Abstract #: 2863

VARIATION IN THE SHAPE OF POLISHED STONE AXES AS A RESULT OF SMALL DECISIONS WITHIN BORDERS OF SHARED MANUFACTURING PRACTICE

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The manufacturing process of axes, adzes and other neolithic polished stone tool implements is, in comparison with the manufacture of lithic stone tools or pottery vessels, a lengthy one. The process comprises of many small decisions that end up embodied in the final form of the artefact. These decisions are on the one hand of technological nature, influenced by the irregularities of raw material or experience of the artefact creator and on the other hand subject to the manufacturer's creativity and innovation.
Despite many points of small decisions in the manufacturing process where a substantial variation of the final form can originate, various types of polished stone tools show a great deal of similarity in space and time. This speaks for a shared idea of both the final shape the artefact takes and the manufacturing practice itself.
Employing formal shape analysis allows to assess the degree of similarity of polished stone tools and identify possible irregularities in the observed distribution patterns. The poster presents a case study from the Neolithic period in the Czech Republic, where variation in the shape of polished stone axes is examined and the reasons behind this variation are explored based on deviations in shared manufacturing practices.

Keywords
neolithic, polished stone tools, shape, morphometrics

Note/comment