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ARCHAEOLOGY AND THE GENETIC REVOLUTION IN EUROPEAN PREHISTORY

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Archaeology and the Genetic Revolution in European Prehistory

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Abstract: This Element was written to meet the theoretical and methodological challenge raised by the third science revolution and its implications for how to study and interpret European prehistory. The first section is therefore devoted to a historical and theoretical discussion of how to practice interdisciplinarity in this new age and, following from that, how to define some crucial but undertheorized categories, such as culture, ethnicity, and various forms of migration. The author thus integrates new results from archaeogenetics into an archaeological frame of reference to produce a new and theoretically informed historical narrative – one that invites further debate and also identifies areas of uncertainty where more research is needed.

Keywords: archaeology, genetics, European prehistory, migration, ethnicity

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