Special Issue

Quaternary Fauna in the Levant: Ecological, Biogeographical and Biochronological Considerations for Human Evolution

Message from the Guest Editor

The Levant is an essential region at the crossroad of Africa, Europe, and Asia. The extreme climatic fluctuations contributed to the complex dispersal patterns throughout and across the Levant during the quaternary. As a result of these dispersals, vertebrate community structure changed dramatically, creating non-analogue communities and exploiting new ecological niches. The dispersal of species through and within the Levant has dramatically impacted our understanding of early human demographics and human–environment interactions.Understanding if early human population dynamics are related to climate change or niche exclusion and competition is critical in human evolution. Unraveling these relationships depends on understanding the biogeographic origin of other vertebrate taxa and their chronological span. We seek manuscripts that discuss new finds and interpretations of the biochronology and biochronology of vertebrate fauna from the Levant. We are especially interested in comprehensive and comparative reviews that span a large portion of the Levant or from regions typically underrepresented in the literature and those that employ novel analytical methods.

Guest Editor

Dr. Miriam Belmaker

Department of Anthropology, The University of Tulsa, 800 South Tucker Drive, Tulsa, OK 74104, USA

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Quaternary
Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland
Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
quaternary@mdpi.com

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

We live in a Quaternary world, that is, a world shaped by the interplay of the different compartments of the earth system—lithosphere, hydrosphere, atmosphere, biosphere, cryosphere—during the last ~2.6 million years. It is not possible to understand the current world—and, hence, to anticipate its possible future developments—without knowing the Quaternary history of drivers, processes, and mechanisms that have generated it. Our own species is an evolutionary outcome of the Quaternary performance. Therefore, the journal *Quaternary* is born with the aim of being an integrative journal to encompass all aspects of Quaternary science focused on understanding the complex world in which we live and to provide a sound scientific basis to anticipate possible future trends and inform environmental policies.

Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Jef Vandenberghe
Department of Earth Sciences, VU University, De Boelelaan 1085, 1081 HV Amsterdam, The Netherlands

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