



E I N L A D U N G

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V E R A - S E M I N A R

von

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**36,000 Years Ago:
The Chauvet-Pont D'Arc Cave**

The Chauvet-Pont d'Arc Cave (Ardèche, France) is one of the most important sites for the study of the earliest manifestations and development of prehistoric art at the beginning of the Upper Palaeolithic. Radiocarbon dates for the ancient drawings in the cave revealed ages much older than expected. These early ages and nature of this Palaeolithic art make this United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) site indisputably unique. A large, multidisciplinary dating program has recently mapped the anthropological evolution associated with the cave. More than 350 dates (^{14}C , U-Th, TL and ^{36}Cl) were obtained over the last 15 y, among which are 259 radiocarbon dates, mainly related to the rock art and human activity in the cave. The high-precision Bayesian model that we derived provides a coherent and insightful framework for the successive events that occurred in the cave during the Palaeolithic period. This chronological model revises the history of the prehistoric people who frequented the cave and shows that there were two distinct periods of human activity in the cave, one from 37,000 to 33,500 y ago, and the other from 31,000 to 28,000 y ago. Cave bears also took refuge in the cave until 33,000 y ago.

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**1090 Wien, Währinger Str. 17, "Kavalierstrakt",
1. Stock, Victor-Franz-Hess-Hörsaal**