

Peopling in Northern Eurasian forests: Merging archaeological, genetic-geographic and linguistic evidence in historical dynamics of socio-ecological system

**Junzo Uchiyama (Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures),
Alexander Savelyev (Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History),
J. Christopher Gillam (Winthrop University)**

Located at higher latitudes, northern Eurasia from the Baltic and North Seas (the North European Inland Seas) to the Japan and Okhotsk Seas (the East Asian Inland Seas) coasts has been one of the most susceptible areas to the global climatic fluctuations since the Late Pleistocene, such as the Last Glacial Maximum (LGM, ca. 31,000-16,000 BP) and the Holocene Climatic Optimum (HCO, ca. 9,000-5,000 BP). On the other hand, recent archaeological investigations have revealed that humans have continuously immigrated into and inhabited the northern circumpolar regions.

Especially the North Eurasian Greenbelt (NEG), which is a forestry corridor of boreal and temperate woodlands connecting the North European Inland Seas and the East Asian Inland Seas, has been rich in resources and historically densely populated, providing an environmental foundation for creating diverse cultural landscapes and playing the roles bridging cultures in remote areas. However, many questions related to the ecohistory remains unclear in NEG. They include, 1) What were prehistoric socio-ecological, i.e. subsistence and cultural conditions like, and how did they contribute to creating cultural landscapes in NEG? 2) In what ways and to what extent did the major environmental fluctuations such as LGM and HCO impact on human migrations and moves in NEG and human expansion from NEG?

This panel considers these topics from interdisciplinary perspectives, merging archaeological, genetic-geographical, and historical linguistic evidence. Particularly paying the attention to the recent linguistic evidence indicating that the Proto-Altaiic vocabulary had strong linkage to woodland animals and cultivation, the history of subsistence and animal use will be discussed from the viewpoint of environmental archaeology. These considerations will be discussed by comparing with genetic-geographical evidence on human expansion routes and archaeological evidence of dispersals of certain cultural components like ceramic technology.