dexterity, and palaeoeconomic extractive behaviour in long-vanished Western European palaeoecological and palaeobiogeographical contexts showing noteworthy biodiversity. Cueva Negra has both the earliest evidence of fire known in Europe and the oldest Acheulian handaxe in Europe, as well as a remarkable small-tool assemblage that foreshadows Levalloisian and Mousterioid Middle Palaeolithic complexes.

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Public presentations: In: 12th Annual Meeting of the European Society for the Study of Human Evolution, Tübingen, 22-24 September, 2022, H.M.Manrique, K.J.Friston, M.J.Walker, poster, "Snakes and Ladders" in paleoanthropology: from cognitive surprise to skillfulness a million years ago"; In: XIX Congress of the International Union of Prehistoric and Protohistoric Sciences, Meknès, Morocco, in the Lower Palaeolithic Commission session (*Lower palaeolithic across time*

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- D. PRESENTATIONS AT MEETINGS** (FT) full text published. (A) published abstract only. NP not in print. *pdf available on request.
- 2022 H.M.Manrique, K.J.Friston, **M.J.Walker**, (A) "'Snakes and Ladders' in paleoanthropology: from cognitive surprise to skillfulness a million years ago." In: 12th Annual Meeting of the European Society for the Study of Human Evolution, Tübingen, 22-24 September, 2022. *PaleoAnthropology 2022*.
- 2022 N.Fernández Ruiz, G.J.Linares Matás, M.Haber Uriarte, M.López Martínez, **M.J. Walker**, "Microstratigraphical sampling at the late Early Pleistocene Palaeolithic site of Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quippar (Caravaca de la Cruz, Murcia, SE Spain)" Online "zoom" lecture, 63rd Annual Meeting of the international Hugo Obermaier Society for Quaternary Research and Archaeology of the Stone Age, held at Berlin's Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, Museum für Vor- und Frühgeschichte, April 19-23, 2022.
- 2021 **M.J.Walker**, "Neanderthals and their background: thirty years of research in Murcia," in: 25th Calpe Conference, CALPE 21 Iberian Neanderthals, Book of Abstracts, (Gibraltar, The Gibraltar National Museum) p. 23. (Lecture given at the University of Gibraltar on Sept. 24th 2021). (A) see C. CONTRIBUTIONS IN BOOKS OR ACTS OF MEETINGS 2021. I have a personal copy available of the abstract.
- 2021 **M.J.Walker**, "'Snakes and ladders' in the Lower and Middle Palaeolithic: from cognitive surprise to 'skill'". Illustrated talk on topics related to Cueva Negra given in the Lower Palaeolithic Commission session (*Lower palaeolithic across time and space: what we are talking about*) on Sept. 4th 2021 at the XIX Congress of the International Union of Prehistoric and Protohistoric Sciences that was held entirely on-line from Meknès in Morocco on account of the covid-19 pandemic. The organisers of the session are planning to publish the talks that were given and further information is awaited from them. The link to the Abstract that was put on the UISPP web-site is hard to access, but I have a personal copy available.

- 2021 **M.J.Walker**, "Before pyrotechnology: pyroepignosis in the Lower Palaeolithic." Illustrated talk on a matter related to Cueva Negra, given in the Pyroarchaeology session (*Pyroarchaeology from hunter-gatherer contexts to sedentary and complex societies*) on Sept. 6th 2021 at the XIX Congress of the International Union of Prehistoric and Protohistoric Sciences that was held entirely on-line from Meknès in Morocco on account of the covid-19 pandemic. The organisers of the session are planning to publish the talks that were given and further information is awaited from them. The link to the Abstract that was put on the UISPP web-site is hard to access but I have a personal copy available.
- 2021 G.Linares-Matás, N.Fernández, M.Haber, M.López, **M.J.Walker**, "Sharing shelter: hyaenas and hominins in the upper levels (2c-2f) of the late Early Pleistocene site of Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar (Caravaca de la Cruz, Murcia, Spain)." Poster exhibited at the 62nd Annual Meeting of the *Hugo Obermaier Society for Quaternary Research and Archaeology of the Stone Age*, April 6th-8th 2021 held at Brno's Moravian Museum online on account of covid-19. Abstract published in A.Maier, Ed., *Back to the Gravettian. 62nd Conference of the Hugo Obermaier Society April 6th-8th 2021 Bno Online Conference* (Erlangen, Friedrich-Alexander Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg, Institut für Ur- und Frühgeschichte, Hugo Obermaier Gesellschaft für Erforschung des Eiszeitalters und der Steinzeit, ISBN 978-3-946387-34-2), pp. 56-58.
- 2021 **M.J.Walker**, M.Duval, R.Grün, M.Haber Uriarte, A.López Jiménez, M.López Martínez, "New chronological constraints for the Lower Palaeolithic site of Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar (Caravaca de la Cruz, Murcia, Spain): preliminary ESR dating of the late Early Pleistocene fauna." Poster exhibited at the 62nd Annual Meeting of the *Hugo Obermaier Society for Quaternary Research and Archaeology of the Stone Age*, April 6th-8th 2021 held at Brno's Moravian Museum online on account of covid-19. Abstract published in A.Maier, Ed., *Back to the Gravettian. 62nd Conference of the Hugo Obermaier Society April 6th-8th 2021 Bno Online Conference* (Erlangen, Friedrich-Alexander Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg, Institut für Ur- und Frühgeschichte, Hugo Obermaier Gesellschaft für Erforschung des Eiszeitalters und der Steinzeit, ISBN 978-3-946387-34-2), pp. 99-101.
- 2021 **M.J.Walker**, M.Haber Uriarte, M.López Martínez, A.López Jiménez, J.Ortega Rodríguez, "Neanderthal cranial remains and elements of the axial skeleton from the Sima de las Palomas del Cabezo Gordo (Torre Pacheco, Murcia, Spain)." Poster exhibited at the 62nd Annual Meeting of the *Hugo Obermaier Society for Quaternary Research and Archaeology of the Stone Age*, April 6th 2021 held at Brno's Moravian Museum online on account of covid-19. Abstract published in A.Maier, Ed., *Back to the Gravettian. 62nd Conference of the Hugo Obermaier Society April 6th-8th 2021 Bno Online Conference* (Erlangen, Friedrich-Alexander Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg, Institut für Ur- und Frühgeschichte, Hugo Obermaier Gesellschaft für Erforschung des Eiszeitalters und der Steinzeit, ISBN 978-3-946387-34-2), pp.101-103.
- 2021 **M.J.Walker**, M.Haber Uriarte, M.López Martínez, A.López Jiménez, J.Ortega Rodríguez, "Neanderthal post-cranial skeletal remains from the Sima de las Palomas del Cabezo Gordo (Torre Pacheco, Murcia, Spain)." Poster exhibited at the 62nd Annual Meeting of the *Hugo Obermaier Society for Quaternary Research and Archaeology of the Stone Age*, April 6th-8th 2021 held at Brno's Moravian Museum online on account of covid-19. Abstract published in A.Maier, Ed., *Back to the Gravettian. 62nd Conference of the Hugo Obermaier Society April 6th-8th 2021 Bno Online Conference* (Erlangen, Friedrich-Alexander Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg, Institut für Ur- und Frühgeschichte, Hugo Obermaier Gesellschaft für Erforschung des Eiszeitalters und der Steinzeit, ISBN 978-3-946387-34-2), pp.103-104.
- 2019 **M.J.Walker**, M.Duval, R.Grün, M.Haber Uriarte, A.López Jiménez, M.López Martínez, "New chronological constraints for the Lower Palaeolithic site of Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar, Caravaca de la Cruz, Murcia, Spain: Preliminary ESR dating of the late Early Pleistocene fauna," 9th Annual Meeting of the European Society for the Study of Human Evolution ESHE Liège, Belgium, 18-23 September 2019). Publications: (A) see C. *CONTRIBUTIONS IN BOOKS OR ACTS OF MEETINGS* (2018).
- 2018 **M.Walker**, M.Haber Uriarte, M.López Martínez, J.Ortega Rodríguez, A.López Jiménez, A.Avilés Fernández, C.I.Caravaca Guerrero, G.Linares Matás, H.Cano Fernández, N.Fernández Ruiz, J.García Torres, Á.T.López Buitrago. "Neanderthal activities between ~130 ka and ~40 ka at Sima de las Palomas del Cabezo Gordo (Torre Pacheco, Murcia, Spain)," 60th Annual Meeting of the Hugo Obermaier Society for Quaternary Research and Archaeology of the Stone Age (April 3rd – 7th, 2018), Universidad Rovira i Virgili, Tarragona. In A.Maier, Ed., *Neanderthal Behaviour and Ecology in the Mediterranean Area April 3-April 7, 2018, in Tarragona*, Hugo Obermaier-Gesellschaft für Erforschung des Eiszeitalters und der Steinzeit e.V., Institut für Ur- und Frühgeschichte der Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg, Erlangen, pp. 58-60, ISBN 9783946387121). Publications: (A) see C. *CONTRIBUTIONS IN BOOKS OR ACTS OF MEETINGS* (2018).
- 2018 **M.J.Walker**, "Nuevas perspectivas paleoantropológicas en la Región de Murcia: La Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar en Caravaca de la Cruz y la Sima de las Palomas del Cabezo Gordo en Torre Pacheco," Jornadas de Prehistoria, Jerez 5 y 6 de octubre de 2018, publication forthcoming in Ramos, J., Bernal, M.A., Santiago, A., Eds., *De los primeros pobladores al ocaso neandertal en la Península Ibérica* (Cádiz, Universidad de Cádiz, "Actas de las Jornadas de Prehistoria, Jerez 5 y 6 de octubre de 2018"). Publications: (A) see C. *CONTRIBUTIONS IN BOOKS OR ACTS OF MEETINGS* (2018).
- 2018 **M.J.Walker**, M.Haber Uriarte, M.López Martínez, J.Ortega Rodríguez, A.López Jiménez, A.Avilés Fernández, C.I.Caravaca Guerrero, G.Linares Matás, H.Cano Fernández, N.Fernández Ruiz, J.García Torres, Á.T.Buitrago, "Neanderthal activities between ~130 ka and ~40 ka at Sima de las Palomas del Cabezo Gordo (Torre Pacheco, Murcia, Spain)". 60th Annual Meeting, Tarragona, 3rd-7th of April, 2018, Hugo Obermaier Society for Quaternary Research and Archaeology of the Stone Age, Hugo Obermaier-Gesellschaft für Erforschung des Eiszeitalters und der Steinzeit e.V.. In A. Maier, ed, *Neanderthal Behaviour and Ecology in the Mediterranean Area April 3-April 7, 2018, in Tarragona*, Hugo Obermaier-Gesellschaft für Erforschung des Eiszeitalters und der Steinzeit e.V., Institut für Ur- und Frühgeschichte der Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg, Erlangen, pp. 58-60 (ISBN 9783946387121). Publications: (A) see C. *CONTRIBUTIONS IN BOOKS OR ACTS OF MEETINGS* (2018).
- 2018 **M.J.Walker**, "The earliest European Acheulian: The significance of recent findings for human evolution in Europe." 8th Annual Meeting of the European Society for the Study of Human Evolution ESHE Faro, Portugal, 13-15 September 2018. *Proceedings of the European Society for the Study of Human Evolution 7 (PESHE 7)*, p.198. (ISSN 21950776). Publications: (A) see C. *CONTRIBUTIONS IN BOOKS OR ACTS OF MEETINGS* (2018).
- 2018 N.Fernández, M.Haber, M.López, **M.J.Walker**, "Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar (Caravaca de la Cruz, Murcia, Spain): Intrasite analysis of a late Early Pleistocene Palaeolithic palimpsest." 8th Annual Meeting of the European Society for the Study of Human Evolution ESHE Faro, Portugal, 13-15 September 2018. *Proceedings of the European Society for the Study of Human Evolution 7 (PESHE 7)*, p. 63. (ISSN 21950776) Publications: (A) see C. *CONTRIBUTIONS IN BOOKS OR ACTS OF MEETINGS* (2018).
- 2018 **M.J.Walker**, "Early tool-making and the biological evolution of memory systems in brains of early *Homo*". Session IV-1 Old stones, new eyes? Charting future directions in lithic analysis. In: *Book of Abstracts, 18th UISPP World Congress, Paris, June 4-9 2018 – XVIII^e Congrès UISPP, Paris, 4-9 juin 2018 "Exploring the World's Prehistory"* (UISPP, Union des Sciences Préhistoriques et Protohistoriques, Paris), pp. 482-483. Publications: (A) see C. *CONTRIBUTIONS IN BOOKS OR ACTS OF MEETINGS* (2018).
- 2018 **M.J.Walker**, "Artifact or advantageous accident? The problem of combustion at the late Early Pleistocene site of Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar (Caravaca de la Cruz, Murcia, Spain)". Session IV-4 Fire as an artefact: Advances in the study of Paleolithic combustion features. In: *Book of Abstracts, 18th UISPP World Congress, Paris, June 4-9 2018 – XVIII^e Congrès UISPP, Paris, 4-9 juin 2018 "Exploring the World's Prehistory"* (UISPP, Union des Sciences Préhistoriques et Protohistoriques, Paris), pp. 564-565. Publications: (A) see C. *CONTRIBUTIONS IN BOOKS OR ACTS OF MEETINGS* (2018).
- 2018 **M.J.Walker**, A.López Jiménez, M.Haber Uriarte, M.López Martínez, "Late Early Pleistocene age of the hand-axe and Palaeolithic assemblage at Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar (Caravaca de la Cruz, Murcia, Spain)". Session XIV-1 First peopling of Europe. In: *Book of Abstracts, 18th UISPP World Congress, Paris, June 4-9 2018 – XVIII^e Congrès UISPP, Paris, 4-9 juin 2018 "Exploring the World's Prehistory"* (UISPP, Union des Sciences Préhistoriques et Protohistoriques, Paris), pp. 1012-1013. Publications: (A) see C. *CONTRIBUTIONS IN BOOKS OR ACTS OF MEETINGS* (2018).
- 2018 **M.J.Walker**, I.Martín Lerma, W.Zack, M.Haber Uriarte, M.López Martínez, A.López Jiménez, "Raw-material variety and Palaeolithic variability ca. 0.8 Ma at Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar (Caravaca de la Cruz, Murcia, Spain)". Session XIV-5 From natural to cultural object: raw material-related human behaviors in the early technologies. In: *Book of Abstracts, 18th UISPP World Congress, Paris, June 4-9 2018 – XVIII^e Congrès UISPP, Paris, 4-9 juin 2018 "Exploring the World's Prehistory"* (UISPP, Union des Sciences Préhistoriques et Protohistoriques, Paris), pp. 1114-1115. (This presentation was signed by M.J.Walker, M.López Martínez, M.Haber Uriarte, A.López Jiménez, I.Martín Lerma, A.Avilés Fernández, J.Ortega Rodríguez, A.T.Buitrago López, N.Fernández Ruiz, G.Linares Matás, H.Cano Fernández, J.García Torres, C.I.Caravaca Guerrero, W.Zack, T.Rodríguez Estrella.) Publications: (A) see C. *CONTRIBUTIONS IN BOOKS OR ACTS OF MEETINGS* (2018).
- 2018 **M.J.Walker**, M.López, M.Haber Uriarte. "Chronological and behavioural discontinuities at the Neanderthal site of Sima de las Palomas del Cabezo Gordo (Torre Pacheco, Murcia, Spain)". Session XVI-7 Is 'Neanderthal behaviour' a useful concept? In: *Book of Abstracts, 18th UISPP World Congress, Paris, June 4-9 2018 – XVIII^e Congrès UISPP, Paris, 4-9 juin 2018 "Exploring the World's Prehistory"* (UISPP, Union des Sciences Préhistoriques et Protohistoriques, Paris), pp. 1333-1334. (The presentation was signed by M.Walker, M.Haber Uriarte, M.López Martínez, J.Ortega Rodríguez, A.López Jiménez, C.I.Caravaca Guerrero, G.Linares Matás, H.Cano Fernández, Norman Fernández Ruiz, J.García Torres, A.T.Buitrago López.) Publications: (A) see C. *CONTRIBUTIONS IN BOOKS OR ACTS OF MEETINGS* (2018).
- 2018 **M.J.Walker** (A), "Neanderthal activities between ~130 ka and ~40 ka at Sima de las Palomas del Cabezo Gordo (Torre Pacheco, Murcia, Spain)," June 20th. Oxford University Institute of Archaeology, "Palaeolithic and Quaternary PALQUAT Seminar series".

- 2017 **M.J. Walker** (Sept. 30) "La evolución del cerebro en Homo desde hace dos millones de años". (Sept. 30-Oct. 1, 2017). Jornadas de la Evolución del Cerebro Humana y la Arqueología Cognitiva. Real Casino de Murcia, Murcia. Organised by Murcia Association for the Study of Palaeoanthropology and the Quaternary. Sponsorship: Fundación CajaMurcia: Publication in preparation: see 2.1 Some current or recent publications, presentations, and work in hand.
- 2017 June 16-18. Nuevas perspectivas del Paleolítico del Sudeste Peninsular (Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia; Excmº.Aytº. de Torre Pacheco; Excmº.Aytº. de Cartagena), **M.J. Walker** (June 17), (NP), "Nuevas perspectivas sobre la Paleontología en la Región de Murcia: La Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar (Caravaca de la Cruz) y la Sima de las Palomas del Cabezo Gordo (Torre Pacheco)."
- 2017 XIV Conmemoración de la Semana del Cerebro en Murcia 2017. Real Academia de Medicina de Murcia, 13-17 March 2017. **M.J. Walker** (March 13) (NP) "Evolución y desarrollo del Cerebro Humano".
- *2017 7th Annual Meeting of the European Society for the Study of Human Evolution ESHE Leiden, The Netherlands, 21-23 September 2017. **M.J. Walker**, M.Sontag-González, M.Haber-Urriarte, M.López-Martínez, S.Black, J-L. Schwenninger, (poster): "Preliminary dating of deep layers at Sima de las Palomas del Cabezo Gordo (Torre Pacheco, Murcia, Spain)," *Proceedings of the European Society for the Study of Human Evolution 6, PESHE 6* (2017), p. 210. (ISSN 21950776). Publications: (A) see C. *CONTRIBUTIONS IN BOOKS OR ACTS OF MEETINGS* (2017).
- *2017 7th Annual Meeting of the European Society for the Study of Human Evolution ESHE Leiden, The Netherlands, 21-23 September 2017. G.Linares-Matás, J.Yravedra, I.Martin-Lerma, J.Aramendi, L.Courtenay, M.A.Maté-González, M.Haber-Urriarte, M.López-Martínez, **M.J. Walker**, (poster) "Preliminary taphonomical assessment of the macromammalian zooarchaeological assemblage at the late Early Pleistocene site of Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar (Caravaca, Murcia, Spain)," 7th Annual Meeting of the European Society for the Study of Human Evolution ESHE Leiden, The Netherlands, 21-23 September 2017, and (volume of abstracts) *Proceedings of the European Society for the Study of Human Evolution 6, PESHE 6*, (2017), p. 117. (ISSN 21950776) Publications: (A) see C. *CONTRIBUTIONS IN BOOKS OR ACTS OF MEETINGS* (2017).
- *2016 IUAES (International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences) Inter-Congress World Anthropologies and Privatization of Knowledge: Engaging Anthropology in Public, 4-9 May 2016 Hotel Dubrovnik Palace, Dubrovnik, Croatia: **M.J. Walker** (presenter, A, FT), D.Anesin, D.E.Angelucci, A. Avilés-Fernández, F.Berna, A.T.Buitrago-López, J.S.Carrión, A.Eastham, Y.Fernández-Jalvo, S.Fernández-Jiménez, J.García-Torres, M.Haber-Urriarte, A.López-Jiménez, M.V.López-Martínez, I.Martin-Lerma, J.Ortega-Rodríguez, J.L.Polo-Camacho, S.E.Rhodes, D.Richter, T.Rodríguez-Estrella, G.Romero-Sánchez, M.San-Nicolás-del-Toro, J-L.Schwenninger, A.R.Skinner, J.van-der-Made, W.Zack. "A view from a cave: Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar (Caravaca de la Cruz, Murcia, southeastern Spain). Reflections on fire, technological diversity, environmental exploitation, and palaeoanthropological approaches". Publications: (A) see C. *CONTRIBUTIONS IN BOOKS OR ACTS OF MEETINGS* (2016); (FT) in *Human Evolution* 30: 1-67, 2016.
- 2016 The journey of the evolving mind: Brain and behavioural evolution in modern apes and extinct human ancestors. 15-17 Sept., 2016, Universidad de Zaragoza Teruel Campus. **M.J. Walker** (NP) "Stone Tools and the origins of human technology: affordances and constraints": **M.J. Walker** (NP) "Observation learning and evolution of the human brain; aspects of neurophysiology and neuroanatomy; mirror-neuron circuitry and shared attention; the relation between working memory and longterm procedural memory; prospective memory and multi-tasking"; **M.J. Walker** (NP) "On wishful thinking: Did Palaeolithic humans customarily engage in symbolic behaviour before 40,000 years ago?"
- *2016 (poster and abstract) R.Power (presenter), D.C.Salazar García, M.Rubini, A.Darlas, K.Harvati, **M.Walker**, A.Henry, A.. Dental calculus indicates widespread plant use within the Neanderthal dietary niche, en 6ª Reunión Anual de la Sociedad Europea para el Estudio de la Evolución Humana, Madrid, 14-17 septiembre 2016, *PESHE 5 Proceedings of the European Society for the Study of Human Evolution 5* (6th Annual Meeting of the European Society for the Study of Human Evolution ESHE Madrid, Spain 14-17 September 2016), European Society for the Study of Human Evolution, Leipzig, p. 190. (ISSN 21950776) Publication: (A) see C. *CONTRIBUTIONS IN BOOKS OR ACTS OF MEETINGS* (2016).
- *2016 (poster and abstract) P. Bayle (presenter), M. Le Luyer, K.A. Robson-Brown, **M.J. Walker**, "Enamel thickness and dental tissue proportions in the Neandertals from the Sima de las Palomas del Cabezo Gordo, Southeastern Spain" en 6ª Reunión Anual de la Sociedad Europea para el Estudio de la Evolución Humana, Madrid, 14-17 septiembre 2016, *PESHE 5 Proceedings of the European Society for the Study of Human Evolution 5*, (6th Annual Meeting of the European Society for the Study of Human Evolution ESHE Madrid, Spain 14-17 September 2016), European Society for the Study of Human Evolution, Leipzig, p. 45. ISSN 21950776 Publication: (A) see C. *CONTRIBUTIONS IN BOOKS OR ACTS OF MEETINGS* (2016).
- *2016 **M.J. Walker** (presenter, A, FT), D.Anesin, D.E.Angelucci, A. Avilés-Fernández, F.Berna, A.T.Buitrago-López, J.S.Carrión, A.Eastham, Y.Fernández-Jalvo, S.Fernández-Jiménez, J.García-Torres, M.Haber-Urriarte, A.López-Jiménez, M.V.López-Martínez, I.Martin-Lerma, J.Ortega-Rodríguez, J.L.Polo-Camacho, S.E.Rhodes, D.Richter, T.Rodríguez-Estrella, G.Romero-Sánchez, M.San-Nicolás-del-Toro, J-L.Schwenninger, A.R.Skinner, J.van-der-Made, W.Zack. A view from a cave: Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar (Caravaca de la Cruz, Murcia, southeastern Spain). Reflections on fire, technological diversity, environmental exploitation, and palaeoanthropological approaches, IUAES (International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences) Inter-Congress World Anthropologies and Privatization of Knowledge: Engaging Anthropology in Public, 4-9 May 2016 Hotel Dubrovnik Palace, Dubrovnik, Croatia. FT in *Human Evolution* 30: 1-67, 2016.
- *2015 **M.J. Walker** (presenter, A), M.V.López-Martínez, M.Haber-Urriarte, A.López-Jiménez, J.S.Carrión-García, A.Avilés-Fernández, A.T.Buitrago-López, J.García-Torres, I.Martin-Lerma, J.Ortega-Rodríguez: "Neanderthal attention to the dead at Sima de las Palomas del Cabezo Gordo (Murcia, Spain)", 57th Annual Meeting of the Hugo Obermaier Gesellschaft, Heidenheim, Germany (April 7-11, 2015).
- *2015 **M.J. Walker** (presenter, A), D.Anesin, D.E.Angelucci, A.Avilés-Fernández, F.Berna, A.T.Buitrago-López, Y.Fernández-Jalvo, M.Haber-Urriarte, M.V.López-Martínez, A.López-Jiménez, I.Martin-Lerma, J.Ortega.Rodríguez, S.E.,Rhodes, D.Richter, T.Rodríguez-Estrella, J-L.Schwenninger, A.R.Skinner: "Playing with fire: evidence of fire at the late Early Pleistocene site of Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar, Caravaca de la Cruz, Murcia, Spain", 57th Annual Meeting of the Hugo Obermaier Gesellschaft, Heidenheim, Germany (April 7-11, 2015).
- *2015 **M.J. Walker** (A): "Drawing neuroscience and palaeoanthropology together.Palaeoneurophysiology and cognitive evolution in Pleistocene *Homo*.", 5th Unravelling the Palaeolithic Conference, Merton College, University of Oxford, Oxford, April 22-23, 2015.
- *2015 **M.J. Walker** (presenter, NP), M.V.López-Martínez, M.Haber-Urriarte, A.López-Jiménez, J.S.Carrión-García, A.Avilés-Fernández, A.T.Buitrago-López, J.García-Torres, I.Martin-Lerma, J.Ortega-Rodríguez: "Neanderthal attention to the dead at Sima de las Palomas del Cabezo Gordo (Murcia, Spain)", 5th Unravelling the Palaeolithic Conference", University of Oxford, Oxford, April 22-23, 2015.
- *2015 **M.J. Walker** (presenter, NP), D.Anesin, D.E.Angelucci, A.Avilés-Fernández, F.Berna, A.T.Buitrago-López, Y.Fernández-Jalvo, M.Haber-Urriarte, M.V.López-Martínez, A.López-Jiménez, I.Martin-Lerma, J.Ortega-Rodríguez, S.E. Rhodes, D.Richter, T.Rodríguez-Estrella, J-L.Schwenninger, A.R.Skinner: "Playing with fire: evidence of fire at the late Early Pleistocene site of Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar, Caravaca de la Cruz, Murcia, Spain", 5th Unravelling the Palaeolithic Conference", University of Oxford, Oxford, April 22-23, 2015.
- 2015 **M.J. Walker** (NP): "The earliest Palaeolithic fire in Europe: Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar", University of Oxford Institute of Archaeology, O.U.Archaeological Society lecture, October 19, 2015.
- 2014 **M.J. Walker**, (NP) "Palaeoneurophysiology and cognitive evolution in Pleistocene *Homo*: Biological and palaeoanthropological perspectives on the role of "haptic" working memory in the evolution of long-term procedural memory; drawing neuroscience and palaeoanthropology together" Journal Club, Facultat de Psicologia, Universitat des Iles Balears, Palma, Mallorca (November 14th, 2014).
- *2014 **M.J. Walker**, "Palaeoneurophysiology and cognitive evolution in Pleistocene *Homo*: Biological and palaeoanthropological perspectives on the role of "haptic" working memory in the evolution of long-term procedural memory" at meeting *What Made Us Human*" at Fondazione Ettore Majorana e Centro di Cultura Scientifica, Erice, Italy, October 15-18, 2014 (October 15th, 2014).
- 2014 **M.J. Walker** (presenter), D.E.Angelucci, D.Anesin, A.Avilés-Fernández, F.Berna, A.T.Buitrago-López, Y.Fernández-Jalvo, M.Haber-Urriarte, N.López-Martínez, A.López-Jiménez, I.Martin-Lerma, J.Ortega-Rodríguez, S.E.Rhodes, D.Richter, T.Rodríguez-Estrella, J-L.Schwenninger, A.R.Skinner "Early Palaeolithic fire at a late early Pleistocene hominin site: Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar, Caravaca de la Cruz, Murcia, Spain", invited talk at 4th Annual Meeting of the European Society for the Study of Human Evolution 18-20 September Florence/Italy, at Florence University (September 19th, 2014). Publication: C. *CONTRIBUTIONS IN BOOKS, ACTS OF MEETINGS, etc*
- 2014 **M.J. Walker** (presenter), D.Anesin, D.Angelucci, A.Avilés-Fernández, F.Berna, A.T.Buitrago-López, J.S.Carrión-García, A.Eastham, S.Fernández-Jiménez, J.García-Torres, M.Haber-Urriarte, A.López-Jiménez, M.V.López-Martínez, I.Martin-Lerma, J.Ortega-Rodríguez, J.L.Polo-Camacho, S.E.Rhodes, D.Richter, T.Rodríguez-Estrella, G.Romero-Sánchez, M.San-Nicolás-del-Toro, J-L.Schwenninger, G.R.Scott, A.Skinner, J.Van der Made, W.Zack: "Hominin activities ~0.8 Ma at Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar (Caravaca, Murcia, SE Spain): Fire, technological diversity, environmental exploitation", in XVII Congress of the International Union of

- Prehistoric and Protohistoric Sciences, Burgos, September 1-7, 2014, at Burgos University, Spain, invited talk in Commission on First Humans In Europe: A2b The First Peopling Of Europe; Technological Change During The Lower-Middle Pleistocene Transition In Europe (September 3rd).
Publication: In preparation; see also C. *CONTRIBUTIONS IN BOOKS, ACTS OF MEETINGS, etc.*
- 2014 **M.J.Walker** (presenter), M.López-Martínez, M.Haner-Uriarte, D.E. Angelucci, D. Anesin, J.-L. Schwenninger, F. Berna, S.E. Rhodes, D. Richter, Y. Fernández Jalvo, A. Skinner: "Evidence of fire at the late Early Pleistocene Palaeolithic and hominin site of Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar (Caravaca, Murcia, SE Spain)", in XVII Congress of the International Union of Prehistoric and Protohistoric Sciences, Burgos, September 1-7, 2014, at Burgos University, Spain, invited talk in Session B53- The Archaeology of Early Fire Use (September 2nd). Publication: In preparation; see also C. *CONTRIBUTIONS IN BOOKS, ACTS OF MEETINGS, etc.*
- 2014 **M.J.Walker** (presenter), M.V.López-Martínez, M.Haber-Uriarte, J.Ortega-Rodríguez (poster*) "Neanderthal attention to the dead at Sima de las Palomas del Cabezo Gordo (Murcia, Spain)" XVII Congress of the International Union of Prehistoric and Protohistoric Sciences, Burgos, September 1-7, 2014, at Burgos University, Spain, invited poster in Session A21a- Neanderthals On Their Own Terms: New Perspectives For The Study Of Middle Palaeolithic Behaviour (September 5th). Publication: In preparation; see also C. *CONTRIBUTIONS IN BOOKS, ACTS OF MEETINGS, etc.*
- 2014 S.E. Rhodes (presenter), **M.J.Walker**, M.López-Martínez, M.Haber-Uriarte y A.López-Jiménez, "Cultivated fire in the Early Paleolithic: evidence of small mammal incidental burning at Cueva Negra, Southeast Spain," posters for meetings of the International Council on Archaeozoology ICAZ and the International Palaeontological Congress, Buenos Aires, August 2014.
- 2014 **M.J.Walker** (presenter), W.Zack, A.Andronikov, D.Lauretta, T.Rodríguez-Estrella, M.Lopez Martínez, M.Haber Uriarte and V.Holliday: "Stone procurement and transport at the late Early Pleistocene site of Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar (Murcia, SE Spain)", invited lecture, 55th Annual Meeting of the Hugo Obermaier Society for Quaternary Research and Archaeology of the Stone Age 55 Jahrestagung Hugo Obermaier-Gesellschaft für Erforschung des Eiszeitalters und der Steinzeit e.V., April 22-24, 2014, Landesmuseum Braunschweig, Germany. Publication: (FT) B. *ARTICLES: B-1. ARTICLES IN SIGNIFICANT JOURNALS* (2013).
- 2014 **M.J.Walker**, as "Benjamin Meaker Visiting Professor" at Bristol University gave the following invited presentations in the Bristol University Archaeology and Anthropology Research Seminar Series:
 "Archaeological excavations at Sima de las Palomas del Cabezo Gordo (Murcia, SE Spain) and palaeoanthropological research into its 50,000 year-old Neanderthal remains", Public Lecture, Peet Lectura Theatre, School of Geography, Bristol University, June 6th, 2014
 and an invited Bristol University Institute of Advanced Studies Research Student Seminar on
 "Cognitive evolution in Pleistocene Homo: Biological and palaeoanthropological perspectives on the role of "haptic" working memory in the evolution of long-term procedural memory", Department of Archaeology, Bristol University June 4th 2014.
- 2014 **M.J.Walker** gave the talk "Pre-Neanderthals and Neanderthals: 25 years of research at Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar and Sima de las Palomas del Cabezo Gordo (Murcia, Spain)"
 at the invitation of Reading University Archaeology Department on June 9th 2014,
 at the invitation of York University Archaeology Department on June 11th 2014,
 at the invitation of University College Institute of Archaeology on June 12th 2014,
 at the invitation of Oxford University Institute of Archaeology "Quaternary Studies Seminar Series" on June 18th, 2014.
- 2014 **M.J.Walker** gave the lecture, at the invitation of the Excm^o. Ayt^o. de Torre Pacheco at its Centro de Artes Escénicas CAES: "¿Cómo era la familia neandertal de la Sima de las Palomas?" on June 22nd 2014.
- 2014 S.E.Rhodes (presenter), **M.J.Walker**, M.López-Martínez, M.Haber-Uriarte, A.López-Jiménez: poster* "Evidence for cultivated fire during the late Early Paleolithic in southeastern Spain: preliminary results from a micromammal taphonomic approach", 23rd Annual Meeting of the Palaeoanthropology Society, Calgary, Canada, April 8-9, 2014, held in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists.
- 2013 **M.J.Walker** (presenter), J.Ortega Rodríguez, K.Parmová, C.P.E.Zollikofer, M.S.Ponce de León, E.Trinkaus: "The Neanderthal skeletons from Sima de las Palomas, Murcia, SE Spain" April 3rd 2013 in 55th Annual Meeting of the Hugo Obermaier Society for Quaternary Research and Archaeology of the Stone Age 55 Jahrestagung Hugo Obermaier-Gesellschaft für Erforschung des Eiszeitalters und der Steinzeit e.V. April 2-6, 2013, at the Naturhistorischesmuseum Wien (Vienna, Austria) NP (Unlike the poster, next item, no abstract was published because the invitation to give the talk was made by the President of the Society, barely a month before the meeting, after the poster had been submitted and accepted, and there was not enough time to include an abstract of the talk in the volume of Abstracts which was already with the printers when the invitation was made).
- 2013 **M.J.Walker** (presenter), A.Agut Giménez, M.Soler, C.P.E. Zollikofer, J.Ortega Rodríguez: "The Sima de las Palomas Neanderthal skeletons: First steps towards "virtual" reconstruction", poster* at 55th Annual Meeting of the Hugo Obermaier Society for Quaternary Research and Archaeology of the Stone Age Jahrestagung Hugo Obermaier-Gesellschaft für Erforschung des Eiszeitalters und der Steinzeit e.V. April 2-6, 2013, at the Naturhistorischesmuseum Wien (Vienna, Austria). Publication: poster* (A): see C. *CONTRIBUTIONS IN BOOKS OR ACTS OF MEETINGS* (2013)
- 2013 D.C.Salazar-García, R.C.Power, A.Sanchis, V.Villaverde, **M.J. Walker**, A.G.Henry: "Integrating multiple lines of Neanderthal dietary evidence. A case study from southeastern Iberia", poster at 3rd Annual Meeting of the European Society for the Study of Human Evolution, September 20-22, 2013, at the University of Vienna, Austria. Publication: (A) see C. *CONTRIBUTIONS IN BOOKS OR ACTS OF MEETINGS* (2013)
- 2013 S.E.Rhodes (presenter), **M.J.Walker**, M.López-Martínez, M.Haber-Uriarte, A.T.Buitrago-López, G.Dewar: "Analysis of *Hystrix* specimens recovered from Sima de las Palomas, Murcia, Spain: identification and paleoenvironmental revision", poster* at the 41st Annual Meeting of the Canadian Association for Physical Anthropology, October 17-20 2013, at the Scarborough Campus, University of Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Publication: poster* (A) see C. *CONTRIBUTIONS IN BOOKS OR ACTS OF MEETINGS* (2013)
- 2013 **M.J.Walker**: "La evolución del cerebro y de la cognición en *Homo*" April 17 2013, invited seminar delivered in the Predepartmental Medical Unit Seminar Series at the Health Sciences Faculty, Universidad Jaume I de Castellón NP
- 2013 **M.J.Walker**: "La familia del Hombre de Neandertal: El hallazgo espectacular de esqueletos en conexión anatómica de niño, mujer y varón de hace 50.000 años en la Sima de las Palomas del Cabezo Gordo en Murcia" March 15 2013 in VIII Jornadas de Formación Para Residentes De Pediatría De La Asociación Española De Pediatría, 13-15 marzo, 2013, Hotel Nelva, Murcia (organised by Asociación Española de Pediatría AEP and Departamento de Pediatría de la Facultad de Medicina de la Universidad de Murcia) NP
- 2013 **M.J.Walker**: "La muerte y el Hombre de Neandertal: La Sima de las Palomas del Cabezo Gordo, un enterramiento hace 50.000 años en Murcia" March 5 2013 in La Muerte En Las Diferentes Culturas, seminar series at the Hospital Universitario Reina Sofía, Murcia NP
- 2013 **M.J.Walker**: "La importancia de la Cueva Negra en la Evolución Humana en Murcia" January 24 2013 in MUPANTQUAT Colloquium accompanying public projection of animated film "Cueva Negra", Museo Arqueológico de Murcia, Murcia (organised by the Murcian Association for the Study of Palaeoanthropology and the Quaternary MUPANTQUAT and Fundación Integra) NP
- 2012 **M.J.Walker**: "El fuego hace 800.000 años en la Cueva Negra" December 19 2012, in MUPANTQUAT Colloquium accompanying public projection of animated film "Cueva Negra", Teatro Thuillier Municipal, Caravaca de la Cruz, Murcia (organised by the Murcian Association for the Study of Palaeoanthropology and the Quaternary MUPANTQUAT and Fundación Integra) NP
- 2012 **M.J.Walker** (presenter), J.Ortega Rodríguez, A.Agut Giménez, M.Soler Lagúa, C.P.E.Zollikofer, M.S.Ponce de León: "The Sima de las Palomas Neanderthal skeletons: First steps towards "virtual" reconstruction", poster* presented at the 2nd Annual Meeting of the European Society for the Study of Human Evolution, September 21-23, 2012, at the Université Montesquieu-Bordeaux IV and Musée d'Aquitaine, Bordeaux (France). Publication: poster* (A) see C. *CONTRIBUTIONS IN BOOKS OR ACTS OF MEETINGS* (2012)
- 2012 **M.J.Walker**: "Fossil Man in SE Spain: Neanderthals and pre-Neanderthals in Murcia" April 10 2012, in 54th Annual Meeting of the Hugo Obermaier Society for Quaternary Research and Archaeology of the Stone Age 54 Jahrestagung Hugo Obermaier-Gesellschaft für Erforschung des Eiszeitalters und der Steinzeit e.V. Toulouse April 10th-14th, 2012, at the Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle et Université de Toulouse, Toulouse (France). Publication: (A) see C. *CONTRIBUTIONS IN BOOKS OR ACTS OF MEETINGS* (2012)
- 2012 R.C.Power (presenter), **M.J.Walker**, D.C.Salazar-García, A.G.Henry: "Neandertal plant food consumption and environmental use at Sima de las Palomas, southeastern Iberia" April 11th 2012 in 54th Annual Meeting of the Hugo Obermaier Society for Quaternary Research and Archaeology of the Stone Age 54 Jahrestagung Hugo Obermaier-Gesellschaft für Erforschung des Eiszeitalters und der Steinzeit e.V. Toulouse April 10th-14th, 2012, at the Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle et Université de Toulouse, Toulouse (France). Publication: (A) see C. *CONTRIBUTIONS IN BOOKS OR ACTS OF MEETINGS* (2012)
- 2012 **M.J.Walker**: "Los neandertales y sus ancestros en Murcia" May 8 2012, in El Hombre Y Su Entorno Científico-Cultural, Curso de la Fundación de Estudios Médicos FEM-UMU, Molina de Segura, Murcia NP

- 2012 R.C.Power (presenter), **M.J.Walker**, D.C.Salazar García, A.G.Henry "Neandertal plant food consumption and environmental use at Sima de las Palomas, Southeastern Iberia" poster presented at the Paleoanthropology Society Annual Meeting at Memphis, Tennessee, USA, April 16-17, 2012 NP
- 2011 **M.J.Walker**: "New Neandertal skeletons and pre-Neandertal remains from Murcia, S.E. Spain" in official session on Neandertals In The Iberian Peninsula, June 4 2011, in the XVII Congreso de la Sociedad Española de Antropología Física held at the University of Barcelona, June 2nd-5th 2011. Publication: (FT*) see C. *CONTRIBUTIONS IN BOOKS OR ACTS OF MEETINGS* (2012)
- 2011 **M.J.Walker**: "Nuevos esqueletos de neandertales y restos preneandertales excavados en Murcia: La Sima de las Palomas del Cabezo Gordo y Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar", April 28 2011, invited lecture delivered in the Aula Magna de la Sede de la Universidad de Cádiz at Jerez de la Frontera (organised by Ateneo de Jerez and Departamento de Prehistoria, Universidad de Cádiz) NP
- 2011 **M.J.Walker**: "The Sima de las Palomas del Cabezo Gordo and the Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar, Murcia, Spain", September 6 2011, in Postgraduate Seminar Series of the Anthropological Institute, University of Zürich, Zürich (Switzerland) NP
- 2011 **M.J.Walker**, M.López Martínez, M.Haber Uriarte, A.López Jiménez: "La Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar en La Encarnación de Caravaca de la Cruz, Murcia, España: Excavación e Investigación en 2011" November 21 2011, in Encuentros Sobre Arqueología Y Paleontología, at the Museo Arqueológico de Murcia 21 a 25 de noviembre de 2011 (organised by Consejería de Cultura de la Comunidad Autónoma de la Región de Murcia). Publication: (FT*) see B. *ARTICLES: B-2.ARTICLES IN SPANISH-LANGUAGE JOURNALS etc.* (2011)
- 2011 **M.J.Walker**, M.López Martínez, M.Haber Uriarte, J.Ortega Rodríguez: "La Sima de las Palomas del Cabezo Gordo en Torre Pacheco: Excavación e Investigación en 2011" November 21 2011, in Encuentros Sobre Arqueología Y Paleontología, at the Museo Arqueológico de Murcia 21 a 25 de noviembre de 2011 (organised by Consejería de Cultura de la Comunidad Autónoma de la Región de Murcia). Publication: (FT*) see B. *ARTICLES: B-2.ARTICLES IN SPANISH-LANGUAGE JOURNALS etc.* (2011)
- 2010 **M.J.Walker**, M.López-Martínez, J.S.Carrión-García, T.Rodríguez-Estrella, M.San-Nicolás-del-Toro, J.L.Schwenninger, A.López-Jiménez, J.Ortega-Rodríguez, M.Haber-Urriarte, J.L.Polo-Camacho, J.García-Torres, M.Campillo-Boj, A.Avilés-Fernández: "Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar (Murcia, Spain): A late Early Pleistocene hominin site with an "Acheulo-Levallois-Mousteroid" Palaeolithic assemblage", September 2 2010, in official Regular Session, organised by **M.J.Walker** and T.F.G.Higham, on Rethinking Palaeolithic Chronologies In Europe And The Circum-Mediterranean Region, of the 16th Annual Meeting of the European Association of Archaeologists, The Hague, September 1-5 2010 at the Rijkskonservatorium, The Hague. Publication: (FT*) see B. *ARTICLES: B-1. ARTICLES IN SIGNIFICANT JOURNALS* (2013)
- 2009 **M.J.Walker**, M.López Martínez, J.Ortega-Rodríguez, M.Haber-Urriarte, A.López-Jiménez, A.Avilés-Fernández, J.L.Polo Camacho, M.Campillo-Boj, J.García-Torres, J.S.Carrión-García, M.San Nicolas-del Toro, T.Rodríguez-Estrella: "The buried late Neandertal skeletons at Sima de las Palomas (Murcia, SE Spain)" September 18 2009, of the 15th Annual Meeting of the European Association of Archaeologists at Riva del Garda, Trento, Italy, 15-20 September, 2009, in the official Regular Session, organised by L.Longo et al. on Up-dating The Reasoning On Middle To Upper Palaeolithic Biological And Cultural Shift In Eurasia, of the 15th Annual Meeting of the European Association of Archaeologists at Riva del Garda, Trento, Italy, 15-20 September, 2009. Publication: (FT*) see B. *ARTICLES: B-1. ARTICLES IN SIGNIFICANT JOURNALS* (2012)
- 2009 **M.J.Walker**, J.Ortega Rodríguez, J.Maki, E.Trinkaus (presenter): "Inferred body proportions of two southern European Neandertals, Palomas 92 and 96" poster* presented at the 78th Congress of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists, Chicago, March 31-April 4, 2009. Publication: poster* (A) B. *ARTICLES: B-1. ARTICLES IN SIGNIFICANT JOURNALS* (2010)
- 2009 **M.J.Walker**: "Two decades of field research at the hominin sites in Murcia, Spain, of Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar and Sima de las Palomas del Cabezo Gordo" January 15 2009, in January-June 2009 lecture programme of the Society of Antiquaries of London (Burlington House, Piccadilly, London) NP
- 2009 **M.J.Walker**: "La Sima de las Palomas del Cabezo Gordo y la Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar", April 24 2009, in Jornadas de Evolución Humana, 200 Aniversario de Charles Darwin 24 y 25 de abril de 2009 at the Centro de Medio Ambiente de la Caja de Ahorros del Mediterráneo, CEMACAM, Tore Guil, Murcia. Publication: (FT*) see C. *CONTRIBUTIONS IN BOOKS, ACTS OF MEETINGS, etc.* (2009)
- 2009 **M.J.Walker**: "Evolución Humana", November 12 2009, in Seminar series Darwin Con Nosotros (October 22 – November 21, 2009) at the Museo de la Ciencia y del Agua, Murcia. Publication: (FT*) see C. *CONTRIBUTIONS IN BOOKS, ACTS OF MEETINGS, etc.* (2010)
- 2009 **M.J.Walker**: "La Sima de las Palomas del Cabezo Gordo y la Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar", May 4 2009, in El Paisaje De La Evolución En La Región de Murcia. Homenaje A Darwin En El 200 Aniversario De Su Nacimiento, VI Ciclo de Conferencias del Museo de Siyasa, delivered in the Aula Cultural de la Caja de Ahorros del Mediterráneo, Cieza, Murcia. NP
- 2009 **M.J.Walker**: "La Sima de las Palomas del Cabezo Gordo en Torre Pacheco y la Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar en Caravaca de la Cruz: Dos ventanas sobre la vida y la muerte del Hombre Fósil en Murcia", November 16 2009, lecture invited by the División de Antropología Social, Departamento de Economía Agroambiental, IC, EGI y Antropología Social, Universidad Miguel Hernández, delivered in the Aula Magna, Universidad Miguel Hernández, Elche, Alicante NP
- 2008 **M.J.Walker**: "La Sima de las Palomas del Cabezo Gordo y la Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar", November 11 2008, one of 5 invited public lectures accompanying the exhibition Secretos Que Esconden Las Rocas., Fósiles En La Región de Murcia, at the Museo Arqueológico de Murcia (October 16th 2008-January 4 2009, organised by the Consejería de Cultura de la Comunidad Autónoma de la Región de Murcia NP
- 2008 **M.J.Walker**: "El Hombre de Neandertal de la Sima de las Palomas en el Cabezo Gordo" May 21 2008 in I Seminario Mar Menor Y Espacios Naturales De Su Entorno, 20 al 25 de mayo de 2008, organised by Fundación Clúster para la Protección y Conservación del Mar Menor, de la Comunidad Autónoma de la Región de Murcia, delivered in the Aula Cultural de CajaMurcia, San Pedro del Pinatar, Murcia NP
- 2008 **M.J.Walker**: "Conferencia inaugural: Los yacimientos neandertales de la Sima de las Palomas y Cueva Negra", November 7 2008 in Segundo Curso de Paleontología Humana Y Geología Del Cuaternario, La Llegada Del Hombre A Europa, Homenaje Al Dr. José Gibert, El Registro Paleontológico, Geológico Y Arqueológico De La Cuenca De Guadix-Baza. 7, 8 y 9 de noviembre de 2008, organised by Ayuntamiento de Orce and Fundación Josep Gibert, delivered in the Palacio de los Segura, Orce, Granada NP
- 2007 **M.J.Walker**: "Field research at Sima de las Palomas del Cabezo Gordo and Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar, Murcia, Spain" April 18 2007 in Max-Planck Institut für Evolutionäre Anthropologie Seminars, Max-Planck Institut für Evolutionäre Anthropologie, Leipzig, Germany NP
- 2006 **M.J.Walker**: "The demise of the 'Mysterians': Cognitive ability of mid-Middle Pleistocene hominins at the Lower-to-Middle Palaeolithic transition in western Europe" September 8th 2006 in XV Congress of the International Union for Prehistoric and Protohistoric Sciences Global State of the Art, Lisbon, 4-9 September 2006, Colloquium 13 The Earliest Inhabitants In Europe, held at the University of Lisbon, Lisbon, Portugal. Publications: (FT*) see C. *CONTRIBUTIONS IN BOOKS, ACTS OF MEETINGS, etc.* 2009 (de Beaune et al; 2006); also (A) see C. *CONTRIBUTIONS* (2006)
- 2006 **M.J.Walker**: "La evolución singular del ciclo vital del género *Homo*" September 19 2006 in El Reloj Biológico del Envejecimiento, Universidad Internacional del Mar de la Universidad de Murcia September 18-22 2006, held at Centro de Recursos y Profesores, San Pedro del Pinatar, Murcia NP
- 2006 **M.J.Walker**: "El arte rupestre prehistórico, la evolución climática en el Holoceno, y los cambios culturales: Una perspectiva desde Murcia" July 24th 2006 in Sueños, Sentimientos y Emociones Del Hombre A Través De Sus Manifestaciones Artísticas Y Rupestres, Universidad Internacional del Mar de la Universidad de Murcia July 24-28 2006, held at Centro Regional de Interpretación de Arte Rupestre, Moratalla, Murcia. Publication: (FT*) page proofs corrected and returned, in press
- 2006 **M.J.Walker**: "Hombre de Flores y Hombre de Neandertal: Nuestros últimos 'primos hermanos' fósiles" February 17 2006 in Jornadas de Geología, organised by Diputación de Castellón and Generalitat de Valencia Conselleria de Educació, delivered at Planetario de Castellón, Castellón de la Plana NP
- 2006 **M.J.Walker**: "Investigaciones paleoantropológicas en la Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar y la Sima de las Palomas del Cabezo Gordo, Murcia: Dos estaciones del Pleistoceno Medio y Superior antiguo con restos de homínidos y del Paleolítico" February 20 2006 in Seminar Series of Departamento de Antropología Física de la Universidad de Barcelona, Facultad de Biología, Universidad de Barcelona, Barcelona NP
- 2005 **M.J.Walker**: "Excavations at the early Middle Pleistocene site of Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar and the early Upper Pleistocene site of Sima de las Palomas del Cabezo Gordo, in Murcia, Spain: Two sites with hominin and Palaeolithic remains" November 17 2005 in Oxford University Institute of Archaeology "Quaternary Seminar Series", Oxford University Institute of Archaeology, Oxford NP
- 2005 **M.J.Walker**, M.Lopez Martínez: "La Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Quípar (La Encarnación, Caravaca de la Cruz, Murcia: campaña de 2004" in XVI Jornadas de Patrimonio Histórico. Intervenciones en el Patrimonio Arquitectónico, Arqueológico y Etnográfico de la Región de Murcia October 17-27 2005, held at ETS Ingeniería Agronómica, Universidad Politécnica de Cartagena, Campus Alfonso XIII, Cartagena, Murcia. Publication: (FT) see C. *CONTRIBUTIONS IN BOOKS, ACTS OF MEETINGS, etc.* (2005)
- 2005 **M.J.Walker**, J.Gibert Clois: "Resultados principales de la excavación arqueológica de 2004 en la Sima de las Palomas del Cabezo Gordo (Torre Pacheco, Murcia)" in XVI Jornadas de Patrimonio Histórico. Intervenciones en el Patrimonio Arquitectónico, Arqueológico y Etnográfico de la Región de Murcia October 17-27 2005, held at ETS

- Ingeniería Agronómica, Universidad Politécnica de Cartagena, Campus Alfonso XIII, Cartagena, Murcia. Publication: (FT) see C. *CONTRIBUTIONS IN BOOKS, ACTS OF MEETINGS, etc.* (2005)
- 2005 **M.J.Walker**: "Hombre de Flores y Hombre de Neanderthal: Nuestros últimos 'primos hermanos' fósiles" March 8 2005, invited lecture in Conferencias de Antropología, organised for Fundación CajaMurcia chaired by Prof.J.Lorite of Murcia University, delivered in the Aula Cultural de CajaMurcia, Murcia NP
- 2004 **M.J.Walker**: "El Hombre de Neanderthal en Murcia, La Sima de las Palomas y la Cueva Negra" March 29th 2004 in Seminario Público sobre "Neandertales" organised by Prof.J.Lomba of Murcia University, held at Facultad de Letras, Universidad de Murcia, Murcia NP
- 2004 **M.J.Walker**: "El Hombre de Neanderthal en Murcia" April 2004, lecture invited by Círculo de Profesores de Lorca, Instituto de Bachillerato Mixto 1 "J.Ibáñez Martín", Lorca, Murcia NP
- 2004 **M.J.Walker**, J.Gibert Clols, M.López Martínez: "Actuaciones en yacimientos del Paleolítico Medio durante 2003: La Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar y la Sima de las Palomas del Cabezo Gordo" in XV Jornadas de Patrimonio Histórico y Arqueología de la Región de Murcia November 24-Dec.2 2004, Museo Arqueológico de Murcia, Murcia Publication: (FT) see C. *CONTRIBUTIONS IN BOOKS, ACTS OF MEETINGS, etc.* (2004)
- 2003 **M.J.Walker**: "El Hombre de Neanderthal en Murcia/Neanderthal' gizakia Murtzian" October 28 2003, inaugural invited lecture for the Exhibition "Europeos Arcaicos Y Neandertales/Europar Arkaikoak Eta Neanderthalak" at Miramon Kutxa Espacio de la Ciencia/Miramón Zientziaren Kutxagunea-Museo de la Ciencia de la Caja de Ahorros de Guipúzcoa, San Sebastián/Donosti NP
- 2003 **M.J.Walker**, M.López Martínez: "La Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Quípar (La Encarnación, Caravaca de la Cruz, Murcia): campaña de excavaciones y avance de investigaciones en 2002" in XIV Jornadas de Patrimonio Histórico y Arqueología de la Región de Murcia November 17-21 2003, at Colegio Oficial de Arquitectos, Murcia. Publication: (FT) see C. *CONTRIBUTIONS IN BOOKS, ACTS OF MEETINGS, etc.* (2003)
- 2003 **M.J.Walker**, J.Gibert Clols: "La Sima de las Palomas del Cabezo Gordo (Dolores de Pacheco, Torre Pacheco, Murcia): campaña de excavaciones y avance de investigaciones en 2002" in XIV Jornadas de Patrimonio Histórico y Arqueología de la Región de Murcia November 17-21 2003, at Colegio Oficial de Arquitectos, Murcia. Publication: (FT) see C. *CONTRIBUTIONS IN BOOKS, ACTS OF MEETINGS, etc.* (2003)
- 2002 **M.J.Walker**: "El 'Problema Neanderthal' y la Genética de la Evolución Humana", February 22 2002, in lecture series accompanying the exhibition "Proyecto HOMO: Hominidos, Tecnología Y Medio Ambiente En El Pleistoceno Medio Y Superior Inicial" at Museo de la Ciencia y del Agua, Murcia. **M.J.Walker**: "El 'Problema Neanderthal' y la Genética de la Evolución Humana" NP
- 2002 **M.J.Walker**, J.Gibert Clols: "La Sima de las Palomas del Cabezo Gordo (Dolores de Pacheco, Torre Pacheco, Murcia): campaña del 2001" in XIII Jornadas de Patrimonio Histórico y Arqueología Regional November 5-8 2002 at Centro Cultural "Las Claras" de CajaMurcia, Murcia. Publication: (FT) see C. *CONTRIBUTIONS IN BOOKS, ACTS OF MEETINGS, etc.* (2002)
- 2002 **M.J.Walker**, M.López Martínez, "La Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Quípar (La Encarnación, Caravaca de la Cruz, Murcia): campaña del 2001" in XIII Jornadas de Patrimonio Histórico y Arqueología Regional November 5-8 2002, at Centro Cultural "Las Claras" de CajaMurcia, Murcia. Publication: (FT) see C. *CONTRIBUTIONS IN BOOKS, ACTS OF MEETINGS, etc.* (2002)
- 2001 **M.J.Walker**: "Neanderthals and Pre-Neanderthals in Southern Iberia", November 13 2001, in Seminar Series of Oxford University Department of Biological Anthropology and Oxford University School of Archaeology, delivered at the "Pauling Centre for the Human Sciences", Oxford University NP
- 2001 **M.J.Walker**: "Excavations and Palaeoanthropological Research at Sima de las Palomas del Cabezo Gordo and Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar (Murcia, South-East Spain)", October 23rd 2001, inaugural lecture accompanying the Exhibition Älterer Europäer Und Neandertaler, Projekt MENSCH. Mensch, Technologie Und Umwelt In Der Jüngerer Eiszeit, at the Naturhistorischesmuseum Wien (Vienna, Austria) NP
- 2001 **M.J.Walker**, J.Gibert Clols: "La Sima de las Palomas del Cabezo Gordo (Dolores de Pacheco, Torre Pacheco, Murcia): campaña del 2000" in XII Jornadas de Patrimonio Histórico y Arqueología Regional, May 22-25 2001 at Centro Cultural "Las Claras" de CajaMurcia, Murcia. Publication: (FT) see C. *CONTRIBUTIONS IN BOOKS, ACTS OF MEETINGS, etc.* (2001)
- 2001 **M.J.Walker**, J.I.Serrano Izquierdo: "La Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Quípar (La Encarnación, Caravaca de la Cruz, Murcia): campaña del 2000" in XII Jornadas de Patrimonio Histórico y Arqueología Regional, May 22-25 2001 at Centro Cultural "Las Claras" de CajaMurcia, Murcia. Publication: (FT) see C. *CONTRIBUTIONS IN BOOKS, ACTS OF MEETINGS, etc.* (2001)
- 2001 **M.J.Walker**: "Neanderthals and their landscapes: Aspects of research at Sima de las Palomas del Cabezo Gordo and Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar in the context of middle palaeolithic and Neanderthal sites in the Segura drainage basin and adjacent areas of SE Spain" in XIV Congress of the International Union of Prehistoric and Protohistoric Sciences September 2-8 2001 Colloquium of Commission 27, at the Université de Liège, Liège. Publication: (FT) see C. *CONTRIBUTIONS IN BOOKS, ACTS OF MEETINGS, etc.* (2004, N.J.Conard, ed, *Settlement Dynamics...*)
- 2001 **M.J.Walker**: "Two Neanderthal Man sites from Murcia, S.E. Spain" in XIV Congress of the International Union of Prehistoric and Protohistoric Sciences September 2-8 2001 General Session On Human Origins And The Lower Palaeolithic, at the Université de Liège, Liège. Publication: (FT) see C. *CONTRIBUTIONS IN BOOKS, ACTS OF MEETINGS, etc.* (2004, M.Toussaint et al, eds, *Premiers Hommes...*)
- 2001 **M.J.Walker**: "Sobre la coevolución de la morfología, la paleoetología humana, del lenguaje y de la consciencia humana durante el Pleistoceno" in XIV Reunión Bial de la Real Sociedad Española de Historia Natural, September 18-21 2001, at the University of Murcia, Murcia. NP
- 2001 **M.J.Walker**, A.Legaz López, "Estudio de micromamíferos del Pleistoceno de Cueva Negra (Caravaca de la Cruz, Murcia)" in XIV Reunión Bial de la Real Sociedad Española de Historia Natural, September 18-21 2001, at the University of Murcia, Murcia. NP
- 2000 **M.J.Walker**: "El Hombre de Neanderthal en Murcia: La Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Quípar y la Sima de las Palomas del Cabezo Gordo" in Coloquio-Taller Internacional: La Península Ibérica Y La Evolución Humana. Un Simposio En Honor Del Prof. Dr. Phillip V. Tobias, F.R.S., Murcia, December 6-10 2000, at the University of Murcia, Murcia NP
- 2000 **M.J.Walker**: poster presentation "The Search for Neanderthals" (Earthwatch Institute field research project), April 15-16 2000, Earthwatch Millennium Conference at Oxford University Examination Schools, Oxford NP
- 2000 **M.J.Walker**, J.Gibert Clols: "La Sima de las Palomas del Cabezo Gordo, Torre Pacheco: Campaña de 1.999" in XI Jornadas de Arqueología Regional (Dirección General de Cultura, Consejería de Cultura y Educación de la Comunidad Autónoma de la Región de Murcia, Murcia. Publications: (FT) see B. *ARTICLES: B-2. ARTICLES IN SPANISH-LANGUAGE JOURNALS, YEARBOOKS, ANNUALS, etc.* (2006); see also C. *CONTRIBUTIONS IN BOOKS, ACTS OF MEETINGS, etc.* (2000)
- 2000 **M.J.Walker**, J.I.Serrano Izquierdo: "La Cueva Negra del Estrecho de La Encarnación, Caravaca de la Cruz, Murcia): Campaña de 1.999" in XI Jornadas de Arqueología Regional, held at the Dirección General de Cultura, Consejería de Cultura y Educación de la Comunidad Autónoma de la Región de Murcia. Publication: (FT) see B. *ARTICLES: B-2. ARTICLES IN SPANISH-LANGUAGE JOURNALS, YEARBOOKS, ANNUALS, etc.* (2006); see also C. *CONTRIBUTIONS IN BOOKS, ACTS OF MEETINGS, etc.* (2000)
- 1999 **M.J.Walker**, J.I.Serrano Izquierdo: "La Cueva Negra del Estrecho de La Encarnación, Caravaca de la Cruz, Murcia): Campaña de 1.998" in X Jornadas de Arqueología Regional May 11-14 1999, held at the Dirección General de Cultura, Consejería de Cultura y Educación de la Comunidad Autónoma de la Región de Murcia, Murcia) Publications: (FT) see B. *ARTICLES: B-2. ARTICLES IN SPANISH-LANGUAGE JOURNALS, YEARBOOKS, ANNUALS, etc.* (2005); see also C. *CONTRIBUTIONS IN BOOKS, ACTS OF MEETINGS, etc.* (1999)
- 1999 **M.J.Walker**, J.Gibert Clols: "La Sima de las Palomas del Cabezo Gordo, Torre Pacheco: Campaña de 1.998" in X Jornadas de Arqueología Regional May 11-14 1999 held at the Dirección General de Cultura, Consejería de Cultura y Educación de la Comunidad Autónoma de la Región de Murcia, Murcia. Publication: (FT) see B. *ARTICLES: B-2. ARTICLES IN SPANISH-LANGUAGE JOURNALS, YEARBOOKS, ANNUALS, etc.* (2005); see also C. *CONTRIBUTIONS IN BOOKS, ACTS OF MEETINGS, etc.* (1999)
- 1998 **M.J.Walker**, J.I.Serrano Izquierdo: "La Cueva Negra del Estrecho de La Encarnación, Caravaca de la Cruz, Murcia): Campaña de 1.997" in IX Jornadas de Arqueología Regional May 5-8 1998 held at the Dirección General de Cultura, Consejería de Cultura y Educación de la Comunidad Autónoma de la Región de Murcia, Murcia. Publication: (FT) see *ARTICLES: B-2. ARTICLES IN SPANISH-LANGUAGE JOURNALS, YEARBOOKS, ANNUALS, etc.* (2004)
- 1998 **M.J.Walker**, J.Gibert Clols: "La Sima de las Palomas del Cabezo Gordo, Torre Pacheco: Campaña de 1.997" in IX Jornadas de Arqueología Regional May 5-8 1998 held at the Dirección General de Cultura, Consejería de Cultura y Educación de la Comunidad Autónoma de la Región de Murcia, Murcia. Publication: (FT) see *ARTICLES: B-2. ARTICLES IN SPANISH-LANGUAGE JOURNALS, YEARBOOKS, ANNUALS, etc.* (2004)
- 1997 **M.J.Walker**, J.Gibert Clols: "Dos yacimientos murcianos con restos neandertalenses: La Sima de las Palomas del Cabezo Gordo y la Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Quípar de La Encarnación" in XXIX Congreso Nacional de Arqueología, Cartagena, October 28-31 1997 held at the Museo Arqueológico Municipal, Cartagena and Universidad Politécnica de Cartagena. Publication: (FT) see C. *CONTRIBUTIONS IN BOOKS, ACTS OF MEETINGS, etc.* (1999)

- 1997 **M.J.Walker**: "The Search for Neanderthals" poster presentation at Earthwatch Institute Conference, September 1997, Harvard University Science Center, Cambridge, Mass., USA NP
- 1997 **M.J.Walker**: "La Cueva Negra del Estrecho de La Encarnación, Caravaca de la Cruz, Murcia): Campaña de 1.996" in VIII Jornadas de Arqueología Regional May 13-16 1997 held at the Museo Arqueológico Municipal "Ementerio Cuadrado", Mula, and Colegio Oficial de Arquitectos, Murcia. Publication: (FT) see B. *ARTICLES: B-2. ARTICLES IN SPANISH-LANGUAGE JOURNALS, YEARBOOKS, ANNUALS, etc* (2002)
- 1997 **M.J.Walker**, J.Gibert Clois: "La Sima de las Palomas del Cabezo Gordo, Torre Pacheco: Campaña de 1.996" in VIII Jornadas de Arqueología Regional May 13-16 1997 held at the Museo Arqueológico Municipal "Ementerio Cuadrado", Mula, and Colegio Oficial de Arquitectos, Murcia. Publication: (FT) see B. *ARTICLES: B-2. ARTICLES IN SPANISH-LANGUAGE JOURNALS, YEARBOOKS, ANNUALS, etc* (2002)
- 1996 **M.J.Walker**: "Two new Neanderthal sites in S.E. Spain: Sima de las Palomas and Cueva Negra de La Encarnación" in Oxford University "Donald Baden Powell" Quaternary Research Centre Seminar Series, November 20 1996, at Oxford University "Donald Baden Powell" Quaternary Research Centre NP
- 1996 **M.J.Walker**: "El problema del Neanderthal y del hombre moderno" in La Evolución Humana Y La Paleontología, September 23 -27 1996, Universidad del Mar de la Universidad de Murcia, held at Dolores de Pacheco, Murcia. NP
- 1996 **M.J.Walker**: "El problema del Neanderthal y del hombre moderno" in La Evolución Humana Y La Paleontología, September 23 -27 1996, Universidad del Mar de la Universidad de Murcia, held at Dolores de Pacheco, Murcia. NP
- 1996 **M.J.Walker**: "Los homínidos del Pleistoceno Medio de Java" in La Evolución Humana Y La Paleontología, September 23 -27 1996, Universidad del Mar de la Universidad de Murcia, held at Dolores de Pacheco, Murcia. NP
- 1996 **M.J.Walker**: "Dos estaciones murcianas con restos neandertalenses: la Sima de las Palomas del Cabezo Gordo y la Cueva Negra del Estrecho del río Quípar de La Encarnación" in La Evolución Humana Y La Paleontología, September 23 -27 1996, Universidad del Mar de la Universidad de Murcia, held at Dolores de Pacheco, Murcia. NP
- 1996 **M.J.Walker**: "En búsqueda del hombre fósil: Los yacimientos del hombre de Neanderthal de la Sima de las Palomas del Cabezo Gordo y la Cueva Negra de La Encarnación" in Semana Cultural de Cartagena, September 18 1996, Lecture series held at the Centro Cultural del Excmº. Ayuntamiento de Cartagena, Cartagena, Murcia. NP
- 1996 **M.J.Walker**: "Ex Africa semper aliquid novum" in La Evolución Humana, Homenaje al Profesor Phillip V. Tobias, F.R.S., May 6-8 1996, at the International Symposium held at the Universidad de las Islas Baleares, Palma de Mallorca, Spain. NP
- 1996 **M.J.Walker**: "La Cueva Negra del Estrecho de La Encarnación, Caravaca de la Cruz, Murcia): Campaña de 1.995" in VII Jornadas de Arqueología Regional May 14-17 1996 Museo Arqueológico Municipal, Lorca, and Colegio Oficial de Arquitectos, Murcia Publication: (FT) see B. *ARTICLES: B-2. ARTICLES IN SPANISH-LANGUAGE JOURNALS, YEARBOOKS, ANNUALS, etc* (2002)
- 1996 **M.J.Walker**, J.Gibert Clois: "La Sima de las Palomas del Cabezo Gordo, Torre Pacheco: Campaña de 1.995" in VII Jornadas de Arqueología Regional May 14-17 1996 held at the Museo Arqueológico Municipal, Lorca, and Colegio Oficial de Arquitectos, Murcia. Publication: (FT) see B. *ARTICLES: B-2. ARTICLES IN SPANISH-LANGUAGE JOURNALS, YEARBOOKS, ANNUALS, etc* (2002)
- 1996 **M.J.Walker**: "The Search for Neanderthals" in Earthwatch Europe Conference, 1996 held at the Oxford University Museum of Natural History, Oxford. NP
- 1995 **M.J.Walker**, J.Gibert Clois: "New finds of hominids and Mousterian tools at the Murcian sites of Sima de las Palomas del Cabezo Gordo and Cueva Negra de La Encarnación" in International Congress Of Human Palaeontology: Hominids And Their Environment In The European Middle Pleistocene, Orce, Granada, September 4-8 1995 held at the Palacio de los Segura, Orce, Granada. Publications: (FT) see C. *CONTRIBUTIONS IN BOOKS, ACTS OF MEETINGS, etc.* (1999); see also (A) C. *CONTRIBUTIONS IN BOOKS, ACTS OF MEETINGS, etc.*(1995)
- 1995 **M.J.Walker**, J.Gibert, F.Sánchez, A.V.Lombardi, I.Serrano, A.Gómez, F.Ribot, L.Gibert (presenter), A.Cuenca, S.Albadalejo, J.A.Andreu: "Sedimentologic study of Sima de las Palomas del Cabezo Gordo and Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar de La Encarnación (Murcia, Spain): Two hominid sites from the Middle and Upper Pleistocene" in International Congress Of Human Palaeontology: Hominids And Their Environment In The European Middle Pleistocene, Orce, Granada, September 4-8 1995 held at the Palacio de los Segura, Orce, Granada. Publications: (FT) see C. *CONTRIBUTIONS IN BOOKS, ACTS OF MEETINGS, etc.* (1999)
- 1995 J.A.Pérez-Claros, P.Palmqvist (presenter), J.Gibert, B.Martínez, **M.J.Walker**: "Morphometric study of a human diaphysis from Orce, by means of canonical discriminant functions of Fourier series harmonic descriptors of diaphyseal cross-sectional outlines" in International Congress Of Human Palaeontology: Hominids And Their Environment In The European Middle Pleistocene, Orce, Granada, September 4-8 1995 held at the Palacio de los Segura, Orce, Granada. Publication: (FT) see C. *CONTRIBUTIONS IN BOOKS, ACTS OF MEETINGS, etc.*(1995)
- 1995 **M.J.Walker**, J.I.Serrano: "Sima de las Palomas: the artefacts" in International Congress Of Human Palaeontology: Hominids And Their Environment In The European Middle Pleistocene, Orce, Granada, September 4-8 1995 held at the Palacio de los Segura, Orce, Granada. Publication: (A) see C. *CONTRIBUTIONS IN BOOKS, ACTS OF MEETINGS, etc.* (1995)
- 1995 **M.J.Walker**, J.Gibert, F.Ribot (presenter): "Estudio del temporal humano, CG-12, del yacimiento del Cabezo Gordo, Murcia (España)" in International Congress Of Human Palaeontology: Hominids And Their Environment In The European Middle Pleistocene, Orce, Granada, September 4-8 1995 held at the Palacio de los Segura, Orce, Granada. Publication: (A) see C. *CONTRIBUTIONS IN BOOKS, ACTS OF MEETINGS, etc* (1995)
- 1995 **M.J.Walker**, J.Gibert, L.Gibert S.Albadalejo, F.Plana: "Geología de la Sima de las Palomas del Cabezo Gordo (Murcia)" in International Congress Of Human Palaeontology: Hominids And Their Environment In The European Middle Pleistocene, Orce, Granada, September 4-8 1995 held at the Palacio de los Segura, Orce, Granada. Publication: (A) see C. *CONTRIBUTIONS IN BOOKS, ACTS OF MEETINGS, etc* (1995)
- 1995 F.Sánchez, **M.J.Walker**, J.Gibert: in "Las mandíbulas del Cabezo Gordo (Murcia)" International Congress Of Human Palaeontology: Hominids And Their Environment In The European Middle Pleistocene, Orce, Granada, September 4-8 1995 held at the Palacio de los Segura, Orce, Granada. Publications: (FT) see C. *CONTRIBUTIONS IN BOOKS, ACTS OF MEETINGS, etc.*(1995)
- 1995 **M.J.Walker**: "New middle and upper palaeolithic finds from Orce, Granada, Spain" in International Congress Of Human Palaeontology: Hominids And Their Environment In The European Middle Pleistocene, Orce, Granada, September 4-8 1995 held at the Palacio de los Segura, Orce, Granada. J.L.Santamaría, A.Bouquet, C.Aller, P.García-Prieto, Publication: (A) see C. *CONTRIBUTIONS IN BOOKS, ACTS OF MEETINGS, etc* (1995)
- 1995 J.Gibert (presenter), A.Malgosa, F.Sánchez, F.Ribot, **M.J.Walker**: "Humeral fragments attributable to *Homo* sp. from Lower Pleistocene sites at Venta Micena (Orce, Spain)" in International Congress Of Human Palaeontology: Hominids And Their Environment In The European Middle Pleistocene, Orce, Granada, September 4-8 1995 (Palacio de los Segura, Orce, Granada) Publications: (FT) see C. *CONTRIBUTIONS IN BOOKS, ACTS OF MEETINGS, etc.* (1999)
- 1995 **M.J.Walker**, A.Gómez, I.Serrano, "New Neanderthal finds from Murcia: Cueva Negra del Estrecho de La Encarnación" in International Congress Of Human Palaeontology: Hominids And Their Environment In The European Middle Pleistocene, Orce, Granada, September 4-8 1995 held at the Palacio de los Segura, Orce, Granada. Publication: (A) see C. *CONTRIBUTIONS IN BOOKS, ACTS OF MEETINGS, etc* (1995)
- 1995 **M.J.Walker**: "La disposición de los muertos y la dispersión de los muertos en el Sureste preargáico" in La Arqueología De La Muerte, September 16 1995, Universidad del Mar de la Universidad de Murcia held at the Aula de Cultura, Torre Pacheco, Murcia. NP
- 1995 **M.J.Walker**, J.I.Serrano Izquierdo, A.Gómez Domínguez: "El hombre de Neanderthal de la Cueva Negra de La Encarnación", Public Lecture invited by Excmº. Ayuntamiento de Caravaca de la Cruz, October 5 1995 held at the Casa de Cultura, Caravaca de la Cruz, Murcia. NP
- 1995 **M.J.Walker**: "Nuevos restos de homínidos del Pleistoceno de Murcia" in Seminar Series de la Unitat d'Antropologia de la Facultat de Ciències de la Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, April 26 1995 held at the Facultat de Ciències, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Barcelona. NP
- 1995 **M.J.Walker**: "Nuevos restos de homínidos de la Sima de las Palomas y la Cueva Negra (Murcia)" in Seminar Series del Departament d'Antropologia de la Facultat de Biologia de la Universitat de Barcelona, April 27 1995 held at the Facultat de Biologia, Universitat de Barcelona, Barcelona. NP
- 1995 **M.J.Walker**, J.Gibert Clois: "La Sima de las Palomas del Cabezo Gordo, Torre Pacheco: Campaña de 1.994" in VI Jornadas de Arqueología Regional April 24-27 1995 held at the Dirección General de Cultura, Consejería de Cultura y Educación de la Comunidad Autónoma de la Región de Murcia, Murcia. Publications: (FT) see B. *ARTICLES: B-2. ARTICLES IN SPANISH-LANGUAGE JOURNALS, YEARBOOKS, ANNUALS, etc* (1999); see also C. *CONTRIBUTIONS IN BOOKS, ACTS OF MEETINGS, etc.* (1995)
- 1995 **M.J.Walker**, A.Gómez Domínguez: "La Cueva Negra del Estrecho de La Encarnación, Caravaca de la Cruz, Murcia): Campaña de 1.994" in VI Jornadas de Arqueología Regional April 24-27 1995 held at the Dirección General de Cultura, Consejería de Cultura y Educación de la Comunidad Autónoma de la Región de Murcia, Murcia. Publications: (FT) see B. *ARTICLES: B-2. ARTICLES IN SPANISH-LANGUAGE JOURNALS, YEARBOOKS, ANNUALS, etc* (1999); see also C. *CONTRIBUTIONS IN BOOKS, ACTS OF MEETINGS, etc.* (1995)

- 1995 **M.J.Walker**: "El hombre fósil en Murcia: El yacimiento de la Sima de las Palomas del Cabezo Gordo" Public lecture invited by Excm^o. Ayuntamiento de Torre Pacheco, March 6 1995 held at the Aula de Cultura, Torre Pacheco, Murcia. NP
- 1994 **M.J.Walker**: "In search of the Neanderthals" in Global Networks, Closing The Knowledge Gap, Earthwatch Annual Conference, October 6-8 1994 held at the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA. NP
- 1994 **M.J.Walker**, J.Gibert Clois: "Sima de las Palomas and Cueva Negra: New hominid finds from Murcia, SE Spain" in Joint Seminar Series on Human Origins of the University of Liverpool Department of Anatomy and Department of Archaeology, November 17 1994 held at the Department of Anatomy, University of Liverpool. NP
- 1994 **M.J.Walker**, J.Gibert Clois: "New hominid finds from SE Spain" in Seminar Series of the Institute of Archaeology, University College London, November 15 1994 held at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London. NP
- 1994 **M.J.Walker**, J.Gibert Clois: "Cabezo Gordo and Cueva Negra: New Neanderthal and pre-Neanderthal finds from SE Spain" in Department of Palaeontology Seminar Series of The Natural History Museum, November 15 1994 (The Natural History Museum, London) NP
- 1994 **M.J.Walker**: "New hominid finds from Cabezo Gordo and Cueva Negra, Murcia, S.E. Spain" in Oxford University Donald Baden-Powell Quaternary Research Centre Seminar Series, October 17 1994 held at the Oxford University Donald Baden-Powell Quaternary Research Centre, Oxford. NP
- 1994 **M.J.Walker**: "Middle and Upper Pleistocene Hominids in SE Spain: Cabezo Gordo and Cueva Negra" in Oxford University Department of Biological Anthropology Seminar Series, October 31 1994 (Oxford University Department of Biological Anthropology, Oxford) NP
- 1994 **M.J.Walker**, J.Gibert Clois: "In search of Neanderthals in S.E. Spanish caves" a Public Lecture at St. Anne's College, University of Oxford, sponsored by Earthwatch Europe and the Oxford University Cave Club, November 16 1994, delivered at St. Anne's College, Oxford. NP
- 1994 A.Cuenca Payá (presenter), **M.J.Walker**: "Terrazas fluviales en la zona bética de la Comunidad Valenciana" in El Cuaternario Del País Valenciano (organised by Asociación Española para el Estudio del Cuaternario) October 1994 held at the Universidad de Valencia, Valencia. Publication: (FT) see C. *CONTRIBUTIONS IN BOOKS, ACTS OF MEETINGS*, etc. (1995)
- 1994 **M.J.Walker**: "Cueva Negra del Estrecho de La Encarnación (Caravaca de la Cruz, Murcia): campaña de 1993" in V Jornadas de Arqueología Regional, May 10-12 1994 held at the Dirección General de Cultura, Consejería de Cultura y Educación de la Comunidad Autónoma de la Región de Murcia, Murcia. Publications: (FT) see B. *ARTICLES: B-2. ARTICLES IN SPANISH-LANGUAGE JOURNALS, YEARBOOKS, ANNUALS*, etc (1999); see also C. *CONTRIBUTIONS IN BOOKS, ACTS OF MEETINGS*, etc. (1994)
- 1994 J.Gibert Clois, **M.J.Walker**: "Cabezo Gordo (Balsicas, Torre Pacheco, Murcia): campaña de 1993" in V Jornadas de Arqueología Regional, May 10-12 1994 held at the Dirección General de Cultura, Consejería de Cultura y Educación de la Comunidad Autónoma de la Región de Murcia, Murcia. Publications: (FT) see B. *ARTICLES: B-2. ARTICLES IN SPANISH-LANGUAGE JOURNALS, YEARBOOKS, ANNUALS*, etc (1999); see also C. *CONTRIBUTIONS IN BOOKS, ACTS OF MEETINGS*, etc. (1994)
- 1993 **M.J.Walker**: "Neolithic Spain was pre-Indo-European: radiocarbon distribution maps give the lie to neolithic 'Indo-European colonists'" in Anthropology And Genetics, August 23-27 1993 held at the Centro de El Escorial de los Cursos de Verano de la Universidad Complutense de Madrid. NP
- 1993 **M.J.Walker**, M.San Nicolás del Toro: "Disposal of the dead and dispersal of the living in pre-Argaric S.E. Spain. Abrigo 2 de El Milano and a revision of the dynamics of cultural change: 'Little Big Men' and No Growth in population?" in Ritual, Rites And Religion In Prehistory, IIIrd Deia International Conference Of Prehistory, September 25-30 1993 held at the Deia Archaeological Museum and Research Centre, Deia, Mallorca. Publication: (FT) see C. *CONTRIBUTIONS IN BOOKS, ACTS OF MEETINGS*, etc. (1995)
- 1993 **M.J.Walker**: "Nuevos datos sobre el musteriense y Pleistoceno Superior en la Región de Murcia" in Simposio Projecte Orce-Cova Victòria i Cabezo Gordo, May 19 1993 (at Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Bellaterra, Barcelona and Parc Tecnològic, Cerdanyà, Barcelona) NP
- 1993 **M.J.Walker**, J.Zapata Crespo: "Salud y enfermedad en época romana: la necrópolis del Puerto de Mazarrón, Murcia" in II Congreso Nacional de Paleopatología, October 7-10, 1993 held at the Facultad de Medicina, Universidad de Valencia, Valencia. Publication: (FT) see C. *CONTRIBUTIONS IN BOOKS, ACTS OF MEETINGS*, etc. (1996)
- 1993 **M.J.Walker**: "El desarrollo de la Paleopatología en la Comunidad Autónoma de la Región de Murcia" (invited contribution to a Round Table on The State of Palaeopathological Research in Spain) in II Congreso Nacional de Paleopatología, October 7-10, 1993 held at the Facultad de Medicina, Universidad de Valencia, Valenci. NP
- 1992 **M.J.Walker**: "A fossilized human incisor from Cueva Negra (Caravaca, Murcia, Spain)" in Third International Congress of Human Palaeontology, Jerusalem, August 29-September 5 1992 held at the Hebrew University, Jerusalem. NP
- 1992 F.Sánchez, J.Gibert, A.Malgosa, **M.J.Walker**, with A.Arribas: "Mousterian hominid remains from Cabezo Gordo (Torre Pacheco, Murcia, Spain)" in Third International Congress of Human Palaeontology, Jerusalem, August 29-September 5 1992 held at the Hebrew University, Jerusalem. NP
- 1992 J.Gibert, **M.J.Walker**: "New hominid remains and Mousterian artefacts from Murcia, S.E. Spain: Cabezo Gordo (Torre Pacheco) and Cueva Negra de La Encarnación (Caravaca)" in Symposium On The Mitochondrial Debate And The Origin Of Modern Humans, September 23-25 1992 held at the International Institute for the Study of Man, Cortona, Italy. NP
- 1992 J.Gibert Clois, **M.J.Walker**: "Hominid remains from the Middle Palaeolithic sites at Cabezo Gordo (Torre Pacheco, Murcia, Spain) and Cueva Negra de La Encarnación (Caravaca, Murcia, Spain)" in Eighth Congress of the European Anthropological Association, September 6-10 1992 (at Universidad Complutense, Madrid) NP
- 1992 **M.J.Walker**, J.Zapata Crespo: "Life and death in Roman Spain: the cemetery series from Puerto de Mazarrón, Murcia" in Eighth Congress of the European Anthropological Association, September 6-10 1992 held at the Universidad Complutense, Madrid. NP
- 1992 J.Gibert Clois (presenter), P.Palmqvist, F.Sánchez, **M.J.Walker**, J.L.Santamaría, B.Martínez, F.Ribot: "The human remains from the Orce and Cueva Victoria sites" in Eighth Congress of the European Anthropological Association, September 6-10 1992 held at the Universidad Complutense, Madrid. NP
- 1992 Primer Simposi Del Poblament Dels Pirineus, Andorra la Vella, Andorra, October 22-24 1992 held at the Centre de Congresos, Andorra la Vella, Andorra. **M.J.Walker**: "Indo-European and pre-Indo-European in Peninsular palaeoanthropology" NP
- 1992 **M.J.Walker**: "La Cueva Negra de La Encarnación de Caravaca de la Cruz, Murcia: campaña de 1.991" in III Jornadas de Arqueología Regional, May 4-8 1992 held at the Dirección General de Cultura, Consejería de Cultura, Educación y Turismo de la Comunidad Autónoma de la Región de Murcia, Murcia. Publication: (FT) see B. *ARTICLES: B-2. ARTICLES IN SPANISH-LANGUAGE JOURNALS, YEARBOOKS, ANNUALS*, etc (1998)
- 1992 **M.J.Walker**: "La Cueva Negra de La Encarnación de Caravaca de la Cruz, Murcia: campaña de 1.991" in III Jornadas de Arqueología Regional, May 4-8 1992 held at the Dirección General de Cultura, Consejería de Cultura, Educación y Turismo de la Comunidad Autónoma de la Región de Murcia, Murcia. **M.J.Walker**, J.Zapata Crespo: "Estudio osteológico de la necrópolis de la Calle de la Era (Puerto de Mazarrón)" Publication: (FT) see B. *ARTICLES: B-2. ARTICLES IN SPANISH-LANGUAGE JOURNALS, YEARBOOKS, ANNUALS*, etc (1998)
- 1991 **M.J.Walker**: "La Universidad de Oxford en los Picos de Europa: Los primeros años, 1961-1965" in Primer Congreso Espeleológico Internacional Sobre Picos de Europa, October 12-13 1992 held at the Universidad de Oviedo, Oviedo, Asturias, Spain. NP
- 1991 **M.J.Walker**: "Los sedimentos del Pleistoceno Superior de la Cueva Negra de la Encarnación, Caravaca de la Cruz (Murcia): campaña de 1.990" in II Jornadas de Arqueología Regional, June 4-7 1991 held at the Dirección General de Cultura, Consejería de Cultura, Educación y Turismo de la Comunidad Autónoma de la Región de Murcia, Murcia. Publications: (FT) see B. *ARTICLES: B-2. ARTICLES IN SPANISH-LANGUAGE JOURNALS, YEARBOOKS, ANNUALS*, etc (1996); see also C. *CONTRIBUTIONS IN BOOKS, ACTS OF MEETINGS*, etc. (1991) Publication: see C. *CONTRIBUTIONS IN BOOKS, ACTS OF MEETINGS*, etc.
- 1990 **M.J.Walker**: "La 'des-construcción' del pasado: la educación de los alumnos universitarios en la Arqueología científica" in Second World Archaeological Congress, Barquisimeto, Venezuela, September 4-8 1990 held at the Hotel Hilton, Barquisimeto, Venezuela. NP
- 1990 **M.J.Walker**: "Out of the dirt, into the computer. Agenda for Ecotechnology in SE. Spain" in Second World Archaeological Congress, Barquisimeto, Venezuela, September 4-8 1990 held at the Hotel Hilton, Barquisimeto, Venezuela. **M.J.Walker**: "Out of the dirt, into the computer. Agenda for Ecotechnology in SE. Spain" Publication: see C. *CONTRIBUTIONS IN BOOKS, ACTS OF MEETINGS*, etc. (1990)
- 1989 **M.J.Walker**: "Skeletons in our cupboards" in Archaeological Ethics And The Treatment Of The Dead, World Archaeological Congress First Inter-Congress, August 7-10 1989 held at the University of South Dakota, Vermillion, South Dakota, USA. (This invited paper, for reasons never satisfactorily explained, does not appear in the volume of pre-circulated papers organised by Dr.L.Zimmerman, and despite his promise that publication of the Congress would take place, it has not done so and undoubtedly never will.) NP
- 1989 **M.J.Walker**: "Analogies oportunes i inoportunes en la investigació prehistòrica: la descomposició del passat" in Coloquio Internacional Sobre El Canvi Cultural A La Prehistòria, March 2-4 1989, organised by the Universidad de Barcelona and Caixa de Catalunya, Barcelona, held at the Aula Cultural de la Caixa. Publication: (FT) see C. *CONTRIBUTIONS IN BOOKS, ACTS OF MEETINGS*, etc (1990)

- 1989 **M.J.Walker**: "El Abrigo 2 de El Milano (Mula, Murcia): nuevas aportaciones antropológicas sobre el proceso funerario en el Eneolítico" in VI Congreso de la Sociedad Española de Antropología Biológica, Bilbao, September 18-22 1989 held at the Teatro Arriaga, Bilbao. Publication: (FT) see C. *CONTRIBUTIONS IN BOOKS, ACTS OF MEETINGS, etc* (1991)
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