Keynotespeaker

Hunter-gatherer diet and cuisine: recent advances in chemical analysis of pottery

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Abstract

Here I will review the recent history of organic residue analysis of pottery and then focus on recent investigations of hunter-gatherer pottery use.

From humble beginnings, chemical and isotopic analysis of the organic residues have been successfully developed to address a wide range of questions relating to technology, cuisine, diet and subsistence practices and is now an established method in archaeological research.

In European contexts, one of the main archaeological foci of this research has been to investigate early pastoral and agricultural Neolithic economies.
Much less attention has been given to the use of hunter-gatherer practices and the origin and dispersal of pottery itself.

Here, I will discuss some of the motivations for hunter-gatherer pottery use and the merit of addressing this question on a Eurasian scale, incorporating residue analysis.
Finally I will present some results of late hunter-gatherer-fisher pottery use in Northern Europe and describe some culinary changes with the arrival of agriculture.

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