

Neolithisation from the Seas of Japan across the North Eurasian Greenbelt

*International Workshop on developing an interdisciplinary perspective merging
archaeology, geography, linguistics, anthropology, genetics and biology*

**Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures
29 November 2018**

Organisers:

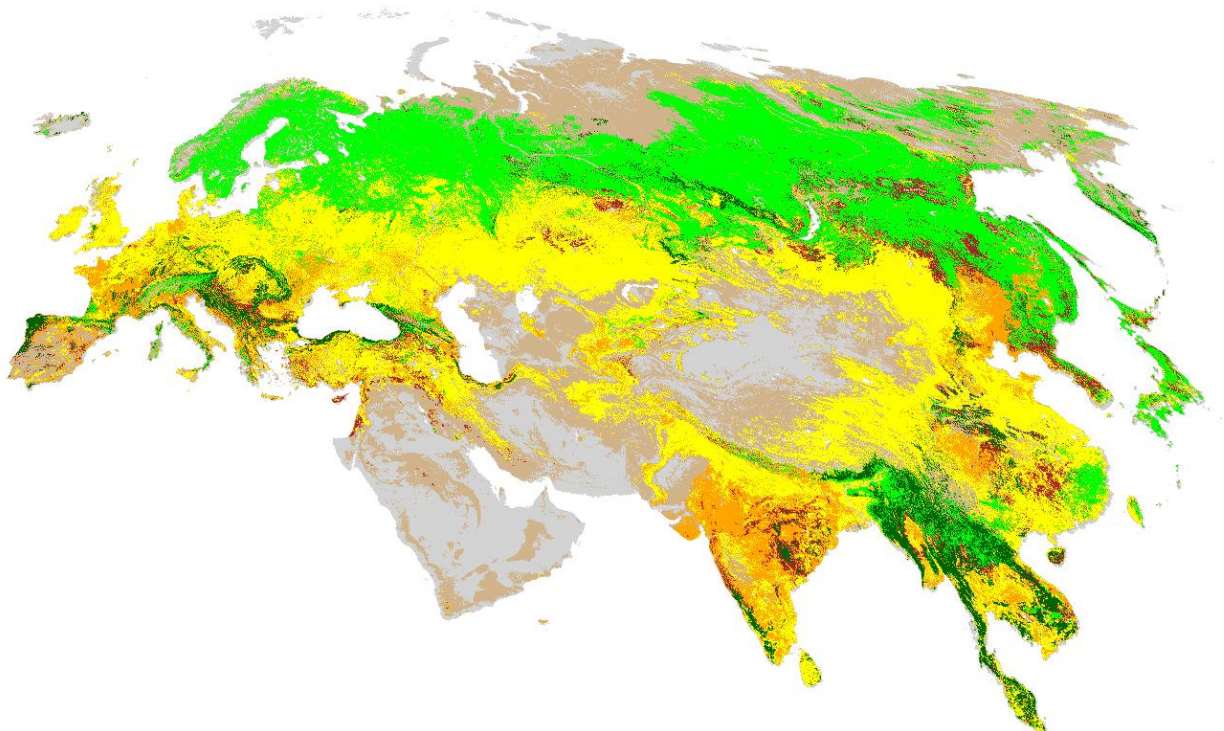
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Dr Mark Hudson (Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History)
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Eurasia3angle project, Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History

Sponsored by:

Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures

*The workshop is free to attend and open to students and scholars interested in the subject.
Registration is essential as seats are limited. Please contact the Sainsbury Institute to book your
place on 01603 597 507 or email us on sisjac@sainsbury-institute.org*



The green zone is the areas covered with forests. Source: Climate and vegetation research group, Boston University
(<http://cybele.bu.edu/research/lcc/gallerylcc.html>)

Introduction

The 'North Eurasian Greenbelt' (NEG), which is the sub-boreal and temperate mixed forest zone with water systems rich in rivers and lakes stretching from the seas of the Japanese Archipelago to northcentral Eurasia, has been one of the most productive biomes in the Northern Hemisphere since the early Holocene. While biodiverse woodlands and bottomlands allowed people to create high levels of cultural diversity, the NEG has experienced complex population dynamics throughout its history. The workshop organized by the Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures together with the Eurasia3angle project, Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History and in cooperation with the Centre for Japanese Studies, University of East Anglia, aims at discussing the socio-ecological conditions behind historical population dynamics and cross-cultural exchanges as well as the impact of the long-term environmental changes which influenced the formation of cultural landscapes in the NEG, focusing on the overall process of Neolithisation. Neolithisation, the transitional period from nomadic foragers' landscapes to agrarian ones, was a revolutionary period in the history of human-nature relations, the definition of which is modelled on lower latitude areas such as the Yellow/Yangtze basins and the Middle East. However, the cultural histories of the NEG Neolithisation are quite different from those at lower latitudes, the primary feature being long hunter-gatherer sequences, although the introduction of pottery occurred several millennia earlier than lower latitude areas. Although severe natural conditions like colder temperatures might have made the establishment of agrarian societies difficult, many cultivated plants including millets and beans appeared and spread in early stages in Neolithisation. Now the questions are: What socio-ecological factors were driving forces in the development of such characteristics? How did environmental conditions and changes influence the process? What impact did such a Neolithisation process give to the population dynamics in and outside of the NEG? To answer these questions, an interdisciplinary approach is indispensable, integrating data, analyses and theories widely between related disciplines.

Goal of Workshop

Even though much is unknown about the socio-ecological conditions and historical dynamics of the NEG, recent studies in linguistics and archaeogenetics have revealed that the area from northeastern to northcentral Eurasia was key in human movements and expansions across the globe, and that the NEG's woodland environments and resources played a prominent role in that advance. In collaboration with the Eurasia3angle project at the Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History, the goal of this workshop is to develop an integrative perspective on historical dynamics combining archaeology, geography, linguistics, anthropology, genetics and biology, toward an interdisciplinary future project.

Organization of Sessions

The workshop consists of *three* sessions: The first consists of papers focusing on demographic dynamics of Neolithisation from the late Pleistocene to the mid Holocene by specialists in linguistics, genetics and geography. The second considers the environmental background and socio-ecological conditions in the NEG by discussing subsistence activities and available resources. Insights generated by the first and second sessions will be integrated into the third session, which will take the format of a concluding discussion led by the plenary speakers to generate global insights into historical human-nature interactions in the NEG.

Programme

Thursday 29 November (Open seminar):

Venue:

Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures
64 The Close, NR1 4DH
01603-597-507

9.30-10.00 Registration & Coffee

10.00-10.30 Opening speech (Simon Kaner), Introduction (Junzo Uchiyama)

10.30-12.00 *Session 1: Human migrations and Cultural Interactions in NEG*

Chao Ning (Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History)

“Genetic Perspective on the peopling of the Transeurasian region”

Alexander Savelyev (Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History)

“Farming/Language Dispersal Hypothesis and the origin of the Transeurasian languages”

J. Christopher Gillam (Winthrop University)

“The Potential of GIScience for Understanding Neolithic Eurasian Migrations and Population Dynamics: Perspectives from the Pleistocene of East Asia and the Americas” (provisional)

12.00-13.00 Lunch break

13.00-15.00 *Session 2: Socio-ecological background of the population dynamics*

Junzo Uchiyama (Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures)

“Neolithisation allergy? Comparative perspectives on hunter-gatherer archaeology of Northeast Asia and Northeast Europe across North Eurasia”

Mark Hudson (Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History)

“How I learned to stop worrying about the Jōmon and love the term ‘Neolithic’”

Ilona Bausch (Academic Associate, Sainsbury Institute)

Tsuneo Nakajima (Professor Emeritus, Okayama University of Science)

“Pharyngeal tooth remains from the prehistoric archaeological sites in Japan and China” (provisional)

15.00-15.15 Break

15.15-16.15 *Session 3: Discussion*

Discussants:

Simon Kaner (Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures)

Ryuzaburo Takahashi (Waseda University)