



# Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Archaeology

Paleoenvironmental reconstruction during the transition Middle to Upper Palaeolithic in European refugia

**Instituto Internacional de Investigaciones Prehistóricas de Cantabria - IIIPC (Santander, Spain) – Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology (Leipzig, Germany)**

1 year contract from January 2013

Advisors: Ana B. Marín-Arroyo (IIIPC) and Michael Richards (Max Planck Institute)

This Postdoctoral project focuses on the palaeoeconomic perspective of the on-going debate about the causes of the rapid replacement of Neanderthals by modern humans in Europe around  $\pm 45$  kyr BP. This position will be undertaken within the EUROREFUGIA project: “Human subsistence and climate change in European refugia: late Neanderthals and early modern humans” funded by a Marie Curie Career Integration Grants. Its aim is to characterize the hunting skills of both human species and, above all, their ability to cope with changing environments. To do so, a general palaeoenvironmental framework is needed. The successful applicant will be responsible for helping to define this framework in one of the most relevant areas for this time period, the Cantabrian Region (northern Spain). This information will be then contextualized with the available zooarchaeological data in order to explore the relationship between the strategies of subsistence carried out by both human species and the palaeoenvironmental constrains. Specifically, the project will consist of 1) palaeoclimatic reconstruction based on isotopic analyses on bone samples from the most hunted animal species in several archaeological sites during the transitional period, and 2) its correlation with other climatic proxies in order to better establish the existing climatic conditions.

The material is deposited in several Prehistory local museums, which the candidate must visit during the project. The zooarchaeological lab of the IIIPC (University of Cantabria) will be the main host of the candidate, and the candidate will also spend time preparing and measuring samples at the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig.

Successful candidates must have a Ph.D. in archaeology or any specific field related to this position, proven experience by means of peer-reviewed publications in stable isotope analysis and relevant knowledge of palaeoenvironmental reconstructions based on different proxies. Candidates should also have previous technical skills in sampling, laboratory analytics and results interpretation. Previous research experience in the period of study and zooarchaeology would be advantageous. Fluency in English is requested and basic level in Spanish is recommended (although not required).



The candidate must have Spanish nationality or from any other member state of the European Union or from a state for which, under the international treaties established by E. U. and ratified by Spain, free movement of workers is permitted. Applicants with different nationality to that mentioned above may also apply if they can prove to be in the possession of a work permit and residence in Spain.

The candidate must have a PhD in a research field related to this particular announcement. The qualifications issued outside Spain that are intended to be used in this procedure must be in accordance with the current regulations (Management Circular No. 134, UC <http://www.unican.es/iiipc/instituto/Becas+y+Contratos.htm>).

#### Application Instructions

The candidate must submit to [coie.uc@unican.es](mailto:coie.uc@unican.es) by **November 14<sup>th</sup> at 13:00 hours**

- cover letter
- curriculum vitae
- the names and emails of three referees
- photocopy of ID or passport
- photocopy of the PhD thesis title
- the next application form [www.coie.unican.es/bloques/ofertasuc/impresosolicitud.doc](http://www.coie.unican.es/bloques/ofertasuc/impresosolicitud.doc)

The shortlisted candidates will be interviewed at the end of November (likely by phone or video conference). The successful candidate will start the postdoctoral position at the beginning of January 2013. The candidate will hold a one year contract within the IIIPC, University of Cantabria and will also be a visiting researcher at the Max Planck Institute.

The Instituto Internacional de Investigaciones Prehistoricas de Cantabria (IIIPC) is an equal opportunity employer. The IIIPC is dedicated to the goal of reconstructing past human societies. Its diverse, distinguished staff includes researchers specialized in Palaeolithic art, Palaeolithic and Mesolithic adaptations in Atlantic southern Europe, the Near Eastern origins of neolithic farmers, south American hunter-gatherers, zooarchaeology and taphonomy. <http://www.unican.es/iiipc>