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# Preface: 10<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Knappable Materials

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The University of Barcelona (UB) hosted from 7 to 11 September 2015, the International Symposium on Knappable Materials at the Building of the Faculty of Geography and History in the Raval campus in the city centre. The pleasant atmosphere of research and exchange of knowledge and experience was due in large part to the hard work and outstanding management and organizational skills of the institutions and individuals involved.

The symposium was organised by the *Seminari d'Estudis i Recerques Prehistòriques* (SERP), under the presidency of Dr. Xavier Mangado Llach, and the vice-presidency of Dr. Otis Crandell of Babeş-Bolyai University in Romania. In addition, there was an important team of volunteers (the orange t-shirt crew), among them several members of the SERP research group: Marta Sánchez de la Torre, Nuria Rodríguez Baylach, Mar Rey Solé, and several students from the UB Archaeology program: Yasmina Avià, Judit Berastegui, Aroa Casado, Gala Garcia-Argudo, Cynthia B. González, Juan L. Fernández Marchena, Bàrbara Mas, Helena Pamies, Sílvia Peñalver, Oscar Pérez-Parque, Adrià Saladrigas, Carlota Solà and Tamar Zamora.

All of them assured the organizational success, with an exquisite kindness, from the first moment at the registration desk to the final excursion trip “The Silica Road”. I should also mention the other persons and institutions which actively participated in the organization of the excursions and the other symposium activities outside of the university auditoriums. Firstly, I want to express my special thanks to the Museum of Gavà and to the Gavà Mines Archaeological Park with its variscite mines, especially its director, Mònica Borell, and its museum curator, Josep Bosch. Likewise I want to express my gratitude to Dr. María Soto and her colleagues at IPHES, for the organisation of “The Silica Road” excursion to the Priorat outcrops and to the Abric Romani Archaeological Park. In this case, the acknowledgement includes its curator, Raül Bartrolí.

The symposium brought together in Spain, more than 150 experts from 34 different nations, representing five continents. The organisation of 13 thematic sessions under the supervision of the Scientific Committee, coordinated by renowned professors, researchers and experts, has led to the publication in the *Journal of Lithic Studies* (JLS) of the submitted works, as a result of the symposium. Following a double blind peer view, A total of 35 articles have been published. It is absolutely necessary to thank the anonymous work of the referees and also the patient task of page layout by the editors of JLS.



Concerning the different thematic aspects covered by the symposium it is also absolutely necessary to thank in here the work carried out by all the session organisers: for their evaluation of the contents of the abstracts and also for the organisation of their different sessions through the studies of lithics from diverse points of view: geological, anthropological, historical, and others.

I personally consider that the 2015 International Symposium on Knappable Materials that took place in Barcelona was a great success, that turned the UB during those days into a global reference centre for this kind of studies, taking into account that more than one hundred presentation were given, distributed into 13 sessions or subjects, as singular as: the lithic exploitation strategies and trade during the human past, the use-wear analysis of lithics, the mechanical properties or the geochemical characterization of lithic raw materials, among others.

ISKM 2015 went beyond the university auditoriums because it could be followed by live streaming videos and videoconferencing facilities, which facilitated our desire for the symposium to be a true forum for global debate, despite the physical distance between some of the participants.

On the eve of the new International Symposium on Knappable Materials to be held in Buenos Aires (Argentina) next November, I can only conclude that for all of us, as President and Director of the Organising Committee of the ISKM- Barcelona 2015, It has been an unforgettable experience. We hope that all the participants will keep in their memories an indelible positive souvenir, as a great symposium, well organized and with a human warmth.

The symposium was financially supported by the Vice-rector of Research, Innovation and Transfer of the UB, the Research Commission of the Faculty of Geography and History and the Department of Prehistory, Ancient History and Archaeology (UB). Other institutions have also collaborated scientifically and in the organisation of several activities: IMF-CSIC, the Museum of Archaeology of Catalonia - Barcelona, the Museum of History of Barcelona, and the Museum of Badalona. In addition to *Barcelona Turisme*, Catalunya Convention Bureau and Olympus.

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