

INTERACTION IN THE CIRCUMPOLAR PACIFIC SPHERE: 5000 BC TO AD 1

Holiday Inn Peterborough-Waterfront
150 George St, Peterborough, Ontario, K9J 3G5, Canada
17-18 September 2018



Photo courtesy of John Darwent.



Social Sciences and Humanities
Research Council of Canada

Conseil de recherches en
sciences humaines du Canada

Canada



Conference Schedule






Photos courtesy of Victor Dyakonov


This two-day event will address interaction and migration in the Circumpolar Pacific during a key period for understanding Arctic settlement, encompassing remarkable technological, economic and social developments which are seldom acknowledged in traditional narratives of developments in human innovation and complexity. The event unites emerging scholars and established experts from East Asia and North America in order to share regional datasets and synthesize a cohesive narrative for periodic booms in long-distance migration and interaction, including the development of technologically advanced maritime-adapted Arctic cultures.

September 17		
7:00-9:30 Individual breakfast (hotel restaurant)		
9:30	<p>Lisa Janz, Organizer and Facilitator, Trent University</p> <p>Welcome and introduction</p>	

<p>10:00</p>	<p>Alexander Nikolaevich Popov, Far Eastern Federal University, Neolithic of the Southern Far East of Russia</p> <p>Artifacts, Environment, Human Adaptation</p>	
<p>One of the most notable characteristic of human habitation in the Maritime Region of the Russian Far East is that cultural shifts over the past 11,000 years closely mirror changes in landscape and climate. This presentation will discuss fundamental changes in archaeological cultures and corresponding natural processes such as the landscape transformations and changes in floral and faunal assemblages connected to fluctuations in sea level, temperature, and humidity. In the Maritime Region, changes in sea level beginning at 7000 BP created richly biodiverse landscapes where local peoples began intensively exploiting maritime resources, where they left traces of complex social interactions that include ritual burial, skull modification, elaborate personal ornamentation, and even violent conflict. These developments occur across the northern Pacific Rim and are interconnected with the development of complex social systems and elaborate food procurement technologies fundamental to Circumpolar Pacific cultures.</p>		
<p>10:45</p>	<p>Katsunori Takase, Hokkaido University</p> <p>Chronology, occupation, and trade in Northern Japan and the Kuril Islands</p>	
<p>This talk focuses on current achievements on chronology of prehistoric cultures in the Middle and Late Holocene in Northern Japan and the Kuril Islands. Occupation history and long-distance trade in these regions are also reviewed on the basis of studies on radiocarbon dating, pottery, and lithic raw materials. Through an examination of these issues, we aim to evaluate the historical significance of these regions in a broader context in Northeastern Asia with reference to archaeological researches in Russian Far East.</p>		

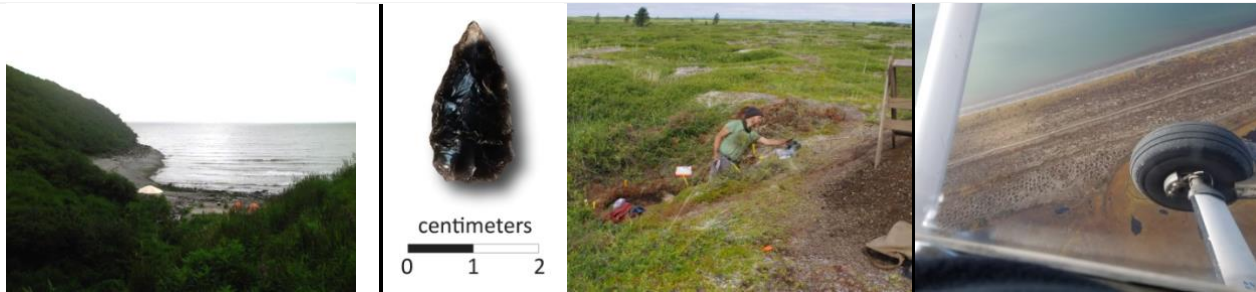
<p>11:30</p>	<p>Victor Mikhailovich Dyakonov, Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences</p> <p>Interaction of prehistoric cultures of Yakutia and the Circumpolar Pacific region in the Neolithic and Bronze Age</p>	
	<p>This presentation will address issues of cultural interaction and the dynamics of cultural development among ancient populations of Yakutia and the Circumpolar North Pacific during the Neolithic and Bronze Ages. Important developments include neolithization processes, including changes in technology, diet, and social complexity, as well as the issues of the spread of bronze metallurgy. The region is characterized by a backbone of extremely stable cultural elements which were disseminated throughout the Circumpolar Pacific and beyond. These traditions are defined in the symbolic codes of cultures, encrypted in technological features of processing stone and bone, making pottery, ritual practices, and the ornaments and patterns used in artwork. This study will bring forward the latest data to explore mutual influences among archaeological cultures of Yakutia and the Arctic Circumpolar North Pacific, exploring their genesis, evolution, transformation and migration processes in antiquity.</p>	
<p>12:15</p>	<p>Open discussion on East Asian archaeological record</p>	
<p>12:45</p>	<p>Break for lunch (By the Bridge, 382 Water Street N.)</p>	

<p>2:30</p>	<p>John and Christyann Darwent, University of California, Davis</p> <p>Difchahak and the Emergence of the Norton Tradition in Southern Norton Sound (with Jason Miszaniec)</p>	
<p>Based on currently available evidence, the southern Norton Sound area appears to have been abandoned by people associated with the Denbigh Flint complex around 1500 BC. The reasons for this abandonment, a phenomenon that occurred across Alaska, are not well understood. While people associated with the Norton tradition—the Choris horizon—appear in the Kotzebue Sound area around 800 BC, radiocarbon evidence from Iyatayet and Difchahak suggest that Norton groups moved into an empty southern Norton Sound around 400 BC. Moreover, when this move occurred, it appears that it was a wholesale movement of an already-developed economic and social system into the area. The site of Difchahak was large, multi-housed village site from the onset and not part of a system that arose in situ. Here we delve into repopulation of the southern Norton Sound region by the Norton tradition, with a focus on evidence for extra-regional connections.</p>		
<p>3:15</p>	<p>Owen Mason, University of Colorado in Boulder</p> <p>Five Thousand Years of Eurasian Influence along the Bering Strait: The Tail of Asia or the Crossroads of Continents?</p>	
<p>The last five millennia have witnessed numerous cycles of migration and cultural exchange across the Bering Strait, with the pace of interaction accelerating during the last millennium. Developmental trajectories in Bering Strait track climate change, the distribution of ice cover, and, very likely, political and economic shifts across northeast Asia. Ceramic technology arrived in Bering Strait around 3000 years ago, associated with increasing salmon-based sedentism along the Alaskan and Chukotkan littoral. Subsequently, walrusing and whaling were elaborated in core areas adjacent haul-outs or promontories, rocky headlands or spits, that intersected migration routes. The interest of the state societies in procuring walrus ivory is well known and may have contributed to the subsequent rise of complex societies in Bering Strait as communities obtained iron and bronze possibly in trade for ivory.</p>		

<p>4:00</p>	<p>Erik Gjesfjeld, Cambridge University Benefits and Risks of Networking in the Kuril Islands</p>	
	<p>The Kuril Islands of Northeast Asia are a small chain of volcanic islands that present numerous challenges for habitation including frequent natural disasters, harsh winters, and challenging seafaring conditions. Here, I will explore the role of social networks in mitigating these environmental conditions by comparing the structure of networks in regions with varying degrees of environmental risk. Results from this work broadly highlight that networks in areas of greater environmental variability (i.e. the remote Kuril Islands) tend to have higher density and longer network ties than areas of less variability. Despite a constraining natural environment, maritime hunter-gatherer communities of the Kuril Islands were pushed to participate in an emerging regional exchange system.</p>	
<p>4:45</p>	<p>Discussion of potential directions for synthesis</p>	
<p>5:00</p>	<p>Session breaks for the day</p>	
<p>6:30</p>	<p>Meet in lobby for walk to restaurant (Ashburnham Ale House, 128 Hunter Street E.)</p>	

September 18

The second day will be focused on semi-structured discussion with agenda items, aimed at developing the synthetic article(s). I will begin by outlining a preliminary synthesis as it may have arisen during the previous session. Individual participants are welcome to share regional information and pictures as relevant.



Photos courtesy of John Darwent

7:00-9:30 Individual breakfast (hotel restaurant)

9:30	Semi-structured discussion: Here we will look closely at what the combined datasets say about trends in circumpolar migration and interaction and what gaps remains in our knowledge, especially with regards to five key categories: a) environment; b) technology; c) diet; d) trade and migration; e) Arctic expansion. What factors appear to drive expansion and contraction of long-distance interaction?
12:45	Break for lunch (By the Bridge, 382 Water Street N.)
2:30	Output planning session: discuss contents of edited volume, potential publishers and additional contributors, assignment of research tasks for synthesis, task completion timeline, possibilities for dissemination to non-academic audiences
5:00	Session breaks
6:30	Meet in lobby for walk to restaurant (St. Veronus, 129 Hunter Street W.)

September 19

7:00-9:00 **Individual breakfast** (hotel restaurant)

9:00 **Check out and meet in lobby for 9:30 departure to Toronto and Pearson Airport**

A special thank-you for the logistical support of Cathy Schoel, Amanda Cummings, Angela Evoy, and Svetlana Komarova.



Archaeological photographs courtesy of **Victor Dyakonov** and **John Darwent**.

Pastries from **Talbot's Bakery** (09/17) and **Blackhoney Café** (09/18).

Travel arrangements from **Wendy Clarence** through **Merit Travel**
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merit travel

Interpretation provided by **Igor Trutanow** and **Igor Maslov** through Asiatis Translation Services
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