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## The Neolithic transition in Europe and North Africa. The functional craneology contribution.

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With 2 figures and 7 tables

**Summary:** The origin and mode of the Neolithic transition in Europe and North Africa is a matter intensively discussed. We discuss these regions if it results by a morphological change in the behaviour of local populations, or by a replacement in Europe and North Africa, from a morphological trend. The method based on the Functional Craneology (FCC) bone shape is modified by the Neolithic transition. The changes were estimated on two morphological components: midneuronal, posteroneuronal, otic, and occipital components (FCC). ANOVA and MANOVA showed a morphological trend nor a pattern characteristic between the Upper Palaeolithic and the Neolithic and Palaeolithics. Shape is modified by the Neolithic transition: masticatory FCCs, and smaller occipital and otic faces in hunter-gatherers. The morphological shift is caused by a replacement of local populations. Morphological changes can be a result of a replacement since the Neolithic period.

**Key words:** Neolithic transition, functional craneology

**Zusammenfassung:** Ursprung und Mode der Neolithischen Transition in Europa und in Nordafrika ist ein intensiv diskutiertes Thema. Wir diskutieren diese Regionen, ob es sich um ein Verhalten von Populationen handelt, oder um einen Austausch in Europa und Nordafrika. Die Methode der funktionellen Kranialmorphologie (FCC) ist modifiziert. Die Veränderungen wurden auf zwei morphologischen Komponenten geschätzt: die midneuronalen, posteroneuronalen, otischen und occipitalen Komponenten (FCC). ANOVA und MANOVA zeigten einen morphologischen Trend, aber keine charakteristische Musterbildung zwischen dem Upper Palaeolithic und dem Neolithikum und Paläolithikum. Die Form wird durch die Neolithische Transition modifiziert: kleinere Kieferknochen (FCCs) und kleinere occipitale und otische Gesichter bei Jäger-Sammlern. Die morphologische Verschiebung wird durch den Austausch von Populationen verursacht. Morphologische Veränderungen können ein Ergebnis eines Austauschs sein, seit der Neolithischen Periode.