THE LATE MAGDALENIAN OF GÖNNERSDORF AND ITS HEADLESS ANTHROPOMORPHIC DEPICTIONS. ON SOCIAL COHERENCE AND THE LATE UPPER PALAEOLITHIC COLONIZATION OF CENTRAL EUROPE

Abstract

This paper presents a brief review of the present state of research on the Late Magdalenian site of Gönnersdorf. It attempts to provide an improved, synthetic and 'holistic' interpretation of the site, with a focus on its spatial data and the rich body of its 'artistic' expression. The 'Gönnersdorf-type' headless anthropomorphic depictions serve as the backbone of a diachronic and supra-regional comparison of Late Upper Palaeolithic anthropomorphic depictions. Between ~19,000 and 14,000 cal BP "headlessness" appears to have been an important subject that was shared between different Late Upper Palaeolithic societies of Europe and its neighbours. The geographic and diachronic variability and the cultural contexts of these depictions, however, imply that different worldviews and/or belief systems are reflected in the different styles of anthropomorphic representations. The observed homogenisation that accounts for the Late Magdalenian 'Gönnersdorf-type' headless anthropomorphic depictions is argued to have enhanced social interconnectedness and cohesion on supra-regional scale and that the establishment of newly organized social-cultural systems has supported the successful colonization of central Europe from ~16,000 cal BP onwards.

Keywords

Palaeolithic art, headless anthropomorphic depictions, Late Magdalenian, socio-cultural rules and regulations, base camp

PREFACE

When I first visited what is today the MONREPOS Archaeological Research Centre and Museum for Human Behavioural Evolution, I got to know Elaine and Martin, who welcomed me in the castle's *Jagdhaus*. It didn't take me long to realize that both of them were essentially humanized reference books of Prehistoric archaeology, and I probably learned more from each of them than I did from university. Over the course of the past decades Elaine and Martin were deeply engaged in numerous research projects in which they addressed a plethora of topics within Pleistocene and Early Holocene archaeology. But they were always united in their joint interest in zooarchaeology and its contributions to understanding how past human groups coped with the challenges of their everyday lives and consequently managed to survive. Probably, one of the most impressive analyses Elaine and Martin jointly published is the monographic presentation of their research on "The Faunal Remains from Gönnersdorf" (Street and Turner, 2013), in which they present the results of their in-depth study of a material they began to work with shortly after they arrived in Germany. The results of this comprehensive work provide not only the raw data for an improved understanding of Late Magdalenian adaptations and lifeways, but also shed fresh light on a synthetical interpretation of the Gönnerdorf openair site (Fig. 1), which is more in line with all the other evidence the site has provided us with.



Fig. 1 Gönnersdorf, showing excavated areas and trenches (grey) between modern buildings (black). Within the excavated area, arrangements of larger stones and artefical pits allow to distinguish the different concentrations (from south to north: concentrations K-I, K-SW, K-IIB, K-III), K-IV). Elevations are given in metres above sea-level. – (Modified from: Jöris et al., 2011; Jöris and Moseler, 2021a).

WHY GÖNNERSDORF?

The present contribution attempts to bring together the different topics the site of Gönnersdorf, excavated by Gerhard Bosinski between 1968 and 1976 over a total area of 687 m² (Bosinski, 1979), has touched upon since its discovery (Bosinski, 1969, 1975). Over the last 50 years, a number of 'core questions' the site seemed appropriate for addressing, have been repeatedly explored and continuously updated, corrected and refined in numerous monographs and articles.

- (1) The first of these questions relates to understanding the sites' spatial organisation and structure. At the time of its discovery, much of the research into this period was still dominated by excavations in caves and rock-shelters, and, consequently, little focus was spent on the spatial structures and features that highresolution open-air sites could provide. But new excavation methods and standards now allowed for a new quality of documentation and analytical resolution. Bosinski's work at Gönnersdorf was strongly influenced and guided by the methods developed and implemented during the excavation of the Magdalenian site of Pincevent in France (Leroi-Gourhan and Brézillon, 1966, 1972) that began shortly before and continued in parallel to Bosinski's work. These efforts were targeted at understanding the socio-economic and sociospatial organisation of Late Upper Palaeolithic hunter-gatherer lifeways and so to provide a better understanding of their "ethnologie préhistorique" (Leroi-Gourhan, 1936; cf. Valentin, 2015). Similarily, Bosinski's work at Gönnersdorf targeted the identification of spatial units and their understanding as areas of differing activities, including potential habitation structures (Bosinski, 1969, 1979, 1981, 1988, 2007). The site's large and artefact-dense concentrations were interpreted as ground plans of differently sized dwelling structures (e.g., Bosinski, 1979, 1981, 1988, 2007). Over the last decades, the interpretation of these structures and their temporal interrelations have repeatedly been addressed and changed; the present state of analyses and interpretation will be summarized below.
- (2) The second question concerns the understanding of the rich record of 'artistic' expressions that Gönnersdorf has become famous for. No other Magdalenian open-air site has produced 'artistic' expressions in anything like a comparable amount (Bosinski and Fischer, 1974, 1980; Bosinski et al., 2001; Bosinski, 2008).
- (3) The third question concerns the sites' chronostratigraphic position and, consequently, its place within the Magdalenian demographic expansion from south-western into central Europe. Initially thought to have commenced with the beginning of the period of Late Glacial warming, i.e., the "Bölling" interstadial (Brunnacker et al., 1978; Bosinski, 1981), subsequent radiocarbon dates and the ability to calibrate the radiocarbon time scale over the Glacial period that emerged in the 1990s, showed that the sustainable post-Last Glacial Maximum (LGM) re-occupation of central Europe actually commenced long before the "Bölling" interstadial (Street et al., 1994; cf. Housley et al., 1997; Stevens et al., 2009). Gönnersdorf took a prominent position in this process.

Each of these questions, however, is closely interlinked with the others and cannot be answered from studying in isolation the site's spatial structure, 'artistic' record, or radiocarbon chronology. Instead, answering each of the questions requires a much deeper, more comprehensive and synthetical approach, as the site's function(s) can only be assessed through a combination of these lines of research, and through their discussion within a widened contextual framework into which other lines of evidence from Late Upper Palaeo-

2003), the beginning of the Late Glacial interstadial, i.e., Greenland Interstadial GI 1e (cf. Rasmussen et al., 2014), is defined as the Meiendorf interstadial (cf. Street et al., 2002).

¹ With the term "Bölling" Arlette Leroi-Gourhan referred to the beginning of the Late Glacial interstadial (Brunnacker et al., 1978). In the northern half of central Europe, where the Bølling had been defined (cf. discussion in Jöris and Álvarez-Fernández,

lithic contexts will need to be included and discussed. Until now, such a holistic perspective has not been attempted for the site.

Closely connected to such a broadened contextual framework is the question to which degree the observations and interpretations made at one site can be accounted as representative, 'typical' or 'characteristic' for the entire time interval and geographical area in focus, and to which degree data from one site may be extrapolated to add to the understanding of others (e.g., Pasda, 2012; Leesch and Bullinger, 2012). Major shifts in the frames of reference and in the perspectives taken that came with the New Archaeology (e.g., Binford, 1983) opened up the possibility of alternative interpretations of site organisation and function, strongly focussing on the understanding of daily routines of Magdalenian hunter-gatherers in their socio-economic contexts (cf. e.g., Audouse, 1987; Valentin, 2015). Together with the observation that most of the activities at Magdalenian sites apparently took place in the immediate proximity to hearths (cf. Bullinger at al., 2006; Leesch and Bullinger, 2012; Leesch et al., 2004; Julien and Karlin, 2014; Zubrow at al., 2010; cf. Moseler, 2020) and the argument that the archaeological remains at (most) Palaeolithic sites would result from the 'palimpsest' accumulation of (distinct) "intermittent episodes of deposition resulting from high residential mobility" (Galanidou, 1997: 1), a widespread view of Magdalenian lifeways emerged that placed great emphasis on repetitition of the same or similar activities which are documented at many Magdalenian sites and which, therefore, are seen to reflect culturally learned activities undertaken by the members of a certain social entity (cf. Pasda, 2012). Such patterns can appear quite alike, especially in reindeer-based economies, even between sites, and show certain analogies with the enthnographic record (cf. e.g., Julien and Karlin, 2014 and references therein). Major distinctions between different sites would in this case be less likely to be based on the natural environment and site function than they were on group size, season of occupation, and frequency and duration of each of the occupations of a specific locale. This perspective closely follows Leroi-Gourhan's "palaeo-ethnological" approach (Leroi-Gourhan, 1936; cf. Valentin, 2015), and through it, one can argue for the existence of a well-defined Magdalenian behavioural canon, which could serve as a further argument for the general applicability of conclusions made from individual sites.

The interpretation of Gönnersdorf, however, stands in stark contrast to such a 'monolithic' view of the Magdalenian, and the long time period that is covered by as the concept of the "Magdalenian" (ca. 17,500-12,000 ¹⁴C BP; i.e., ~21,000-14,000 cal BP²) and its wide geographical distribution from the Iberian Peninsula to eastern central Europe (cf. Maier, 2015), add considerable variability and complexity to this perspective. Inter-site similarities and differences can be found at varying analytical levels and at varying levels of resolution, addressing different aspects of Magdalenian lifeways that allow us to go beyond the reconstruction of domestic activities. The following synthetical approach will therefore focus not only on answering the three central questions linked to the Gönnersdorf site, i. e., its spatial interpretation, 'artistic' record, and chronology. Instead, the frame of reference will be widened by the comparative study of the Late Upper Palaeolithic headless anthropomorphous depictions at the supra-regional level, and it will dive deeper into the 'cultural history' that preceeds the Late Magdalenian of Gönnersdorf to address the origins, formation and development of Late Upper Palaeolithic worldviews and belief systems as they are of relevance for understanding Gönnersdorf's site function.

chronology, calibrated dates are rounded. A more detailed discussion of chronological issues is largely based on uncalibrated radiocarbon dates.

² Radiocarbon dates were calibrated with the CalPal software (Weninger, 2021), using the IntCAL20 "Northern Hemisphere Radiocarbon Age Calibration Curve (0-55 cal kBP)" of Reimer et al. (2020). As the focus of this contribution is not on a detailed

GÖNNERSDORF RE-INTERPRETED

Elaine's and Martin's joint study of "The Faunal Remains from Gönnersdorf" reveals that the locality was used over an extended period of the year, during which at least 53 horses and numerous other animals were consumed (Street and Turner, 2013). An almost complete absence of carnivore or small mammal gnawing not only implies that the site was buried shortly after it was abandoned, but also that humans were likely present at the locale more or less continuously over the time that is represented by seasonal faunal data, i.e., disencouraging these animals to scavenge from the site (Street and Turner, 2013). With regard to its main occupation phase, dating to between ~15,600 and ~16,000 cal BP (cf. Stevens et al., 2013), these data may best be read in favour of a possibly even singular, but lengthy (probably much more than halfyear long) period of use. These data also match well with the results from intensive refitting studies (including knapped lithics and rocks) that were initially aimed at disentangling different phases of occupation of the site and at establishing an internal chronology for the site's different material concentrations (e.g., Eickhoff, 1989, 1990; Eickhoff and Lindenbeck, 1989; Veil, 1990; Terberger, 1997). All of the established relative-chronological sequences for the site have pointed to the more-or-less simultaneous use of these distinct zones (Sensburg, 2007, 2008, 2011; cf. Terberger, 1997), in contrast to many other broadly contemporary sites which are interpreted as palimpsests of repeated but short occupational phases, where refits document the sequential movement of material starting at one point and ending at another (e.g., Bullinger et al., 2006). At Gönnersdorf the different concentrations frequently interconnect by large number of longdistance refits. The outcome of comprehensive refitting efforts of different rock types, undertaken by David Batchelor in the 1970s and 1980s, is plotted on detailed plans archived in MONREPOS, and documents hundreds of refitted complexes. Among these are numerous cases in which refits span long distances between the concentrations, showing movement of materials repeatedly running back and forth, i.e., in two directions (Terberger, 1997). These data provide evidence for activities that were interconnected and took place in parallel, and differ from the evidence provided by most other sites that are interpreted as the result of more ephemeral, short-term and seasonally frequented locales at which a restricted range of activities were practiced, mostly focussed on the procurement of animal resources (e.g., Debout et al., 2012; Julien and Karlin, 2014; cf. Turner, 2002).

The relative degree of ("limited") "sedentism" proposed for Gönnersdorf (Street and Turner, 2013: 250) complements these observations, and explains to a large degree the site's richness (e.g., Franken and Veil, 1983) and the broad spectrum of activities that have been documented at it. Clearly, a temporally extended period of occupation of the site justified greater investment into the organisation of space and in architectural structures that the site provides (e.g., Bosinski, 1979, 2007; Terberger, 1997; Jöris and Terberger, 2001; Sensburg, 2007, 2008; Moseler, 2008, 2011; Jöris et al., 2011, 2021; Jöris and Moseler, 2021a, 2021b; Street and Turner, 2013). Evidence of periodic cleaning (Jöris and Moseler, 2021a) highlights the maintenance of the Gönnersdorf concentration K-IV light rectangular tent structure in the north of the excavated area that was composed of a structural frame of some of the largest schist plaquettes documented at the site, laid out as more-or-less even pacing (Fig. 2; Jöris and Terberger, 2001; Moseler, 2008, 2011). It is noteworthy that in contrast to the refit-patterns of the other concentrations – none of the plaquettes forming the rectangular frame of the K-IV construction could be refitted (which would imply transport of the material); as such these rocks appear to have been of static constructional importance, i.e., to provide structural stability: all rocks > 15 cm in maximum dimension appear to have been placed there deliberately. The area so enclosed was kept free of waste generated by the processing of fauna, and inside the tent's ~ 16 m² large rectangular ground plan, no large faunal elements were found at all (Jöris and Moseler, 2021a). In terms of its low density of finds, distinct architectural components, lack of pits and virtual absence of distinct find categories, the K-IV structure differs from the site's largest and densest concentrations (K-I, K-II), the latter of which are made up of tons of gravel and rocks transported to the site (mostly from a nearby small creek) that accumulated over the entire duration of occupation.

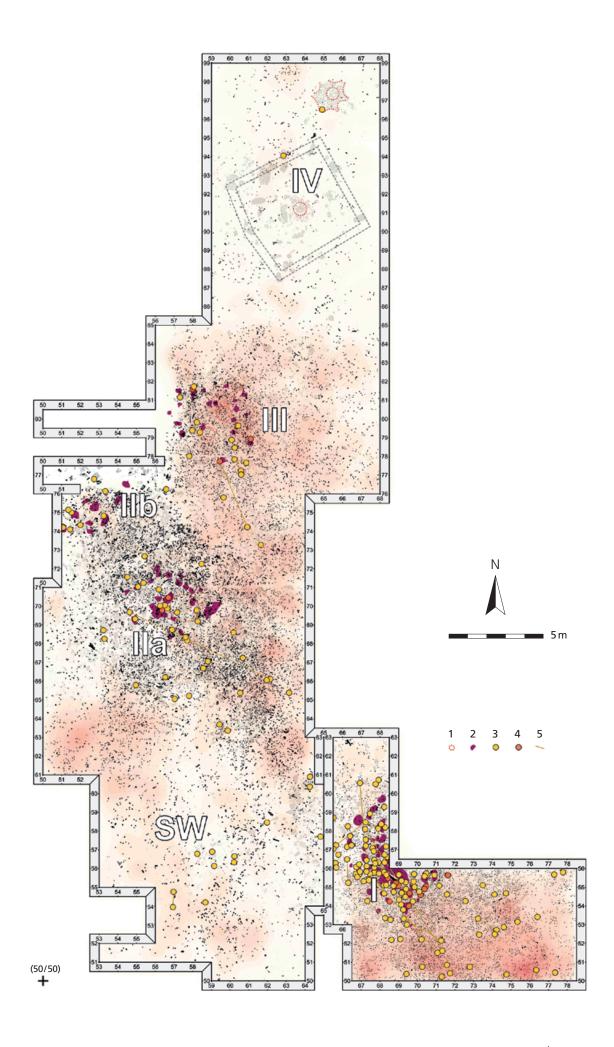
Today, the large concentrations can no longer be understood as enclosed, roof-topped constructions as they once were, but rather as areas of outdoor activities that were systematically organised spatially (Jöris et al., 2021; Sensburg, 2008). This was characterised by the constant accumulation and – over the course of occupation – re-arrangement of material over a lengthy period of time (cf. Jöris and Moseler, 2021b; Sensburg, 2007). Refits, particularly for K-II and K-III, closely link these clusters to the K-IV tent structure (Terberger, 1997). If one follows the interpretation of K-IV as a tent dedicated to resting and sleeping (hence the need to keep it clean: Jöris and Moseler, 2021a) and if one considers the immense amount of material that the large outdoor activity areas of the denser concentrations have produced, one may predict that other K-IV-like structures must have existed at the site, but which the excavations did not locate. Test sondages designed to establish the spatial extent of the site within the area covered by modern buildings were undertaken during the 1970s in parallel to the excavation, assessing large areas to the east and north of K-IV (Bosinski, 1979; cf. Fig. 1). As most of the test squares contained few artefacts only, excavations were never extended into these areas. However, the low densities of finds there show that the settlement area continued over a surface of at least ~400 m² or even more. The fact that no dense find scatters have been detected there, allows us to assume that at least no dense concentrations like those of K-I, K-II or K-III would be expected there. But this projection does not imply that there were no further light structures characterised by low find densities that could resemble (a) K-IV-like structure(s). Future fieldwork could target this question and test this hypothesis.

The complex spatial patterns of refitted materials at Gönnersdorf are most suggestive of activities that were sequentially linked and which accumulated in parallel over a long period of time, ultimately forming dense concentrations of material (Sensburg, 2011), rather than repetitive but temporally disconnected short-term activities that spanned a longer period (several years) of repeated but discontinuous site use, also involving the regular use of fire (Moseler, 2020). As many of the individual quotidian activities that took place at Gönnersdorf were of quite ephemeral character; we are therefore presented with palimpsests of such short-term activities. Refitting, raw-material and size-sorting studies have, however, shown that these palimpsests did not lead to a horizontal disturbance (i. e., spreading-out) of materials; instead they remained more-or-less in place, where they were constantly re-arranged and re-cycled in subsequent activities (e. g., Jöris and Moseler, 2021b; cf. Terberger, 1997). There is probably no other site of this period that reveals an equally broad spectrum of activities and/or equally intense traces of them; these include the intensive use of (non-knapped) schist, quartzite, quartz, and occasionally basalt (e. g., Batchelor, 1979; Terberger, 1997), partly as architectural elements used to structure and organise the space used (Jöris et al., 2011), or as ground stone tools used as supports or anvils for numerous tasks, including hammering, battering, chiselling, drilling, and others. Most of these traces have not yet been studied exhaustively. However, use-

Fig. 2 Composite Gönnersdorf excavation plan (modified from: Jöris and Moseler, 2021a) highlighting the different concentrations (from south to north: K-I, K-SW, K-IIa, K-IIb; K-III, K-IV with the reconstructed, ~16 m² covering quadratic ground plan of a presumably light tent-like dwelling structure). Scale: 1:200.

The plan comprises (a) distribution of delibrately placed manuports (rocks and plaquettes) shown in grey in the background of the figure, overlain by (b) the relative density of small tooth fragments from the sieving remains recorded per ¼ square metre (the more intense the red, the higher the tooth fragment density; Jöris and Moseler, 2021a) and (c) faunal remains recorded as single finds (black). Hearth structures/fireplaces (1; modified from: Moseler, 2020) and artifical pits are also shown (2).

Additionally, plaquettes engraved with 'Gönnersdorf-type' depictions found in occupation level (3) and within pits (4) are plotted (modified from: Bosinski et al., 2001); refit-lines (5) between plaquette fragments that display 'Gönnersdorf-type' depictions are also included.



wear studies on flint artefacts (Sano, 2012a, 2012b, 2021) not only reveal a broad spectrum of activities within the largest concentration (K-II), but emphasise the partly intensive and long-term use of some of the tools that were used in this area alongside numerous organic implements (Tinnes, 1994; 2001). The results of use-wear studies on Gönnersdorf K-II so-called 'Western European' Meuse flint show clear differences to the results from use-wear studies of the same raw material on other Late Magdalenian sites (in terms of the activities performed and especially of the intensities of these performances), which have been interpreted as characterized by more restricted task spectra than at Gönnersdorf (Sano, 2012a, 2012b). A high degree of reduction and re-cycling of the lithic material enforces this picture (cf. Franken and Veil, 1983; Veil, 1983).

At Gönnersdorf the large concentrations were apparently areas that were communally used for most of the daily activities of the groups that came together here (Jöris et al., 2021; Sensburg, 2007, 2008, 2011; cf. Moseler, 2020). According to the exogenous raw materials that dominate the Gönnersdorf lithic assem-

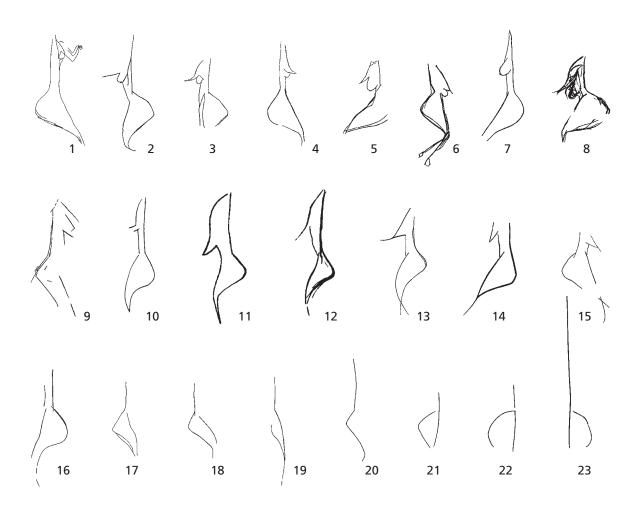


Fig. 3 Different levels of abstraction of the 'Gönnersdorf-type' engravings from the open-air site of Gönnersdorf (not to scale, but for better comparability adjusted to similar torso size; after: Gaudzinski-Windheuser and Jöris, 2015; cf. Bosinski et al. 2001). – Top row: the most complete depictions with arms and breasts (**1-6, 8**) and breasts only (**7**). Figure no. after: Bosinski et al. (2001): **1** 59.1; **2** no. 80.1; **3** no. 1.1; **4** no. 206.1; **5** no. 184.2; **6** no. 73.2; **7** no. 206.2; **8** no. 203. – Middle row: more simplified depictions with arms only (**9-15**). Figure no. after: Bosinski et al. (2001): **9** no. 204.2; **10** no. 65.1; **11** no. 65.3; **12** no. 180.2; **13** no. 205A.1; **14** no. 86.1; **15** no. 46. – Bottom row: extremely simplified depictions without arms or breasts (**16-23**). Figure no. after: Bosinski et al. (2001): **16** no. 202.1; **17** no. 43.1; **18** no. 68.5; **19** no. 72.6; **20** no. 72.7; **21** no. 72.5; **22** no. 53.3; **23** no. 213.2.



Fig. 4 Gönnersdorf. Headless anthropomorphic engravings of four hatched figures of 'Gönnersdorf-type', all facing towards the right and in alignment. Note: the second figure from the right seems to carry a smaller figure on its back. – (Photo: Volker Iserhardt, RGZM; after: Gaudzinski-Windheuser and Jöris, 2015; cf. Bosinski et al., 2001: plaquette no. 87, the so called "*Strickvenüsse*"). – Width = 8.5 cm.

blage (Floss, 1994), different groups from different regions, each about a hundred kilometres or more distant, met here, and spent a lengthy part of the year together (Street et al., 2006; Jöris et al., 2011): "Taken together, all this evidence reinforces an interpretation of Gönnersdorf as a base camp at which the full range of domestic and social activities was carried out" (Street and Turner, 2013: 250), as was previously proposed by Gerhard Bosinski (1975, 1988). However, not "all people would necessarily have been present [at Gönnerdorf] all the time or at the same time" (Street and Turner, 2013: 250). The large, communally used concentrations are also those places where almost all of the depicted animals and anthropomorphs cluster (Figs. 2-4). The site's rich body of such 'artistic' expressions underlines its particular importance among the Late Magdalenian sites of the wider region. The numerous (n \approx 249) naturalistic depictions of animals (Bosinski and Fischer, 1980; Bosinski and Bosinski, 1991; Bosinski, 2008) and the schematic representations of 'Gönnersdorf-type' anthropomorphic depictions (n \approx 423), generally interpreted to represent females (Bosinski and Fischer, 1974; Höck, 1995; Bosinski et al., 2001; Bosinski, 2011a, 2011b), may have played a significant role in Late Magdalenian communication networks (Gamble, 1982; cf. Gaudzinski-Windheuser and Jöris, 2015). The 'artistic' expressions at Gönnersdorf are spatially embedded within the remains of quotidian activities. Whatever the specific messages communicated via these depictions was, the transferal of information involving them appears to have taken place in communally used, 'public' areas of quotidian use (cf. Gaudzinski-Windheuser, 2015, 2021). The recognition of such communal or public areas is of great relevance in the context of the spatial organisation of sites such as Gönnersdorf, as they define the socio-spatial (built) environments in which a society's sets of rules and regulations do not only become most visible through constant re-iteration through practice, but likely where the validity of these sets of rules and regulations are also questioned, newly negotiated, altered or conserved when agreed upon; in short, where the rules and regulations that underpin societies are negotiated.

Overall, the combined Gönnersdorf data highlight the site's importance as a meeting point at supra-regional scale (Street et al., 2006). This is further indicated by the presence of other materials imported to the site over large distances, e.g., personal ornaments made of Mediterranean shells (Álvarez-Fernández, 2009), presumably indicative of social networks that spanned distances of hundreds of kilometres (e.g., Bosinski, 2007). Some of the highly dynamic and naturalistic depictions of animals include species which most likely no longer lived in the region at the time the site was occupied (cf. Stevens et al., 2009; Street et al., 2012), such as mammoths and several taxa of seals (Bosinski and Bosinski, 1991). This implies that at least a few individuals with detailed knowledge of such animals must have travelled over long distances to reach the German central Rhineland, where they shared information on those animals.

Comparable finds and features have been recorded from the Magdalenian site of Andernach-Martinsberg³, at about 2 km distance to the south-west and just in sight of Gönnersdorf, on the opposite bank of the River Rhine (Bosinski, 2007; Street et al., 2006). As at Gönnersdorf, evidence for long-distance imports of materials to the site is abundant, including, among other examples, a whale bone, probably a projectile foreshaft which hints at parallels with Late Magdalenian sites in the Pyrenees (Langley and Street, 2013). The Andernach specimen may have been exchanged over this long distance, just as may has been the case with the shell ornaments of "49 specimens of *Homalopoma sanguineum*, a Mediterranean marine gastropod" (Street, 2021), found next to the whale bone in a small pit. The close spatial association with an engraved schist plaquette depicting a seal (Street, 2021) may, on the other hand, suggest that the whale bone artefact and the gastropod ornaments were brought to Andernach by (an) individual(s) travelling this long distance, who were familiar with these animals.

The accumulated evidence of Gönnersdorf and Andernach-Martinsberg emphasises the sites' central position within Late Magdalenian supra-regional social networks (Street et al., 2006). Dating to ca. 15,600-16,000 cal BP (cf. Stevens et al., 2013), i.e., within Greenland Stadial GS 2.1a (cf. Rasmussen et al., 2014), the two sites are statistically indistinguishable in age, with most plausible radiocarbon dates ranging from ca. $12,990 \pm 55$ ¹⁴C BP (OxA-V-2223-42) to $13,270 \pm 55$ ¹⁴C BP (OxA-V-2223-39) (Stevens et al., 2013). Technologically and typologically they are indistinguishable, placing them into an Early Upper Magdalenian according to recent French terminology (cf. Langlais et al., 2015b, 2017; ~"Magdalenian V"). The sites display many more extremely close similarities, e.g., their organic tool types (Bosinski, 2007; Tinnes, 1994) and in the technical details that characterize the reduction of so-called "Palaeozoic Quartzite" (Heuschen, 1997; cf. Street et al., 2006). In fact, both sites appear so alike that one may easily argue that at one point during the Magdalenian Gönnersdorf was chosen as a meeting point of Late Magdalenian communities, but shortly – probably only a few years – thereafter Andernach took on the same purpose, or the other way around. But the great number of 'artistic' depictions – particularly at Gönnersdorf – highlights the sites' special position in the Late Magdalenian oikumene, which is further mirrored in their incomparably high frequency of personal ornamentation (cf. Schwendler, 2012). In fact, in comparison to other Magdalenian sites, the rich Gönnersdorf body of depictions is paralleled only by the famous rock- and cave-art sites, rather than by any other open-air locality.

titative data) are best explained by the much more fragmented and discontinuous areas of excavation at the Martinsberg site, rather than to a qualitatively different archaeological record.

³ The Late Magdalenian site of Andernach-Martinsberg is in many ways much like Gönnersdorf (Bosinski, 2007). The differences in the numbers and frequencies of certain find categories (i.e. quan-

LATE UPPER PALAEOLITHIC HEADLESS ANTHROPOMORPHIC DEPICTIONS

In the Late Upper Palaeolithic of Europe and north-eastern Africa, headless anthropomorphic depictions comprise a rich category of the 'artistic' record. In Europe they outnumber by far other more realistic (or complete) anthropomorphic/human depictions (e.g., Duhard, 1993, 1996). In their overall design they strongly contrast with the depictions of the preceding Mid-Upper Palaeolithic "Willendorf-style" which often possess heads, occasionally faces, and frequently hairstyles/hats and other details that can be interpreted as depictions of specific individuals (Gaudzinski-Windheuser and Jöris, 2015; cf. Bourrillon et al., 2012). Beginning ~19,000-18,000 cal BP, and continuing until ~14,000 cal BP, "headlessness" appears as a prominent characteristic of European anthropomorphic/human depictions (Fig. 5; cf. Tab. 1), and one may ask whether or not their penecontemporaneous continental-wide appearance may be (1) simply coincidental, (2) interpreted as a reflection of similar or convergent worldviews or belief systems and/or (3) best explained by high levels of supra-regional interconnectedness and the related transmission of ideas. In

	L. Basse and Abri Bourdois	Gö-type engravings	Gö-type figurines	Mezin female figurines (dwelling 2)	Mezin female figurines (dwelling 3)	Mezin male figurines (dwelling 2)	Mezhyrich female figurines
functions in view							
	frontal	profile	profile (frontal)	(profile) frontal	(profile) frontal	(profile) frontal	frontal
HEAD							
	no	no	no	no	no	no	no
UPPER TORSO							
neck	no	no	no	vertical lines	vertical lines (n = 1)	vertical lines	no
thoracic cage	no	no	no	chevrons	chevrons	chevrons	horizontal lines
front arms	no	frequently	no	no	no	no	no
breasts	no	occasionally	occasionally (sometimes pairs of breasts)	no	no	no	no
side	no	rarely geometrically ornamented (n = 2)	rarely geometrically ornamented (n = 1)	geometrically ornamented	geometrically ornamented	geometrically ornamented	no
back	no	_	no	geometrically ornamented	geometrically ornamented	geometrically ornamented	no
LOWER TORSO							
hips/buttocks	no	pronounced	pronounced	pronounced	pronounced	weak	no
front pubic region	pubic triangle engraved	no	no	pubic triangle engraved	pubic triangle engraved	no	pubic triangle engraved
side	no	rarely geometrically ornamented (n = 2)	no	geometrically ornamented	geometrically ornamented	no	no
back	no	_	no	geometrically ornamented	geometrically ornamented	no	no
FEET							
	no	n = 2	no	no	no	no	no

Tab. 1 Major stylistic characteristics of Late Upper Palaeolithic headless anthropomorphic respresentations.

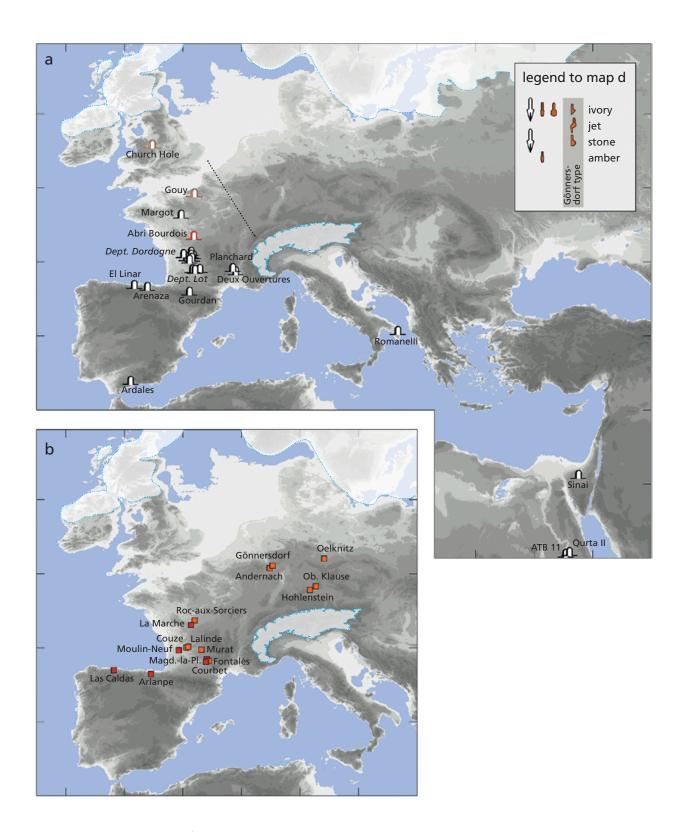
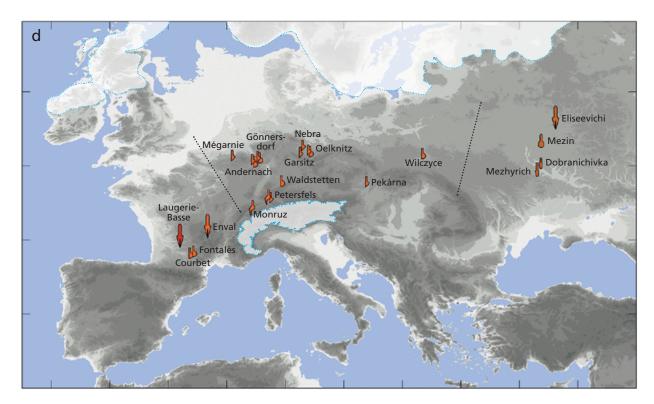
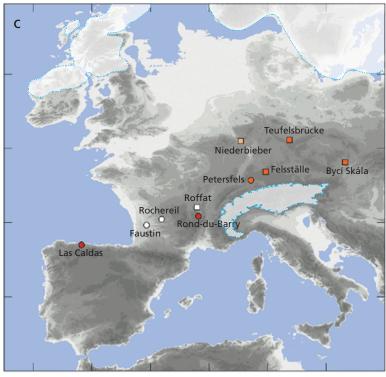


Fig. 5 Spatio-temporal context of Late Upper Palaeolithic headless anthropomorphic depictions, dating between ~ 19,000-13,000 cal BP. a depictions in rock art (mostly engraved, but in few cases engraved and painted); b engravings on stone palquettes and blocks; c engravings on pebbles (c-1: quadrats) and bones (c-2: circles); d) figurines (plastically sculpted).

Maps (modified from Gaudzinski-Windheuser and Jöris, 2015), showing coastlines, lowered for ca. -60 m compared to present-day sea level, the Northern European ice sheets at ca. 16,000 cal BP (after Hughes et al., 2016) and the Alpine ice shield at around the Last Glacial Maximum (LGM). Site references: see appendix.





~14,000 – 15,000 cal BP ~15,000 – 16,000 cal BP ~16,000 – 18,500 cal BP ~17,000 – 18,500 cal BP order to better understand the contexts of 'Gönnersdorf-type' headless anthropomorphic depictions, which make up the largest amount of Late Upper Palaeolithic anthropomorphic representations, this record will be reviewed and discussed below.

The 'Gönnersdorf-type' headless anthropomorphic depictions

'Gönnersdorf-type' depictions (Gaudzinski-Windheuser and Jöris, 2015), as they were named by Gerhard Bosinski (Bosinski, 2007: Gönnersdorf-Typ), are highly schematic, abstract and, in a way, standardised anthropomorphic representations that are generally interpreted as depicting females (cf. Lorblanchet and Welté, 1987, 1990: Lalinde/Gönnersdorf type; Delluc and Delluc, 1995: figurations féminines schématiques; cf. Bourrillon et al., 2012: Groupe A). Although mostly engraved they also appear frequently as 3-dimensionally carved figurines. Engravings are to be found on plaguettes and pebbles, on bone and in parietal art (Fig. 5). The basic shape of 'Gönnersdorf-type' depictions resembles the human body in profile view or in sagittal section (cf. Rosenfeld, 1977). The primary elements shared in these depictions form the trunk, composed of the lower body which is depicted in more-or-less triangular shape, interpreted as representing pronounced buttocks or wide hips, and the upper body which, in the case of the engravings, is usually indicated by one or two more-or-less parallel lines only (Fig. 3). In varying levels of detail other attributes may add to the primary shape of the torso: arms are the next-most frequently shown trait (depicted mainly by converging lines), and - in even fewer cases - breasts (mostly round) that may be depicted below the arms (Bosinski et al., 2001). Some of the 'Gönnersdorf-type' depictions take the form of carved ivory statuettes, a few of which possess pairs of breasts (Höck, 1995). The combination of buttocks and breasts makes it clear that females are depicted, although in a very generic and abbreviated manner. Although this interpretation seems to apply to the majority of 'Gönnersdorf-type' anthropomorphic representations, it is unclear whether it can be extended to depictions that lack clear female attributes (cf. discussion in: Floss et al., 2021).

The general absence of the head is most characteristic of all 'Gönnersdorf-type' depictions (e.g., Bosinski, 2011a, 2011b; Bosinski et al., 2001; Cluzel and Cleyet-Merle, 2011; Höck, 1995). Additionally, only a very few depictions at Gönnersdorf include feet (Bosinski et al., 2001: plaquette 73). Given that most of the 'Gönnersdorf-type' depictions are in fact engravings, any such details as heads and feet could easily have been added, if they were desired; we can therefore conclude that their omission was deliberate. In terms of the characteristics listed above, 'Gönnersdorf-type' depictions can, therefore, be clearly distinguished from other styles of Upper Palaeolithic (female) anthropomorphic representations (Bourrillon et al., 2012; cf. Duhard, 1993; Gaudzinski-Windheuser and Jöris, 2015).

Gönnersdorf alone has produced a total of almost 450 anthropomorphic representations of this type, of which some 423 are engraved on schist plaquettes (with 'Gönnersdorf-type' depictions being presented on ~185 plaquette surfaces), sometimes in scenic arrangement in pairs or in small groups (Bosinski and Fischer, 1974; Bosinski et al., 2001; Bosinski, 2011a). In one case amounting to 22 figures, they have been arranged successively in different groups, with the largest group in this arrangement composed of 17 figures (Bosinski et al., 2001: plaquette 65). About 20 'Gönnersdorf-type' depictions are known from Andernach-Martinsberg (Bosinski, 1994), and in addition to these a number of figurines were made on ivory, schist or other stones (Höck, 1995). It should be emphasised that these numbers are approximations only, given that a certain number of the simplest and most abstract depictions may or may not be included in this category; when depictions possess all stylistic elements, i. e., hips, arms and breasts, the depicted motif appears beyond any doubt to represent a 'Gönnersdorf-type' depiction, but especially when extreme schematic depictions (alike Fig. 3: bottom line) are overlain or underlain by other engraved lines, their recognition and interpretation

is difficult. Some of the simplest depictions attributed to the 'Gönnersdorf-type' (e.g., Fig. 3: 21-23) are almost indistinguishable from the 'claviform signs' of franco-cantabrian cave art (e.g., Fuentes et al., 2019) – the latter, however, are usually viewed upside-down when compared to 'Gönnersdorf-type' depictions. In some of the 'Gönnersdorf-type' depictions, it seems that the engraver's tool slipped somewhat, resulting in body proportions that diverge from the 'standard', e.g., hip-to-back angles (Bosinski et al., 2001), and which, therefore, makes it unclear whether they are attributable to the canon.

The same difficulties arise when such simple and schematic motifs are composed of a few lines only, including a certain amount of depictions at several other sites where depictions appear restricted to the torso, which is engraved as a (sometimes elongated) double S-shaped figure. With this in mind, one has to acknowledge that the evidence at some sites that are often referred to for comparison (cf. Bosinski et al., 2001; Bosinski, 2011a, 2011b; Gaudzinski-Windheuser and Jöris, 2015; Rios-Garaizar et al., 2015), may not be as clear as is usually assumed. This is more problematic when unambiguous 'Gönnersdorf-type' anthropomorphic depictions are otherwise not present at such sites where similar examples have been said to exist (e.g., Pettitt, 2007; Mussi and De Marco, 2008).

Even though a few depictions may have been over-interpreted, therefore, their uniquely high number at Gönnersdorf (cf. Schwendler, 2012) and their spatial 'omnipresence' in the site's larger concentrations (Fig. 2; Bosinski et al., 2001) enhances the interpretation that the site may have served, among other functions (see above), as a meeting point for different foraging groups: a context in which the 'Gönners-dorf-type' anthropomorphic representations may have had a particular importance for social scaffolding (Gaudzinski-Windheuser and Jöris, 2015) and the implementation of rules and regulations. Here, they appear to have been embedded into quotidian activities within communally-used space, from which one can infer that 'Gönnersdorf-type' depictions played a role in the public, everyday transmission of social rules and regulations. The existence of some scenic depictions, interpreted as reflecting dance (Bosinski et al., 2001; cf. Gaudzinski-Windheuser and Jöris, 2015), may hint at their use in festival and/or ritual contexts.

Chronology and context of the 'Gönnersdorf-type' headless anthropomorphic depictions in central Europe

The degree of abstraction and schematisation and the relative standardisation of 'Gönnersdorf-type' anthropomorphic representations suggests that they functioned as symbols of (a) socially shared idea(s) (Gaudzinski-Windheuser and Jöris, 2015; cf. Bourrillon et al., 2012). The complete lack of any obvious individual traits on the 'Gönnersdorf-type' anthropomorphic representations, in particular their "headlessness", reinforces the notion that this symbol carried no information on specific individuals, but rather concerned the gender-related role(s) of females in Late Magdalenian societies (cf. Gaudzinski-Windheuser and Jöris, 2015). Given this degree of abstraction, one may infer that the full meaning of this symbol could only be discerned by those individuals who were socialized within the Magdalenian groups that employed this symbol. Beginning with this assumption, one may further infer that 'Gönnersdorf-type' anthropomorphic representations may have served their purpose(s) only within a relatively short period of time, i. e., while the symbol was 'current' and socially transmitted from one generation to the next through teaching and social learning (cf. Nishiaki and Jöris, 2019; Jöris, 2018). Such transmission forms the baseline for the establishment and implementation of rules and regulations that derive from socio-cultural contexts.

Interestingly, within central Europe, 'Gönnersdorf-type' anthropomorphic representations are closely linked with the Late Magdalenian (e.g., Bosinski et al., 2001; Fiedorczuk et al., 2007; Leesch et al., 2004) which equates to the Early Upper Magdalenian of south-western France (Langlais et al., 2015b, 2017), within which

they correlate specifically to a phase during which *Lacan* type burins were produced across central Europe (Street et al., 2012; cf. Połtowicz-Bobak, 2012). When radiocarbon dates are available for these sites, they compare closely to the dates established for Gönnersdorf and Andernach or date slightly younger (Street et al., 2012; Stevens et al., 2013; cf. e.g., Fiedorczuk et al., 2007), falling into the major phase of the Late Glacial population expansion that commenced ~ 16,000 cal BP or shortly before (cf. **Fig. 10**). At this time, central Europe was rapidly and more sustainably re-occupied after sporadic earlier attempts (e.g., Street and Terberger, 1999; Terberger and Street, 2002; Street et al., 2009; Miller, 2012; Bobak and Połtowicz-Bobak, 2014; Maier, 2015, 2017; Pasda, 2017; Wiśniewski et al., 2017; Maier et al., 2020; Jöris and Street, 2021). Even in the eastern extremity of central Europe the south-eastern Polish site of Wilczyce produced 'Gönnersdorf-type' anthropomorphic flint figurines that had been intentionally shaped by retouch (Fiedorczuk et al., 2007), dated at its oldest to 13,180 ± 60 ¹⁴C BP (OxA-16728; on a tooth pendant derived from a perinatal baby burial: Irish et al., 2008); the chronology is similar to that of Gönnersdorf and Andernach.

As direct dates for 'Gönnersdorf-type' anthropomorphic representations do not exist, more precise age estimates of the length of time during which these symbols were implemented are difficult to establish. In the south-western part of Gönnersdorf, a few 'Gönnersdorf-type' anthropomorphic representations were associated with a small cluster of schist plaquettes, labelled Gönnersdorf-SW (Fig. 2; cf. Buschkämper, 1993). Here, atypical narrow-backed points and Lacan type burins, all made of Baltic flint, were found in close spatial association with red deer and elk bones, indicating a younger occupation of the site at a time when the region was beginning to reforest at the onset of the Late Glacial interstadial complex (Street and Turner, 2013: Plan 40). A radiocarbon date measured on one of the elk remains (Street and Terberger, 2004; cf. Street et al., 2012) places this younger occupation into the very beginning of Greenland Interstadial (GI) 1e, roughly 14,700-14,500 cal BP (cf. Fig. 10; Rasmussen et al., 2014). Although the presence of 'Gönnersdorf-type' anthropomorphic representations at Gönnersdorf-SW could be explained as due to potential re-use of material from other (and older) concentrations of the site, such an age would be roughly in accordance with age estimates for depictions of "Birds/Ladies" from Church Hole Cave in Creswell Crags (UK) further to the north-west, that – although not corresponding absolutely – are broadly similar to the 'Gönnersdorf-type' depictions (Pettitt, 2007; Pike et al., 2007). Similarily, several engravings in the Grotte de Gouy in northern France resemble the 'Gönnersdorf type' depictions (Martin, 2007). The lithic industry of this site, which includes bi-points and other backed points (Bordes et al., 1974), hints at a Final Magdalenian/Azilian/Federmesser context, matching a radiocarbon date from the site very closely (~14,000 cal BP: Martin, 2007), chronologically close to the age of several 'Gönnersdorf type' figurines (and a potential engraving) from the Final Magdalenian/Azilian of the Petersfels in southern Germany (Bosinski, 2011b, Bosinski et al., 2001). The age estimates available for Gönnersdorf-SW, Church Hole and Gouy (representing the north-westernmost appearances of this type of depiction) and those of the Petersfels all fall into the transition to and early phases of the Late Glacial interstadial complex (from shortly before GI 1e until GI 1d or, possibly, early GI 1c₃). This is of interest, as it is to the same period that several of the Late/Final Magdalenian sites of the Paris Basin belong, which have so far provided no convincing evidence for 'Gönnersdorf-type' anthropomorphic representations at all (cf. Debout et al., 2012). This may account for the comparably scarce archaeological evidence from the earlier stage of the Late Magdalenian (i.e., ~ 16,000-15,000 cal BP) in the Paris region.

Of even younger age is a sandstone arrow shaft smoother from the Late Palaeolithic *Federmesser* site of Neuwied-Niederbieber, only a few kilometres to the north-east of Gönnersdorf (Gelhausen, 2011). A series of more-or-less parallel incisions on one side of the object appears to resemble a series of 'Gönners-dorf-type' depictions (Loftus, 1982). Consequently, the find has been interpreted as reflecting a certain regional continuity from the Late Magdalenian to the Curved-Backed Point industries (*Federmessergruppen*)

of the Late Glacial Allerød interstadial (GI 1c-b; i.e., ~ 14,000-13,000 cal BP). However, assuming that such shaft smoothers were used in pairs, as is implied from younger contexts (Henry, 1976; Meier-Arendt, 1975), the incisions could – in an alternative interpretation – relate to marks made when fixing a twine around a pair of shaft smoothers to facilitate their use.

To summarise the chronological evidence from central and north-western Europe, one has to conclude that 'Gönnersdorf-type' anthropomorphic representations date within the range ~ 16,000-14,000 cal BP, and probably persisted until shortly thereafter. Despite the questionable evidence from the Niederbieber shaft smoother that may hint at a certain cultural continuity from the Magdalenian to the succeeding *Feder-messergruppen*, the period of 'Gönnersdorf-type' anthropomorphic representations ends ~ 14,000 cal BP, roughly at a time that ancient DNA studies signal a major population-turnover in Europe (Posth et al., 2016; cf. Bortolini et al., 2020, for discussion).

'Gönnersdorf-type' headless anthropomorphic depictions of south-western Europe

Search for the 'stylistic predecessors' and (socio-cultural) origins of 'Gönnersdorf-type' anthropomorphic depictions requires a closer look into the record of the Magdalenian 'homeland' of south-western Europe. Unless one assumes an extremely rapid, *quasi* simultaneous spread of this type of depiction (which would lie beyond the chronometric resolution of the radiocarbon dating method), one would assume to find evidence in the south-west of Europe predating the central European record.

The south-west of Europe provides, on one hand, numerous Late Pleistocene sites that are listed as possessing headless anthropomorphic depictions (Duhard, 1993), most of which have been assigned to the 'Gönners-dorf-type' (Fig. 5; cf. Bosinski et al., 2001; Bosinski, 2011a, 2011b; Duhard, 1993; Ladier et al., 2005; Mussi and De Marco, 2008; Rios-Garaizar et al., 2015; Sentis, 2005). On the other hand have most of these sites produced far fewer depictions than are known from central Europe, and many of the specimens discussed do not convincingly represent anthropomorphs. Due to their simplistic style or representation, the latter accounts for several engravings in parietal art contexts (e.g., Garate, 2004; cf. Mussi and De Marco, 2008).

By contrast, more convincing examples are the engraved plaquettes or blocks found in rock-shelters or near to cave entrances, such as those reported from La Roche de Lalinde (Leroi-Gourhan, 1971; Bosinski et al., 2001), Gare de la Couze (Bordes et al., 1963), Abri Fontalès (Lorblanchet and Welté, 1987), Abri Murat (Lorblanchet and Welté, 1987) and Grotte du Courbet near Bruniquel (Alaux, 1972; Welté and Cook, 1993); these are the closest parallels to 'Gönnersdorf-type' depictions. Stratigraphically, and on the basis of the typology of associated finds, the engraved plaquettes or blocks from these sites can be dated to the later phases of the Magdalenian ("Magdalénien supérieur/recent/final"; cf. Cluzel and Cleyet-Merle, 2011), or, if more specific information is available, to the onset of the Late Upper Magdalenian (Langlais et al., 2015b, 2017; i.e., ~ "Magdalenian VI"; cf. Bordes et al., 1963; Alaux, 1972; Bosinski et al., 2011), chronologically a little younger than Gönnersdorf and Andernach. Radiocarbon samples from Fontalès, Abri Murat, Care de la Couze, and Abri Faustin produced dates between 13,140 ± 120 ¹⁴C BP (GifA 96327) and ~ 12,300 ¹⁴C BP (Langlais et al., 2012; Drucker et al., 2011; Barashay-Szmidt et al., 2016) for layers that have provided 'Gönnersdorf-type' anthropomorphic depictions, corresponding to the second half of GS-2.1a, ~ 15,900-14,500 cal BP, i.e., of roughly equal age to the central European evidence (Fig. 10).

Nevertheless, radiocarbon dates from the Middle to Late Magdalenian of Courbet appear a little older, ranging between 13,380 \pm 120 14 C BP and 13,490 \pm 260 14 C BP (Ladier and Welté, 1999; Ladier et al., 2005), but these statistically overlap with the oldest radiocarbon dates for horse remains from Gönnersdorf (OxA-V-2223-39: 13,270 \pm 55 14 C BP) and Andernach-Martinsberg (OxA-10651: 13,270 \pm 180 14 C BP and

OxA-10492: 13,500 ± 90 ¹⁴C BP; cf. Stevens et al., 2009). A further engraving quite similar to 'Gönners-dorf-type' depictions is reported from La Magdeleine-la-Plaine (Ladier, 2001), the Middle Magdalenian archaeological context of which is dated to 13,680 ± 130 ¹⁴C BP (GifA 96345: Ladier et al., 2005). In northern Spain, the Middle Magdalenian levels of Las Caldas Cave in Asturias yielded a plaquette (level VI) and a bone (level VII) on which each a 'Gönnersdorf-type' anthropomorphic depiction was engraved (Corchón Rodríguez, 1990; Fortea et al., 1990; cf. Corchón Rodríguez and Ortega Martínez, 2017; Corchón Rodríguez and Rivero Vilá, 2017). The radiocarbon chronology of the sequence indicates an age of ~ 13,650 ¹⁴C BP for these finds (Corchón Rodríguez, 1995, 2017) similar to the proposed age of La Magdeleine-la-Plaine. As with Gönnersdorf and Andernach, all of these contexts also contain harpoons (for the chronology of Magdalenian organic projectiles, cf. Pétillon, 2016).

This is not the case for the large engraved limestone-"venuses block" from the cave of Arlanpe in northern Spain (Rios-Garaizar et al., 2015). Although at first sight this block seems to include a 'Gönnersdorf-type' depiction, similarities are difficult to establish due to the relatively few lines of which the double S-shaped motif is composed. The situation is even further complicated as the block was not discovered entirely *in situ*, as a Roman pit had been excavated into the cave sediments and exposed the "venuses block" and we do not know if by so-doing they disturbed its original position. Establishment of a solid age estimate for the presumable Middle Magdalenian context of the Arlanpe "venuses block" appears, therefore, fairly difficult (Rios-Garaizar et al., 2015). Of the two radiocarbon dates available for level I to which the "venuses block" most likely should be assigned, the younger, obtained from an anthropogenically-fractured herbivore bone and which is closest linked to the archaeology, comes from the base of level I and dated to $14,150 \pm 60$ 14C BP (Beta-287336); the other measurement, derived from a bone that displays no human modification, dated to $15,100 \pm 60$ 14C BP (Beta-316472: Rios-Garaizar et al., 2015). The top of level I may, however, be much younger than this.

The engraved plaquette from the Early Middle Magdalenian site of Moulin-Neuf in the Gironde may be of roughly comparable age or older (Sécher and Caux, 2017; Langlais et al., 2015b, 2017). This is also included among the headless anthropomorphic depictions of the Late Upper Palaeolithic (Ladier et al., 2005). In this case it remains unclear whether or not an anthropomorph is depicted at all; the figure is of a 'compressed' double S-shape, and, if it is justifiable to compare it to 'Gönnersdorf-type' anthropomorphic depictions at all, one may interpret it as representing the lower part of the torso only. Radiocarbon dates for it range from $\sim 14,200^{-14}$ C BP (Ladier et al., 2005) to $\sim 15,400^{-14}$ C BP (Barshay-Szmidt et al., 2016).

The Middle Magdalenian site of La Marche, famous for its highly naturalistic and often caricature-like depictions of humans (Pales and Tassin de Saint Péreuse, 1976; Airvaux and Pradel, 1984; Mélard, 2008) also provides a few examples of anthropomorphic depictions that closely resemble the 'Gönnersdorf-type' (Mélard, 2008: planche 12; planche 35). Dating to around 14,250 14 C BP (Orsay-3780: 14,240 \pm 85 14 C BP; and: Ly 2100: 14,280 \pm 160 14 C BP; Pradel, 1980; cf. Barshay-Szmidt et al., 2016) the site belongs to the same age range as Arlanpe and overlaps with the younger age estimates for Moulin-Neuf. The greater majority of the female depictions from La Marche are engraved on limestone blocks in profile view (Pales and Tassin de Saint Péreuse, 1976; Mélard, 2008), a perspective in which the outline of the body closely resembles the shape of the female torso that is also captured in engravings of 'Gönnersdorf-type' headless anthropomorphs. In this context, therefore, one may view the complete depictions of females at the site as potential blue-prints – probably stylistic predecessors – for the more abstract 'Gönnersdorf-type' depictions that developed later.

With regard to parietal examples of 'Gönnersdorf-type' anthropomorphic depictions, one such, in the cave of Gourdan in the Pyrenees, "has been attributed to the Middle or Upper Magdalenian by stylistic comparison [...] and the associated archaeological context has yielded two dates between 14,400 and 13,200

[14 C] BP [...], that is, within the temporal range of the Middle Magdalenian" (Rios-Garaizar et al., 2015: 334). Age estimates for parietal examples can only be ascertained indirectly, as the rock-art may – at best – be linked on stylistic grounds to archaeological layers that contain radiocarbon-dated material. The oldest radiocarbon date from the lowest (Mid-) Magdalenian level at the site of Les Combarelles in the Dordogne, a cave which also produced a series of 'Gönnersdorf-type' parietal engravings (Archambeau and Archambeau, 1991), dates to 13,680 \pm 210 14 C BP (Ly 3202), but most other dates from the site are significantly younger (cf. Cluzel and Cleyet-Merle, 2011). Furthermore, in both Gourdan and in Les Combarelles the precise relationship between the parietal engravings and the dated archaeological levels remains unclear, but at least in the case of Les Combarelles its age ranges are in accord with the age estimates for other south-western European sites that have produced 'Gönnersdorf-type' headless anthropomorphic depictions and that post-date ca. 13,650-13,680 14 C BP (\sim 16,500 cal BP).

To summarise, 'Gönnersdorf-type' anthropomorphic depictions can occasionally be found in south-western Europe probably from as early as ca. 16,500 cal BP onwards, but more solid evidence for the appearance of the 'Gönnersdorf-type' depictions which are stylistically almost identical to the depictions at the eponymous site in the German central Rhineland is only available from ca. 16,000 cal BP onwards, i.e., quasi simultaneous with the central European evidence. Considering the finds from Arlanpe, Moulin-Neuf and La Marche, potential double S-shaped 'predecessors' of the 'Gönnersdorf-type' headless anthropomorphic depictions may even date as old as ~ 17,000-18,000 cal BP (Rios-Garaizar et al., 2015). However, the poor contextual dating evidence for these south-western European examples must be viewed with some caution, given the contextual problems these often multi-layered stratigraphic sequences of caves and rock-shelters with much more complicated site formation processes have in comparison to single-layered open-air sites. It should furthermore be emphasised that 'Gönnersdorf-type' depictions are comparably rare in number among south-western European sites, where the possibly early candidates are mostly depicted in a very rudimentary style – often reduced to a double S-shape of the torso. Finally, their occasional appearance in rock-art, sometimes engraved deep in caves on the cave walls, emphasises the different contexts into which the south-western European depictions seem to be embedded (Bosinski et al., 2001).

Late Upper Palaeolithic ('Gönnersdorf-type') headless anthropomorphic depictions outside Europe

Geographically distinct from the European record of 'Gönnersdorf-type' headless anthropomorphic depictions, a small series of rock-shelters in Egypt have yielded engraved depictions of anthropomorphs (Huyge, 2015). Of special interest here are several headless specimens from the rock-shelter of Qurta II in Upper Egypt, that very closely resemble 'Gönnersdorf-type' depictions (Ucko and Rosenfeld, 1972; Huyge, 2009, 2015). The panel QII.3.1 at Qurta comprises two clusters of depictions: one cluster of four (QII.3.1.6-9), and another of two (QII.3.1.4-5) 'Gönnersdorf-type' depictions, all facing to the right (Fig. 6: 2). The one furthest to the right in the cluster of four (QII.3.1.9) seems to depict "rudimentary arms and/or breasts", similar to the more detailled 'Gönnersdorf-type' depictions (Huyge, 2015: 420; cf. Ucko and Rosenfeld, 1972). Other anthropomorphic, potentially "human" depictions come from Qurta I (QI.1.1.16) and Abu Tanqura Bahari 11 at el-Hosh (ATB11.4.6-7) on the other side of the River Nile. These depictions differ in their body proportions from the 'Gönnersdorf-type' depictions of Qurta II due to their more elongated upper torsos. Whereas the Qurta I specimen seems to display a head, the two anthropomorphic depictions in panel ATB11.4 at el-Hosh do not preserve heads (Fig. 6: 1). It may be the case, however, that heads were originally depicted but were subsequently removed by the picked depiction of a bovid superimposed on the

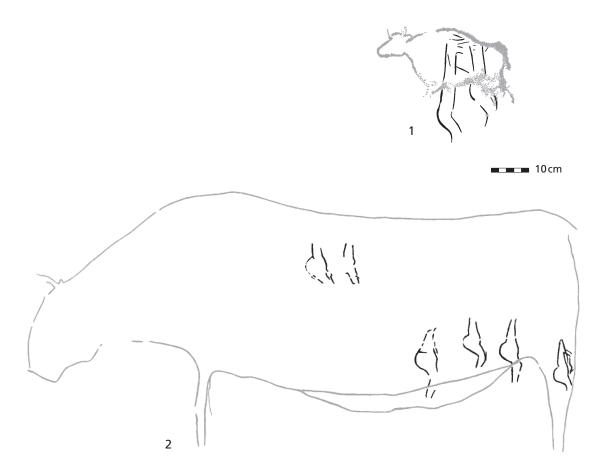


Fig. 6 Upper Egypt. Depictions of bovids superimposed upon headless anthropomorphous depictions from the rock-shelters of Qurta II (2) and Abu Tanqura Bahari (ATB) 11 at el-Hosh (1). – (Redrawn and modified by G. Rutkowski and N. Viehöver from: Huyge, 2015).

anthropomorphic depictions (Huyge, 2015). Two further headless depictions have been published from a rock-shelter further north on the Sinai peninsula, where, due to an emphasis on large, round breasts and strongly protruding buttocks these have been interpreted as female (Zboray, 2012).

The age of these depictions is difficult to establish. In general it is believed that the Upper Egyptian depictions can be tied to the so-called Ballanan-Silsilian industry which is represented by several sites in the region (Huyge, 2015). Radiometric age estimates for this, however, are highly inconsistent and rely on a few available dates only. In general, an age of roughly 19,000-18,000 cal BP is expected for the industry (i. e., \sim 16,000-15,000 14 C BP; cf. Schild and Wendorf, 2010), but considerably younger dates also exist (cf. Vermeersch, 1992). At Qurta II, panel QII.3.1, an engraving of a bovid is superimposed upon the 'Gönnersdorf-type' headless depictions; this also occurs to the anthropomorphic depictions of ATB11.4.6-7 at el-Hosh. Therefore, at both sites the anthropomorphic depictions pre-date the engraving of bovids. Assuming that the bovids were depicted in the same period, which one may argue for, the OSL dating evidence from panel QII.4.2 at Qurta would be of relevance, as, here, the engraving of a bovid was buried below eolian sands. The OSL dates calculated from these sands provide a *terminus ante quem* of 16 ± 2 ka BP and 17 ± 2 ka BP for its top, i.e., the back line of the engraved bovid (Huyge et al., 2011, 2012), implying an age of at least 13 ka BP, but likely closer to 16 ka BP. Radiocarbon dated faunal remains from the 16 ± 2 ka BP OSL-dated level, i.e.,

the base of the panel, result in calibrated ages of \sim 14,000 cal BP (KIA-41532: 12,130 \pm 45 ¹⁴C BP) for a bird bone sample and some (not reservoir-corrected) 12,750-12,600 cal BP (KIA-40546: 10,585 \pm 50 ¹⁴C BP) for fishbone sampled from the same layer (Dee et al., 2010).

Taking the dating evidence from the Qurta II rock-shelter overall, an age of around 14,000 cal BP or slightly older seems to be most plausible for the site's 'Gönnersdorf-type' depictions (cf. Fig. 10), which is of interest given that it is in agreement with the younger range of dates for 'Gönnersdorf-type' depictions in north-and south-western Europe (see above). Claims that state that the headless anthropomorphic depictions of Upper Egypt could pre-date the European record of 'Gönnersdorf-type' depictions (Huyge, 2015), however, require more solid data and are currently premature; their relation to the European headless anthropomorphic depictions of 'Gönnersdorf-type' remains unanswered.

Headless anthropomorphic depictions in the Late Upper Palaeolithic of eastern Europe

Further to the east of the easternmost appearance of 'Gönnersdorf-type' depictions (i.e., Wilczyce in south-eastern Poland; Fiedorczuk et al., 2007), headless anthropomorphic depictions are found in the eastern European steppes of modern Ukraine and western Russia. Notably, these include several ivory figurines and fragments of potential figurines from the Epigravettian site of Mezin in Ukraine (lakovleva, 2009; Bosinski, 2011b), some of which closely resemble the 'Gönnersdorf-type' figurines (Fig. 5). But other headless anthropomorphic ivory figurines of different shapes are additionally reported from Mezin (Chovkoplass, 1965) and Mezhyrich (Pidoplichko, 1976; Abramova, 1995), which – together with several other sites such as Dobranichivka, classified as Epigravettian – are well-known for their mammoth bone concentrations which are most often interpreted as dwelling structures (e.g., Pidoplichko, 1998; Gladkih et al., 1984; lakovleva, 2015; for a counter-position cf. Khlopachev and Gavrilov, 2019).

The site of Mezin produced a total of 18 headless anthropomorphic figurines of ivory (Fig. 7; Chovkoplass, 1965; cf. lakovleva, 2009, 2015), of which 16 are interpreted as female representations and two that are of a more elongated phallic shape (Fig. 8). At least three headless female figurines derive from Mezhyrich, of which one is made on a flat bone (Fig. 9; Abramova, 1966; cf.; lakovleva, 2009, 2015). Although these depictions share their "headlessness" and abstractness and to a certain degree, their overall shapes (at least in case of representations interpreted as female) differ from those of 'Gönnersdorf-type' in several details (Table 1). The Mezin and Mezhyrich figurines are in fact of great morphological diversity, and it appears that different styles of representations relate to different concentrations/dwellings (Figs. 7-8; Chovkoplass, 1965; lakovleva, 2009, 2015).

Schematised and anonymized anatomy

As with 'Gönnersdorf-type' depictions, the headless female figurines of Mezin are characterised by pronounced buttocks/hips opposite to a relatively flat-fronted torso. With this shape and viewed from the side, they resemble 'Gönnersdorf-type' depictions, and, more specifically, the 'Gönnersdorf-type' figurines (lakovleva, 2009). Whereas the latter were designed to function in side/sagittal view (Gaudzinski-Windheuser and Jöris, 2015), the Mezin figurines display most relevant details on their front (Chovkoplass, 1965; lakovleva, 2009, 2015): among these, the lower part of the torso displays on its flat frontal face an engraved triangle, interpreted as the female pubic triangle (**Fig. 7**). The upper part of the figurines' torso is also engraved on the frontal aspect. It is on this frontal aspect that most differences appear between the figurines

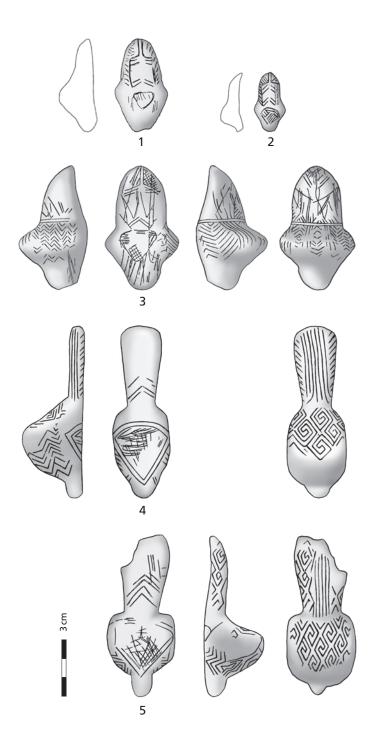


Fig. 7 Mezin. Headless anthropomorphous ivory figurines, interpreted as female, from dwelling 2 (**1-3**) and dwelling 3 (**4-5**). – (Redrawn and modified by G. Rutkowski and N. Viehöver from: Chovkoplass, 1965).

from the different dwellings; those from dwelling 2 possess engravings that form an elongated trapezoidal box, filled with pairs of chevrons, which seem to represent the thoracic cage. This impression is enhanced by two vertical lines on top of this box, most likely to be interpreted as the neck, ending at the top of the figurine where the head would be placed if the figurines weren't depicted headless. Given this, the front of the headless female figurines from Mezin-dwelling 2, appear to display – although in strongly schematized form – detailed human anatomy; breasts, however, are lacking. The slightly larger female figurines from Mezin's dwelling 3 are quite similar to those from dwelling 2 (Chovkoplass, 1965); their upper torso, however, is shown in a more simple and abstract manner, displaying sets of chevrons (i. e., 'ribs'), with additional lines that may resemble the neck, displayed on a single figure only. The rear side of the upper torso of the

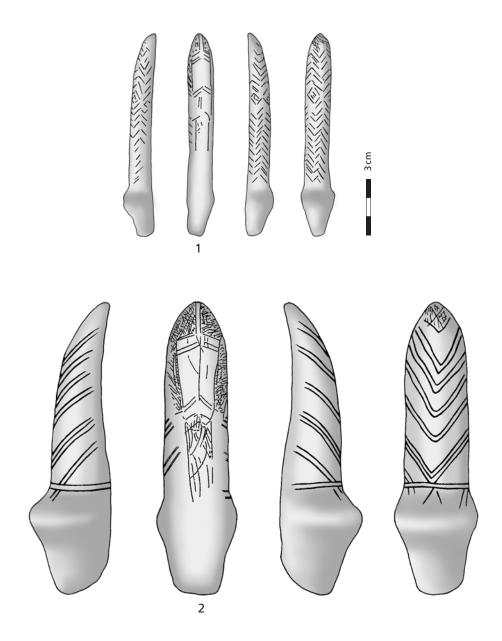


Fig. 8 Mezin. Headless anthropomorphous ivory figurines, interpreted as male, from dwelling 2. – (Redrawn and modified by G. Rutkowski and N. Viehöver from: Chovkoplass, 1965).

two larger figurines from dwelling 3 display long, parallel and vertically running engravings: perhaps they depict long hair or the spinal column? Aside from these details, the back and sides of the dwelling 2 and 3 figurines are ornamented with geometrical patterns (zig-zag lines and 'angular meanders'; Chovkoplass, 1965; lakovleva, 2009, 2015).

The Mezhyrich headless female figurines appear to be much more schematic in form (Fig. 9; Abramova, 1995; cf. lakovleva, 2009). Most characteristic is the pubic triangle engraved on their flat front in the lowest part of the lower torso. Additionally, a specimen from dwelling 2 displays sets of parallel lines running horizontally across its upper torso. The site of Dobranichivka produced a few amber figurines and possible fragments of such that are of a shape that resembles that of the headless anthropomorphic ivory figurines from

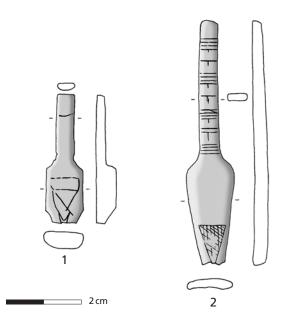


Fig. 9 Mezhyrich. Headless anthropomorphous figurines, interpreted as female, from dwelling 1 (1) and dwelling 2 (2). – (Redrawn and modified by G. Rutkowski and N. Viehöver from: Abramova, 1995; lakovleva, 2009).

Mezhyrich (lakovleva, 2009). Due to their poor surface preservation, however, it cannot be said whether or not they once bore engraved ornamentation. In addition to the headless depictions, Mezhyrich also produced at least one highly schematic anthropomorphic figurine that possesses a small face (Abramova, 1995; lakovleva, 2015). The examples from Mezhyrich are particularly flat, and other attributes that characterize the Mezin figurines and/or 'Gönnersdorf-type' depictions, like pronounced buttock, are absent (lakovleva, 2009, 2015).

Mezin-dwelling 2 also produced two headless anthropomorphic figurines of generally more phallic shape (Fig. 8; Chovkoplass, 1965). Both are characterised by a more elongated upper torso, but display the same stylistic design of the thoracic cage and the indication of the neck as the female figurines from the same dwelling structure (Table 1). Their hips are, however, less pronounced, and their pubic regions remain blank. With their overall phallic shape and the absence of any female characteristics, i.e., less pronounced hips and absence of the pubic triangle, it is likely that these represent male counterparts (lakovleva, 2009, 2015). Their backs and sides are ornamented with zig-zag or double-zig-zag patterns.

Interpretation and age

Similar to the 'Gönnersdorf-type' anthropomorphic representations, the headless anthropomorphic figurines of Late Upper Palaeolithic eastern Europe are also highly schematic and abstract, although – by their stylistical conventions of representation – depict far more anatomical detail, allowing the viewer to clearly distinguish between female and male figurines. A similar distinction cannot be made amongst the 'Gönnersdorf-type' depictions, as sexual attributes are largely absent. With these, aside from the depictions with breasts, only the shape of the hips indicate that in the overwhelming majority of cases it is females that are represented (see above). Another difference between the eastern and central European examples lies in the

comparably large stylistic diversity of the headless anthropomorphic figurines of the Late Epigravettian of eastern Europe that differ in the proportion of the torso and in ornamentation between sites and dwellings, as described above (cf. lakovleva, 2009, 2015).

Given the characteristic features of the anthropomorphic figurines of the Late Epigravettian of eastern Europe, the lack of clear individual traits and especially their "headlessness", one may conclude by analogy with the interpretation of 'Gönnersdorf-type' depictions that the eastern European figurines also served as symbols, probably encoding gender-differentiated social roles in the Epigravettian of the region. The comparably large variability between the figurines from different sites and dwellings implies that other levels of social differentiation, such as e.g., household, lineage or kin, may additionally be encoded.

The similarities between the eastern European headless anthropomorphic figurines and the 'Gönnersdorf-type' depictions are all the more interesting as the eastern European examples seem to pre-date the latter (lakovleva, 2005; lakovleva and Djindjian, 2005; Haesaerts et al., 2015; Gavrilov, 2021; cf. Marguer et al., 2012). Combined radiometric and stratigraphic evidence (Haesaerts et al., 2015), indicates an age of \sim 18,300-17,400 cal BP (\sim 15,050-14,300 14 C BP) for the multiple occupation phases of the site of Mezhyrich (cf. Soffer et al., 1997). This interval is in agreement with the radiocarbon dating evidence for other Epigravettian sites from this period in the Dnepr and Desna region of Ukraine and western Russia that produced mammoth bone concentrations (lakovleva, 2005; lakovleva and Djindjian, 2005; Gavrilov, 2021). This includes the site of Mezin, which produced dates of $15,100 \pm 200^{14}$ C BP (OxA-719; lakovleva and Djindjian, 2005) and 14,560 \pm 90 14 C BP (GrA-22499; Haesaerts et al., 2015). The site of Dobranichivka may be slightly younger, with dates of $\sim 14,100^{-14}$ C BP (GrA-22472: 14,355 ± 90 14 C BP, and OxA-12108: $13,990 \pm 90^{-14}$ C BP, on the same bone; Haesaerts et al., 2015) and $12,700 \pm 200^{-14}$ C BP (OxA-700; lakovleva and Djindjian, 2005). From the archaeological contexts provided by these sites, however, age estimates based on radiocarbon dates significantly younger than $\sim 14,000^{-14}$ C BP should be viewed with scepticism (lakovleva and Djindjian, 2005). On the other hand, the few dates available from Mezin that fit into the above interval may still overestimate the age of the archaeological occupation as the dated bones derive from bone concentrations that consist of collected subfossil material that has been piled up at the site.

"HEADLESSNESS" IN THE EUROPEAN LATE UPPER PALAEOLITHIC ANTHROPOMORPHIC DEPICTIONS: CHRONOLOGICAL TRENDS AND GEOGRAPHIC SCALES

The headless anthropomorphic depictions of 'Gönnersdorf-type' and those of the eastern European Late Epigravettian can be compared with a few further anthropomorphic depictions from the Late Upper Palaeolithic of south-western Europe. Viewed in chronological order, such comparison sheds new light on the understanding of the supra-regional homogeneity of 'Gönnersdorf-type' depictions, and contributes to the overall interpretation of the eponymous site.

East-west temporary interconnectedness ~ 19,000-17,500 cal BP

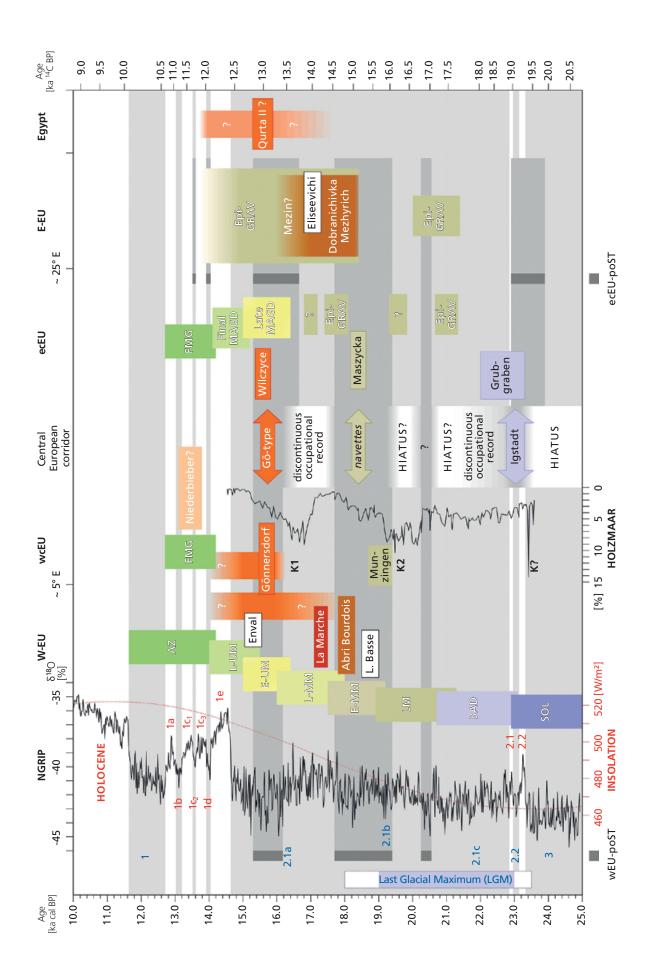
Due to its early discovery in 1864 the most famous Palaeolithic human depiction is the *Vénus impudique* ('immodest Venus'), a headless ivory figurine from Laugerie Basse in the Dordogne (e.g., Delporte, 1979, 1993a, 1993b), that dates to the Middle Magdalenian (**Fig. 10**). The figurine's head appears to have been

broken off; its feet are also lacking, the latter at least probably broken off during their archaeological discovery. Additionally, its arms and breasts are missing, but in this case as they were never carved as elements of the figurine's design. The figurine is meant to be viewed from the front, where its deeply incised vaginal opening is visible. Another small figurine depicting a female torso, made of stone, is reported from the Late Magdalenian of the site of Enval (Bourdelle et al., 1971). The figure's head has been broken off; but, similar to the Laugerie Basse figurine, the missing breasts, arms and feet were never carved in the first place. Radiocarbon dates obtained on samples from the layers below (Delpech, 1998), suggest an age of $\sim 15,500$ cal BP or slightly younger can be assumed for the Enval figurine. Of similar style when compared with Laugerie-Basse and Enval, but of Early Middle Magdalenian age is the monumental "panneau des Vénus" bas-relief of Abri Bourdois at Roc-aux-Sorciers in L'Angles-sur-l'Anglin (Vienne), composed of at least three female torsos and a forth one aside, all of which lack heads, breasts, arms and feet, but which display deeply incised vaginal openings (de Saint-Mathurin and Garrod, 1949; lakovleva and Pincon, 1996, 1997, 1999). This is an interesting parallel to the more-or-less contemporaneous headless anthropomorphic figurines of Mezhyrich discussed above (Fig. 9); they were also intended to be viewed from the front, lack heads, breasts, arms and feet, but show engraved pubic triangles. The Dobranichivka amber figurines closely match the overall shape of the headless figurines from Mezhyrich (lakovleva, 2009). The Mezin figurines are very similar to those from Mezhyrich, but they are much more strongly ornamented, and more strongly emphasise the typical profile characteristic of 'Gönnersdorf-type' depictions that appeared in central Europe from ~ 16,000 cal BP on.

It is surely unlikely that similarities in the appearance and amount of principle stylistic elements shared by the Vénus impudique, the plastically sculptured females in the frieze at Abri Bourdois ("Panneau des Vénus") and the headless anthropomorphic figurines of Mezhyrich is simply coincidence. The same principle – designed to be viewed from the front, lacking heads, breasts, arms and feet, but showing the female pubic region – is realised also at a small series of six Middle Magdalenian sites of south-western France, most of them assigned to the Magdalénien à pointes de Lussac-Angles facies (Abri Bourdois, les Fadets, Montgaudier, l'Abri Gaudry, Grottes du Chaffaud, La Marche), where horse incisors were also found engraved with a pubic triangle (Mazière and Buret, 2010; Airvaux, J., 2011). Their overall shape is similar to that of the ivory

Fig. 10 Chronology of Late Upper Palaeolithic headless anthropomorphic depictions (orange; Gö = Gönnersdorf) in the context of different palaeoclimate and archaeological records for western Europe (W-EU), western central Europe (wcEU: ~5-15°E), eastern central Europe (ecEU: ~15-25°E), eastern Europe (E-EU), and Egypt (left timescale: ka cal BP; right timescale: approx. ka ¹⁴C uncal BP; cf. Reimer et al., 2020). Greenland NGRIP δ¹⁸O [‰] isotope record (Rasmussen et al., 2014) with Greenland Stadials (GS: blue) and Greenland Interstadials (GI: red); summer insolation [W/m²] in June at 60° N (Berger and Loutre, 1991); the Last Glacial Maximum (LGM) follows the definitaion of Mix et al. (2001) as the period of maximum global ice volume and lowest sea levels during the last Glacial cycle, i.e., ~23,000-19,000 cal BP (LGM light-blue), and spanning from the northern hemispheric summer insolation minimum at ca. 23,500 cal BP (Berger and Loutre, 1991) and the timing of Heinrich Event H2 until ca. 18,000 cal BP (LGM white), when the Fennoscandian Ice Shield started to slowly retreat after its maximum advance during the Brandenburg glacial stage (Hughes et al., 2016). Holzmaar carbonate contents [%] in lacustrine clastic varves with carbonate peaks K1, K2 and K? (data from Brauer, 1994; Zolitschka et al., 2000, modifed), indicative of calcareous dust flux and increasead eaolian activity (i.e., loess deposition) in western central Europe (Zolitschka et al., 2015); periods of the presence of saiga antilopes (poSt: dark grey) in western Europe (wEU-poSt) and eastern central Europe (ecEU-poSt) with wEU-poSt data compiled from Langlais et al. (2015a), Barashay-Szmidt et al. (2016) and Nadachowski et al. (2016) for directly ¹⁴C-dated samples of Saiga tatarica and Bosinski (2009) for contextual age-estimates from the 'artistic' record, and ecEU-poSt data compiled from Nadachowski et al. (2016) for directly ¹⁴C-dated samples of Saiga tatarica and Kozłowski et al. (2017) for contextual age-estimates from Maszycka cave. The archaeostratigraphic record is shown schematically for France, central and eastern Europe, covering the Solutrean (SOL), Badegoulian (BAD), Lower Magdalenian (LM), Early Middle Magdalenian (E-MM), Late Middle Magdalenian (L-MM), Early Upper Magdalenian (E-UM)/ Late Mgadalenian (Late MAGD), Late Upper Magdalenian (L-UM)/Final Magdalenian (Final MAGD) to the Azilian (AZ)/Federmessergruppen

(FMG), following data compilations from Ducasse et al. (2021; cf. Ducasse, 2012) for the SOL to BAD, from BAD to E-MM (Ducasse and Langlais, 2007) and from Langlais et al. (2015a, 2015b) for the E-MM to L-UM sequences, and from Wiśniewski et al. (2017) and Nerudová et al. (2019) for the Epigravettian (Epi-GRAV) of eastern central and from Gavrilov (2021) for eastern Europe. For further references: see text.



figurines from Mezhyrich (see above; cf. Chovkoplass, 1965; lakovleva, 2009, 2015). In their overall characteristics the engraved horse incisors seem to represent a 'special' regional variant (cf. Fuentes et al., 2019) of a theme that appeared at this time in western and in eastern Europe. During this time interval, however, in western Europe spanned by the Lower and Middle Magdalenian, there is limited evidence for human presence in central Europe and hence, to bridge the east and the west, a topic currently discussed intensively (Fig. 10; cf. e. g., Maier et al., 2020; Maier, 2017; Pasda, 2017; Wiśniewski et al., 2017). Particularly prominent in this discussion is the cave of Maszycka in southern Poland, dated to ~18,600-18,000 cal BP (Kozłowski et al., 2012, 2017), with an industry that is characteristic of the *Magdalénien à navettes* comparing in many details to French sites attributed to this 'facies' (Allain et al., 1985; Bourdier et al., 2017a). The lithic raw materials used at Maszycka do, indeed, not only link ~600 km to the west to southern Germany ("*Plattensilex*"), i. e., half way towards France, but also some 300-400 km to the sources of so-called Volhynian flint in western Ukraine (Kozłowski et al., 2017), showing that central Europe at this time must have formed a corridor for the long-distance transmission of people and ideas.

Given the paucity of archaeological sites in central Europe that correspond to the Lower and Middle Magdalenian and which could, therefore, provide evidence for the interconnectedness of western and eastern European populations, the presence of saiga antelope (*Saiga tatarica*) could serve as a useful proxy for punctuated or comparably short periods of presence in western Europe, during oscillations of extremely dry climate when saiga habitats expanded from western central Asia to the Atlantic costs of France (Nadachowski et al., 2016). The presence of saiga in the hunted fauna (e.g., Maier et al., 2020), at best directly dated by radiocarbon (e.g., Nadachowski et al., 2016; Barashay-Szmidt et al., 2016; Langlais et al., 2015a) or its presence in the 'artistic' record (Bosinski, 2009) during the period discussed, help to compile a record of pulses of saiga antelopes' westward expansions in periods in which central Europe was (principally) habitable (cf. Maier et al., 2020). Interestingly, the period ~ 19,000-18,000 cal BP represents such a period of saiga expansion (Fig. 10), with evidence in eastern central Europe at Maszycka, although not directly dated (Kozłowski et al., 2017), and at a series of Early and Middle Magdalenian sites in the west (Costamagno, 2000; Barashay-Szmidt et al., 2016; Nadachowski et al., 2016) among which the site of Moulin-Neuf, discussed above (Costamagno, 2000), is most relevant here.

In France, the Middle Magdalenian record appears as a complex 'mosaic' which – amongst other aspects that led to the distinction of the two facies named above, i. e., the *Magdalénien à pointes de Lussac-Angles* and the *Magdalénian à navettes* – is comprised of a rich 'artistic' record of fascinating diversity (see Bourdier et al., 2017a). In terms of 'artistic' expression, the *Magdalénien à pointes de Lussac-Angles* is largely characterized by numerous, mainly realistic depictions of animals and humans, whereas figurative art remains scarce in the *Magdalénian à navettes* sites, the few examples that do exist being of highly schematised style (e. g., Bourdier et al., 2017b; Fuentes et al., 2017, 2019). Much of the current discussion of the two facies, in which human/anthropomorphic depictions also figure (Fuentes et al., 2017), centres on understanding their spatio-temporal relationship (e. g., Langlais et al., 2017) and the question whether or not, and if so to what degree, they represent different "graphic traditions" (Bourdier et al., 2017b: 103) and have to be interpreted as expressions of regionally differentiated socio-cultural (group) identities (e. g., Fuentes, 2013).

Without the need to dive deeper into this discussion, it is worth noting that the great diversity observed within the Early Middle Magdalenian of south-western Europe, including that of 'artistic' expressions, is paralleled in the technological diversity of the Epigravettian of eastern Europe (e.g., Gavrilov, 2021), including the stylistic diversity of headless anthropomorphic depictions visible at Mezhyrich and Mezin. As has already been described, besides the similarities of the headless anthropomorphic depictions of the latter two sites, strong stylistic dissimilarities exist in terms of the overall design of the figurines and their

level of abstractness, although the sites are assumed to be of comparable age and are located in certain regional proximity. Even at an intra-site level, stylistic differences have been highlighted between different dwellings and between the different themes addressed (Tab. 1; Fig. 7; Fig. 9; Chovkoplass, 1965; lakovleva, 2009, 2015): only dwelling 2 of Mezin, for example, provided presumably male ivory figurines (Fig. 8), whereas potential gender-related distinctions do not otherwise manifest at the site. At the same time, the variability between individual figurines remains comparably high in terms of body proportions and details of ornamentation. To a certain degree this diversity seems to correspond to the variability among Middle Magdalenian depictions of humans (and human body parts) and anthropomorphic depictions which represent humans at different levels of completeness and abstraction, although individual elements remain visible (cf. Fuentes et al., 2017). For the ~18,500-17,500 cal BP interval, this may be read in a way that comparably high levels of probably household-, lineage- or kin- (i.e., dwelling-related) and regional-based identities were expressed in human and anthropomorphic representations that were depicted 'atop of' a general worldview expressed in abstract, often fragmented and – and especially in the east of Europe – headless, illustrations, representing potential common denominators within supraregionally interconnected worldviews or belief systems. The establishment of such supra-regional interconnections seems to relate to a period immediately following the Magdalénian à navettes in a later half or a phase during which saiga antelopes expanded from the east to the west, indicative for on 'active' central European corridor.

Anthropomorphic depictions ~ 17,500-16,000 cal BP

With the end of the saiga phase, i.e., after ~18,000 cal BP, the cultural developments of western and eastern Europe appear to have become markedly disconnected. This seems to relate to the discontinuous archaeological record of much of central Europe (Jöris and Street, 2021; cf. recent discussions in Maier et al., 2020; Wiśniewski et al., 2017; cf. Nerudová et al., 2019), and it is likely that the area was totally abandoned by humans – at least gradually over the course of several phases (Fig. 10).

Whereas the trend of geometric ornamentation that characterises the Epigravettian of Ukraine and western Russia, seems to have continued (e.g., lakovleva, 2016; cf. Borić and Cristiani, 2016; Mărgărit, 2010, for the Balkans), (headless) anthropomorphic depictions, however, seemed to have ceased after ~ 17,000 cal BP (cf. lakovleva, 2009, 2015, lakovleva and Djindjian, 2005). But, as noted above, the site of Mezin could even be much younger than generally assumed, given its poor state of dating, and the overall stylistic 'habitus' of headless anthropomorphic depictions that appear stylistically 'intermediate' (Tab. 1), as they show similarities to both, the Mezhyrich figurines and those of the 'Gönnersdorf-type'.

There is only one more eastern European site of relevance here for the period ~17,500-16,000 cal BP: Eliseevichi 1 in the upper Desna valley in the Bryansk province of Russia. This produced a ~15 cm large headless ivory figurine with large breasts and massive legs, yet lacking arms. Its chest is ornamented by horizontal lines (Abramova, 1966, 1995), resembling the ornamentation of one of the headless anthropomorphic figurines from Mezhyrich. The figure's head has been broken off, but was present when the figure was carved. It was found together with other small, three-dimensionally carved limestone figurines depicting animals, which have otherwise no parallels in the Desna region (Sablin and Khlopachev, 2002, and references therein).

In France, at around the same time, the site of La Marche, attributed to the *Magdalénien à pointes de Lussac-Angles*, is key to this discussion (see above). Many of the human depictions engraved on its limestone blocks possess heads, which are depicted in a level of detail that one can be sure that specific individuals

are depicted in 'portrait' style (Pales and Tassin de Saint Péreuse, 1976; Mélard, 2008). Some of the depictions lack heads or are broken at the point where the heads would be expected; it cannot be said for sure whether or not the part of the plaquette that once displayed the head was broken off intentionally, as has been argued for many of the figurines assigned to the preceding Mid-Upper Palaeolithic "Willendorf-style" (e.g., Guthrie, 2005; Verpoorte, 2001; cf. Gaudzinski-Windheuser and Jöris, 2015). As argued above, the depiction of females in lateral view at La Marche closely resembles the double S-shape of the female torso in lateral view. Given this, a few female body outlines of headless depictions from La Marche (Mélard, 2008: planche 12; planche 35) appear quite similar to some of the pre-16,000 cal BP headless anthropomorphic depictions from Middle Magdalenian contexts (e.g., Moulin-Neuf, Arlanpe; cf. discussion above) that are frequently attributed to the 'Gönnersdorf-type'. This interpretation can be questioned, however, on the grounds of the rudimentary level of detail in their creation, and one can alternatively interpret those double S-shaped depictions of presumable female torsos as potential stylistic predecessors of the succeeding, more schematised depictions of 'Gönnersdorf-type' that appeared ~ 16,500 cal BP and which had become dominant from ~ 16,000 cal BP onwards.

New standards on supra-regional scale ~ 16,000-15,000 cal BP

From around the Late Middle Magdalenian to the Early Late Magdalenian transition around ~16,500 cal BP, there is growing evidence in south-western Europe for headless anthropomorphic depictions of 'Gönnersdorf-type', and from ~16,000 cal BP 'Gönnersdorf-type' headless anthropomorphic depictions became more standardised (Bosinski et al., 2001). With this "formal homogenization" the typical 'Gönnersdorf-type' of headless anthropomorphic depictions spread rapidly across Europe (cf. Bourrillon et al., 2012; Fuentes et al., 2019), reaching as far as eastern central Europe (Fig. 10; Wilczyce in south-eastern Poland: Fiedorczuk et al., 2007).

This eastward dispersal of headless anthropomorphic depictions of 'Gönnersdorf-type' appears to have been extremely rapid, and seems to have been linked, once again, to the re-opening of a corridor through central Europe through which saiga antelope habitats expanded in the opposite direction towards the west (Bosinski, 2009; cf. Maier et al., 2020; Nadachowski et al., 2016). Additional arguments for the re-activation of this corridor have been forwarded on the basis of stylistic reasoning (Bosinski et al., 2001) as some of the central European 'Gönnersdorf-type' headless anthropomorphic depictions are decorated with geometric patterns (e. g., Gönnersdorf plaquette no. 87: Fig. 4; and a pair of angles, or chevrons, engraved into the side of the large 'Gönnersdorf-type' ivory sculpture no. An2/11 from Andernach-Martinsberg: Höck, 1995), a design that resembles ornaments typical for the eastern European Epigravettian and reminds us, more specifically, of the geometrically decorated figurines from Mezin (Chovkoplass, 1965; lakovleva, 2009).

The potential stylistic influences from the east also seem to be reflected in the decision to carve three-dimensional figurines, mostly in ivory. The Mezin sculptures also appear technically, and in terms of their profile view, as potential predecessors for 'Gönnersdorf-type' figurines (cf. lakovleva, 2009). This, again, hints at the idea outlined above, that present age estimates for the site of Mezin may overestimate its real age. From around ~ 16,000 cal BP onwards, the combined evidence hints at strong levels of supra-regional interconnectedness between the west and the east of Europe. It seems that during this time the idea to carve female figurines spreads westwards, while the idea of engraving depictions of comparable profile view, spreads eastwards. In central Europe both these trends overlaped and merged (Fig. 5: d), and it is here that 'Gönnersdorf-type' depictions appear to have become most standardized.

'GÖNNERSDORF-TYPE' DEPICTIONS AND THE SOCIAL FOUNDATIONS OF THE LATE GLACIAL EXPANSION

In central Europe, the geographical spread of 'Gönnersdorf-type' anthropomorphic representations ~ 16,000-14,000 cal BP coincides with the most dynamic and unprecedently-rapid phase of Late Glacial human range expansion into the northerly parts of Europe which appears to be linked with the beginning of the Late Magdalenian (Street et al., 2009; cf. Housley et al., 1997). Besides the required adaptive demands (cf. Burke et al., 2017; cf. Baales and Jöris, 2006), on a meta-population level, the greatest challenge had been the establishment of a population size viable enough to survive in the newly occupied regions of central Europe, involving the constant founding and establishment of new social entities and associated networks ensuring successful interconnection of individuals and groups over large distances. With regard to the latter, and for the Late Magdalenian expansion to succeed, it has been argued that newly established supra-regional social (and communication) networks were further required to inter-connect the (presumably small) 'pioneering' groups at the front of the expansion with the populations in the Magdalenian 'homelands' of south-western Europe (for further details see: Gaudzinski-Windheuser and Jöris, 2015). Such supra-regional large-scale social networks would have been required to connect individuals over much larger geographical scales than would have been the case within the seasonal migration ranges of specific foraging groups. Only through the implementation of sets of socio-cultural rules and regulations that – among other issues – organised partnership, kin and – above all – residence would have facilitated the establishment of such networks and enabled the relocation of at least some individuals over large distances between different groups. Such supra-regional and large-scale social networks must have focussed intently on the mandatory functioning of certain individuals. "Thus, the individual sphere must have been subordinate for the group and was presumably reflected in the absence of depictions of individuals" (Gaudzinski-Windheuser and Jöris, 2015: 312). It may have been the case that the establishment and maintenance of such large-scale social networks belonged to the realm of the 'female sphere', for which 'Gönnersdorf-type' anthropomorphic depictions may have served as symbols in support of a communal identity or of communal worldviews, which could be communicated over large distances across Europe (Gaudzinski-Windheuser and Jöris, 2015; cf. Wobst 1977). Following these arguments, it was most likely due to the implementation of such sets of rules and regulations and a concept of communal identity underlying Late Magdalenian social organization that this phase of the Late Glacial Expansion finally succeeded. The resulting social networks would not only have established a viable meta-population over central Europe, but also reduced Magdalenian population densities and potentially associated population pressures within the 'homeland' regions, where groups had lived for several millennia in an Ice Age refugium at levels probably close to the limits of the region's carrying capacity (cf. Burke et al., 2017). Following this line of argument, one could furthermore conclude that the Late Magdalenian expansion succeeded due to the 'culturally planned' spread of humans over such a vast area; it is, therefore, the result of a planned, rule-driven 'colonization' governed by social rules on partnership, kin and residence, rather than a gradual and comparably slow 'dispersal' of a population due to its more-or-less continuous adaptation to new environmental conditions. The latter mode of dispersal may have applied to earlier (i. e., pre-16,000 cal BP) attempts to re-settle central Europe after the LGM which had, however, failed to establish viable populations over the longer term (Street et al., 2009; cf. e.g., Street and Terberger, 1999; Terberger and Street, 2002; Maier et al., 2020; Wiśniewski et al., 2017).

In parallel with the Late Magdalenian dispersal, 'Gönnersdorf-type' depictions left the context of deep caves (Bosinski et al., 2001) and came mostly to be found in both open-air sites, and if in rock-shelters in or near the daylight zone (e.g., La Roche de Lalinde: Leroi-Gourhan, 1971; Bosinski et al., 2001; Gare de la Couze:

Bordes et al., 1963; Abri Fontalès: Lorblanchet and Welté, 1987; Abri Murat: Lorblanchet and Welté, 1987). These observations support the notion that the transmission of the 'Gönnersdorf-type' symbol's content(s) took place in the public (rather than a personal of private; cf. Gaudzinski-Windheuser, 2015) sphere, and, according to the spatial data available (Bosinski et al., 2001), was embedded within everyday activities. This overall 'presence' and 'publicity', and the increased stylistical formalisation of 'Gönnersdorf-type' depictions, enhanced their saliency and recognisability at a supra-regional scale, fostered the understanding and acceptance of the symbol's content and, in combination, may have been beneficial for the establishment of large-scale networks which resulted in the enhancement of social cohesion spanning large geographical areas by interlinking different groups (that otherwise relied on different regional economies) and individuals from far distant regions. Spanning large distances, the supra-regional social webs established during this time led to increased frequencies of human-human interactions, which are seen as a motor for the development of common identity and a sense of belonging (Bird-David, 2017). Associated mating systems and residence rules in support of densly woven geographically well-interconnected social webs would have allowed the successful establishment of a viable meta-population that – from ~ 16,000 cal BP onward – built the base for the more sustainable resettlement of central – and susequently, northern – Europe (e. g., Street et al., 2009).

GÖNNERSDORF SITE FUNCTION

A low-level persistence of regional stylistic variability reveals, however, that regional social networks were not replaced, but instead that a social ('ideological': see below) super-structure was added on top of these. Whereas 'Gönnersdorf-type' ivory figurines are to be found predominantly at the northern margin of the Magdalenian oikumene, similar figurines made of jet, for example, are restricted to a few sites in southern central Europe, i.e., Monruz and Petersfels (Fig. 5: d). The latter type of figurine has a more double S-shaped outline, similar to an ivory statuette from Pekárna Cave in Moravia. Such regional patterns (which are to certain degree also reflected in lithic raw material provisioning patterns; e.g., Floss, 1994; Street et al., 2006; Maier, 2015, 2017) indicate the maintenance of regional social networks, styles and, likely, identities. These may have functioned on subordinate levels under the umbrella of an overarching 'metaphysical' or 'ideological' system of beliefs that served to enhance social cohesion. Transmission of the 'ideological' underpinnings of this social super-structure presumably required regular meetings or aggregations (sensu Conkey et al., 1980) at places where different – most likely neighbouring – foraging groups would have met to spend a certain and possibly extended time of the year together and to which a certain number of individuals from far distant regions would have joined (Langley and Street, 2013; Street and Turner, 2013). In this context 'Gönnersdorf-type' female depictions may have served as a symbol that was implemented to support the social inter-connectedness of Late Magdalenian groups and individuals. The reason why a symbol for the social role of females had been chosen for this task may be because women had been largely constituting and maintaining the supra-regional Late Magdalenian social web (Gaudzinski-Windheuser and Jöris, 2015). Implementation of rites, rituals and festivals would have fuelled the establishment and maintainance of such supra-regional social webs, reiterating the shared rules, regulations and concepts on which the 'ideological' super-structure was built upon. From the discussion above, the site of Gönnersdorf provides all the evidence in favour of an interpretation of the site as exactly such a nexus point. At the same time, this contextualisation emphasises that Gönnersdorf cannot be considered as an "average" Magdalenian site (contra discussion in Pasda, 2012), but that it complements to the majority of Magdalenian sites of different function by serving, amongst others, aspects of the social structuring of Late Magdalenian societies.

With the implementation of an 'ideological' super-structure and its associated rules and regulations on top of the regional social networks on which the economies of foraging groups were regularly running, this super-structure tier of social ties would have allowed for more complex land-use strategies, including supra-regional alliances which were based on increased levels of interdependencies and systems of support that allowed for increased levels of inter-group reciprocity and insured against periodic scarcities (cf. Minc and Smith, 1989). In this context, the 'ideological' umbrella that is most likely expressed in 'Gönners-dorf-type' depictions would have not only enhanced new levels of social interconnectedness and coherence but would have additionally been of immediate economic benefit, allowing the establisment of a viable meta-population in central Europe from the Late Magdalenian onwards (cf. Kretschmer, 2015; Tallavaara et al., 2015). This is not only evidenced by the significant increase of Late Magdalenian sites in central Europe (Street et al., 2009; Maier, 2015), but also by the Gönnersdorf seasonal zooarchaeological evidence (Street and Turner, 2013) that shows that Late Magdalenians had established economic sytems which allowed not only to overcome the glacial winters with reduced levels of biomass production (cf. Burke et al., 2017), but also to sustain year-round economies in central Europe, with the latter feeding positively back to the persistency of established social webs and to the successful colonisation of central Europe.

DISCUSSION

The Late Upper Palaeolithic non-naturalistic record of depictions, including 'signs' and 'symbols' and other abstract forms of 'artistic' expressions, is most generally interpreted in relation to the reconstruction or definition of regional ([palaeo-]"ethnic") identities (Leroi-Gourhan, 1981) or (their) "symbolic territories" (Fuentes et al., 2019). Conclusions of wider relevance for the understanding of the social and 'ideological' changes or changes in mentalities, worldviews and belief systems underlying the Late Upper Palaeolithic record of artistic expressions have rarely been considered (e.g., Leroi-Gourhan, 1971; Lorblanchet, 1989). On the contrary, the present interpretative trends for this rich (but poorly dated) record (see papers in Lorblanchet and Bahn, 1993) focus less on stylistic tendencies and their implications than on the recognition of geographical differences (cf. discussion in Pigeaud, 2007).

However, in an attempt to widen the perspective from the Late Upper Palaeolithic anthropomorphic depictions discussed above, a range of observations and inferences may be made in comparison to other themes present in Late Upper Palaeolithic art. Such comparison may not only highlight, but also help to contextualise and partly explain some of the major differences in the spatio-temporal and stylistic patterning of cultural changes observed in Late Upper Palaeolithic 'art history'. The coarse-grained view taken here attempts to go beyond highly focussed evidence and benefits from the wide geographical scope and the diachronic perspective that has been addressed above.

The interval of ~ 16,000 to 15,000 cal BP, i. e., the Late Magdalenian period during which 'Gönnersdorf-type' headless anthropomorphic depictions spread across much of Europe, can be understood further by considering wider data. Besides representations of 'Gönnersdorf-type', only few human or anthropomorphic illustrations are known from the period, as is the case for the entire Late Upper Palaeolithic (e.g., Duhard, 1993, 1996; Cohen, 2003; Bourrillon et al., 2012; Gaudzinski-Windheuser and Jöris, 2015). This stands in stark contrast to the far richer body of animal depictions. In the Middle Magdalenian facies à *pointes de Lussac-Angles* and in Upper/Late Magdalenian contexts, animals are depicted in high degrees of detail (e.g., Bourdier et al., 2017b; Bosinski and Fischer, 1980; Bosinski, 2008; Pigeaud, 2007). When depictions were engraved, in particular when they do not cover very large surfaces, they often appear highly naturalis-

tic or realistic, and in some cases at Gönnersdorf and many other sites dating to the ~ 16,000-15,000 cal BP interval, they reveal a particular concern with highlighting the animals' individuality in an extremely dynamic manner, including their individual expressions and behaviours (cf. Bosinski, 2007, 2008).

Thanks to the great numbers of schematic anthropomorphic (Bosinski and Fischer, 1974; Höck, 1995; Bosinski et al., 2001; Bosinski, 2011a, 2011b) and naturalistic animal depictions (Bosinski and Fischer, 1980; Bosinski, 2008), the Gönnersdorf site exemplifies the strong dichotomic separation of the way humans (or symbols of their social roles) were depicted on the one hand, and how animals were represented on the other. Whatever the underpinning worldviews or belief systems underlying this stylistic distinction contained in detail (cf. discussion in Lorblanchet, 1989), the notable dichotomy most likely reflects a conceptual or ideological differentiation between the animal world and the human sphere. In contrast to the depictions of animals, Late Magdalenian representations of humans/anthropomorphs generally lack individual traits. Within the human realm, the scarcity of representations interpreted as male, highlights another dualism - likely at a different conceptual level. Those concepts that placed little emphasis on the individual's sphere may probably have been beneficial in enhancing social coherence on a supra-regional scale (Gaudzinski-Windheuser and Jöris, 2015: 312), which is possibly reflected in the comparably high levels of standardisation and the restricted Late Magdalenian canon of objects of personal adornment (Álvarez Fernandez, 2006); in short, signalling coherence and membership of a certain group or entity was more important than displaying any form of individuality. The general scarcity of burials known from this period may be interpreted likewise (Pettitt, 2010).

Appendix: Site reference list to Fig. 5

Note: Asterixes in the site reference lists below refer to sites that have yielded potential anthropomorphic depictions. The attribution of some of them to the 'Gönnersdorf-type', however, is regarded here as probable, but unclear (*) or doubtful (**).

a Spain: Cueva de Ardales* (Malaga; Ramos Muños et al., 2002), Cueva del Linar* (Cantabria; Muños Fernandez and San Miguel Llamosas, 1991), Arenaza* (Basque; Garate, 2004); France: Gourdan (Haute-Garonne; Fritz et al., 1996), Grotte de Pestillac (Lot; Sentis, 2000), Grotte Carriot (Lot; Lorblanchet and Welté, 1987), Abri Lagrave* (Lot; Ipiens et al., 2000), Les Combarelles (Dordogne; Capitan et al., 1924; Archambeau and Archambeau, 1991), Grotte Saint-Cirg* (Dordogne; Delluc and Delluc, 1982), Grotte de Commarque (Dordogne; Delluc and Delluc, 1981), Vielmouly II* (Dordogne; Delluc and Delluc, 1987), Grotte de Fronsac (Dordogne; Delluc et al., 1994), La Font-Bargeix* (Dordogne; Barrière et al., 1990), Villars* (Dordogne; Delluc and Delluc, 1991), Grotte du Planchard (Ardèche; Bosinski et al., 2001), Grotte des Deux-Ouvertures* (Ardèche; Gély and Porte, 1996), Abri Bourdois, Angles-sur-l'Anglin (Vienne; de Saint-Mathurin and Garrod, 1949), Grotte Margot* (Mayenne; Pigeaud et al., 2010), Grotte de Gouy (Seine-Maritime; Martin, 2007); British Isles: Church Hole* (Nottinghamshire; Pettitt, 2007); Italy: Grotta Romanelli** (Apulia; Mussi and De Marco, 2008); Egypt: Sinai shelter

(Sinai; Zboray, 2012); Abu Tanqura Bahari (ATB) 11 at el-Hosh* (Upper Egypt; Huyge, 2015), Qurta II (Upper Egypt; Huyge, 2015).

b Spain: Las Caldas (Asturias; Corchón Rodríguez, 1990), Arlanpe (Basque, Rios-Garaizar et al., 2015); France: Grotte du Courbet near Bruniquel (Tarn; Alaux, 1972; Welté and Cook, 1993), Abri Fontalès (Tarn-et-Garonne; Lorblanchet and Welté, 1987), Magdeleine-la-Plaine* (Tarn; Ladier, 2001), Abri Murat (Lot; Lorblanchet and Welté, 1987), La Roche de Lalinde (Dordogne; Leroi-Gourhan, 1971, Bosinski et al., 2001), Gare de Couze (Dordogne; Bordes et al., 1963), Moulin-Neuf* (Gironde; Ladier et al., 2005), La Marche (Vienne; Pales and Tassin de Saint Péreuse, 1976; Mélard, 2008), Roc-aux-Sorciers (Vienne; Sentis, 2005); Germany: And. Andernach-Martinsberg (Rheinland-Pfalz; Bosinski, 1994), Gö. Gönnersdorf (Rheinland-Pfalz; Bosinski et al., 2001), Hohlenstein near Ederheim (Bayern; Bosinski, 1982), Obere Klause (Bayern; Floss et al., 2015), Oelknitz (Thüringen; Gaudzinski-Windheuser, 2013).

c-1 engravings on pebbles (quadrats). *France*: La Goutte Roffat near Villerest (Loire; Bosinski et al., 2001; cf. Larue et al., 1955, 1956); *Germany*: Niederbieber* (Rheinland-Pfalz; Loftus, 1982), Felsställe near Mühlen* (Baden-Württemberg; Kind, 1987), Teufelsbrücke near Saalfeld (Thüringen; Wüst, 1998); *Czech Republic*: Býčí Skála* (Moravia; Valoch, 1978). **c-2** engravings on bones (circles). *Spain*: Las Caldas (Asturias;

Corchón Rodríguez, 1990; Fortea et al., 1990); France: Abri Faustin (Gironde; Lenoir, 1995), Grotte Rochereil* (Dordogne; Delluc and Delluc, 1991), Rond du Barry* (Haute-Loire; de Bayle de Hermens, 1972); Germany: Petersfels* (Baden-Württemberg; Albrecht and Berke, 1980; Bosinski, 2011b).

d France: Grotte du Courbet* (Tarn; Ladier, 1987), Abri Fontalès (Tarn-et-Garonne; Lorblanchet and Welté, 1987), Laugerie-Basse (Dordogne; Delporte, 1979), Enval (Puy-de-Dôme; Bourdelle et al., 1971); Belgium: Mégarnie (Höck, 1995); Switzerland: Monruz (canton de Neuchâtel; Bullinger, 2006); Germany: And. Andernach-Martinsberg (Rhein-

land-Pfalz; Höck, 1995), Gö. Gönnersdorf (Rheinland- Pfalz; Bosinski et al., 2001; Höck, 1995), Petersfels near Bittelbrunn (Baden-Württemberg; Bosinski, 1982; Höck, 1995), Waldstetten (Baden-Württemberg; Floss et al., 2021), Nebra (Sachsen-Anhalt; Mania, 1999), Garsitz, Bärenkeller** (Thüringen; Bosinski, 1982), Oelknitz (Thüringen; Gaudzinski-Windheuser, 2013); Czech Republic: Pekárna (Moravia; Absolon, 1949); Poland: Wilczyce (Fiedorczuk et al., 2007); Ukraine: Mezhyrich (Pidoplichko, 1976; Abramova, 1995; Iakovleva, 2009), Dobranichivka (Iakovleva, 2009), Mezin (Chovkoplass, 1965; Iakovleva, 2009); Russia: Eliseevichi 1 (Bryansk; Abramova, 1966; Iakovleva, 2009).

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Palaeolithic Innovations enabling the Neolithic Revolution" and in 2017 at an international workshop and conference in Ekaterinburg on the "Great Shigir idol in the context of North Eurasia Stone Age art". It is also meant as a contribution to the Top-level Research Area "40.000 Years of Human Challenges: Perception, Conceptualization and Coping in Premodern Societies (Challenges)" at Johannes-Gutenberg University Mainz.

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