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# Para-Neolithic pottery use: Organic residue analysis of ceramics from Dudka and Szczepanki

Harry Robson\*<sup>1</sup>, Witold Gumiński , Alexandre Lucquin , Ekaterina Dolbunova , Gunilla Eriksson , John Meadows , Carl Heron , and Oliver Craig

<sup>1</sup>University of York [York, UK] – Heslington, York, YO10 5DD, Royaume-Uni

## Résumé

Dating from ca. 4500 to 2500 cal BC, the Zedmar culture is one of the latest ceramic producing hunter-gatherer communities of the Baltic region. It was distributed from the Prussian Lowlands (Kaliningrad Oblast, Russia) in the north to the Masurian Lake District (Poland) in the south. To date, only a handful of archaeological sites have been attributed to the Zedmar culture meaning that our understanding of this unique phenomenon is largely based on the extensive excavations undertaken at the sites of Dudka and Szczepanki in North-east Poland. To further our understanding of this ceramic producing complex, the molecular and isotopic analysis of lipids extracted from pottery was carried out. In addition, to assess whether exotic or novel commodities had been exchanged with other communities nearby, pottery attributed to the Para-Neolithic Neman culture as well as Middle and Late Neolithic Brześć Kujawski, Funnel Beaker, Globular Amphora and Corded Ware cultures were also sampled to ascertain temporal change. Moreover, to explore consumption practices at the two sites the stable isotope data obtained from human remains was taken into consideration.

**Mots-Clés:** Para, Neolithic, Zedmar culture, hunter, gatherer, organic residue analysis, lipids, stable isotopes

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\*Intervenant