



Shantanu Katiyar

Nationality: Indian **Date of birth:** 26/01/1996 **Phone number:** (+39) 3277512654

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ABOUT ME

My academic foundation is rooted in Chemical Sciences, yet my passion for Quaternary Prehistory ignited early on in my academic journey. After my first graduation, I embarked on a transformative path by securing a full Erasmus Mundus Scholarship for the IMQP master's program in Europe, for an in-depth knowledge of diverse interdisciplinary aspects of Prehistory and Quaternary Geology. Presently, I am searching for a Ph.D. opportunity in the realm of Paleolithic Archaeology, with a primary focus on:

• Lower/Middle Paleolithic archaeology • Lithic technology • Experimental archaeology • Cultural/Social evolution

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Erasmus Mundus Master - Quaternary and Prehistory

University of Ferrara [30/09/2021 – 19/09/2023]

Address: Via Savonarola, 9, Ferrara FE, 44121 Ferrara (Italy)

Website: <https://www.quaternaryprehistory.eu/>

Final grade: 30/30 cum laude

Number of credits: 120

Thesis: Utilitarian or not: The engraved cortexes from the Mousterian Levels of Riparo Tagliente (Stallavena di Grezzana, Verona, Italy).

Thesis Summary:

The study focused on the analysis of 429 cortical lithic artefacts, from the Mousterian layers of site - Riparo Tagliente in Italy to look for traces on cortical surfaces which might have an anthropogenic origin. The analysis occurred in two stages: initially, a visual examination identified and eliminated cortical artefacts displaying no discernible traces or those associated with natural processes, leaving only three artefacts which could be associated with anthropogenic causes. These select artifacts underwent microscopic analysis, alongside a previously scrutinized side scraper already bearing anthropic modifications. Alongside, a comprehensive reference experimental collection was built, performing a range of tasks/activities to compare with the traces on the archaeological material.

Through microscopic observations of trace morphology and comparisons with the experimental collection, I identified two primary activities responsible for these traces: scraping and individual incisions. Subsequently, an attempt was made to decipher the purpose behind these traces, considering both utilitarian and non-utilitarian possibilities. On a broader scale, this study sought to contribute to a category of material culture which acts as one of the crucial indicators of early instances of symbolically mediated behaviour among Neanderthals.

Five year BS-MS Dual Science degree (Chemical Sciences)

Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Mohali [31/07/2014 – 30/11/2019]

Address: SAS Nagar, Sector 81, 140306 Mohali (India)

Website: <https://www.iisermohali.ac.in/>

Final grade: 6.7/10

Thesis: "Replication of bifaces of Acheulean techno - complex through trial and error knapping experiments"

Thesis Summary:

It was an experimental undertaking designed with the help of my thesis guide Dr Parth R. Chauhan, where a novice knapper (myself) with minimal practical experience of knapping on quartzite blanks, was instructed - without any external help to make bifaces from limestone slabs, similar to the ones found at Isampur, a well-documented Early Acheulean quarry site in the Hunsgi – Baichbal valley region of Karnataka, India. The objective of the study was to observe what behavioural units are explored by the novice knapper through simple heuristics while improving his perceptual-motor skills through multiple trials.

It focused on core maintenance behaviours achievable through individual practice within realistic time frames and considering the external and internal limitations provided by the properties of the raw material.

Relevant Coursework in Quaternary Archaeology:

- Bones, Stones, Chromosomes: Story of our Evolution
- The Quaternary Period: Environments, Animals and adaptations during the last 2.5 million years
- Introduction to Archaeology with special reference to the Indian subcontinent.
- The Archaeology of Ancient Technologies (Experimental Coursework)
- Geomorphology and Earth surface processes
- Sedimentology and concepts in stratigraphy

As a part of my Chemistry coursework, I am trained in operating and interpreting the results of analytical techniques such as Chromatography, X-ray fluorescence, and IR/UV Spectroscopy. More information on the course structure can be found on <https://www.iisermohali.ac.in/course-structure>

PUBLICATIONS

[Introducing Pandado: a newly discovered Acheulean site in the central Narmada Valley \(CNV\), India](#)

[2022]

Singh, V., and Katiyar, S., Lithic Technology, 47:4. p.p. 296-313.

[Lower Palaeolithic \(Acheulean\) adaptations in the central Narmada Valley: New evidence from Sehore and Narmadapuram Districts, Madhya Pradesh, India](#)

[2023]

Singh, V., Katiyar, S., Tiwari, N., Krishnan, K., Chauhan, P.R., Quaternary Science Advances.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Summer Research Student

Università degli Studi di Ferrara [29/05/2023 – 18/06/2023]

City: Ferrara

Country: Italy

Participated in the excavation of the Middle Paleolithic cave site - Ciota Ciara, Borgosesia, Italy under Dr Marta Arzarello.

Summer Research Student

Università degli Studi di Ferrara [06/08/2023 – 24/08/2023]

City: Ferrara

Country: Italy

Participated in excavation of the Lower Paleolithic Site Pirro Nord, Apricena, Italy under Dr Marta Arzarello.

Summer Research Student

Università degli Studi di Ferrara [25/07/2022 – 17/08/2022]

City: Ferrara

Country: Italy

Participated in excavation of the Lower Paleolithic Site Pirro Nord, Apricena, Italy under Dr Marta Arzarello.

Summer Research Student

MUSÉUM NATIONAL D'HISTOIRE NATURELLE DÉPARTEMENT DE PRÉHISTOIRE [03/07/2022 – 16/07/2022]

City: Paris

Country: France

Participated in the excavation of site of Notarchirico (Italy, Basilicata), Lower Paleolithic under Dr Marie-Hélène Moncel

Summer Research Student

American Numismatics Society [19/06/2022 – 01/07/2022]

City: New York

Country: United States

Participated in the excavation season at the multi-period archaeological site of San Vincenzo, Stromboli (ME, Italy).

Summer Research Student

Università degli Studi di Ferrara [30/05/2022 – 13/06/2022]

City: Ferrara

Country: Italy

Participated in excavation of Middle Paleolithic cave site - Ciota Ciara, Borgosesia, Italy under Dr Marta Arzarello.

Internship (unpaid)

Sahitya Sansthan - Institute of Rajasthan Studies [03/03/2020 – 06/03/2020]

City: Udaipur

Country: India

Website: <https://sahityasansthan.org/>

- I performed identification and preliminary analysis of Lower Paleolithic (Acheulean) tools as part of a 3 member team.
- Gave a presentation on the identification and preliminary analysis of Lower Paleolithic stone tools to students.

Internship (unpaid)

Indian Institute of Science Education and Research [09/09/2019 – 29/02/2020]

City: Mohali

Country: India

Website: www.iisermohali.ac.in

I assisted my senior doctoral fellow, Vivek Singh in the analysis of Lower Paleolithic (Acheulean) artefacts from various sites of Central Narmada Valley, as a part of his doctoral research. The outcome of the analysis resulted in many publications in international journals. I collaborated as a second author, in 2 international publications regarding the new Acheulean sites in the Central Narmada Valley, India.

Research Assistant/ Consultant

University of Jayawardenepura [21/07/2019 – 08/08/2019]

City: Colombo

Country: Sri Lanka

Website: www.sjp.ac.lk

Participated in the 3rd season of excavations at "Mahalena cave" under the [Rajagala Archaeological Project](#) (Rajagala, Sri Lanka)

- Supervised identification of Microlithic artefacts from the trench
- On-site analysis of the Microlithic artefacts
- Prepared and submitted report on the lithic finds to the archaeology department of the University of Jayawardenepura

Summer Research Student

Indian Institute of Science Education and Research [04/05/2018 – 07/07/2018]

City: Mohali

Country: India

Participated in the Project "[The First Global Culture: Lower Paleolithic Acheulean Adaptations at the Two Ends of Asia](#)" at Hoshangabad, Madhya Pradesh, India under Dr Parth R. Chauhan.

Summer research student

Indian Institute of Science Education and Research [12/05/2017 – 08/07/2017]

City: Mohali

Country: India

Website: www.iisermohali.ac.in

Participated in the Project "[The First Global Culture: Lower Paleolithic Acheulean Adaptations at the Two Ends of Asia](#)" at Hoshangabad, Madhya Pradesh under the supervision of [Dr Parth R. Chauhan](#).

Summer Research Student

Indian Institute of Science Education and Research [03/05/2016 – 09/07/2016]

City: Mohali

Country: India

Participated in the Project "Narmada Basin Archaeology and Paleoanthropology Project." (Hoshangabad, Madhya Pradesh) under Dr Parth R. Chauhan.

CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS ATTENDED

21st Indo Pacific Prehistory Association Congress, Hue, Vietnam

[23/09/2018 – 28/09/2018]

Attended the conference as the 3rd author of the conference paper "[Paleolithic artefacts and associated faunal remains from Nehlai in the Narmada Basin, central India](#)"

Emerging trend in South Asian rock art: theories, methods and scientific studies

[16/09/2016 – 18/09/2018]

Attended as a Volunteer at the conference "Emerging trend in South Asian rock art: theories, methods and scientific studies" conducted in IISER Mohali, India.

HONOURS AND AWARDS

Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters - full scholarship for the IMQP master program

Erasmus Mundus [30/09/2021]

Scholarship Amount - 32,500 Euros.

LANGUAGE SKILLS

Mother tongue(s): **Hindi**

Other language(s):

English

LISTENING C2 READING C2 WRITING C2

SPOKEN PRODUCTION C1 SPOKEN INTERACTION C1

Levels: A1 and A2: Basic user; B1 and B2: Independent user; C1 and C2: Proficient user

RECOMMENDATIONS

Associate Professor at Università degli studi di Ferrara, Ferrara, Italy

Name: Dr Marta Arzarello

Email: marta.arzarello@unife.it

Supervisor for my IMQP Master's thesis titled "Utilitarian or not: The engraved cortexes from the Mousterian Levels of Riparo Tagliente (Stallavena di Grezzana, Verona, Italy)"

Associate Professor at Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Mohali, India

Name: Dr Parth R. Chauhan

Email: parthrc@iisermohali.ac.in

Supervisor for my Master's thesis at the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, India titled "Replication of bifaces of Acheulean techno - complex through trial and error knapping experiments".