Finding the Gap: A Chronometric Approach to the Early–Late Iron Age Transition in Northern Iberia (450–350 BCE)

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Abstract:

The period around 400 BCE is one of the least understood in European protohistory. Although almost all communities experienced significant changes to their way of life, very little is known about how this abrupt transformation occurred. This study examines the timing of these changes in order to understand what could have triggered them, taking a fresh look at this phenomenon by combining landscape archaeology and chronostatistical approaches.

The paper describes a multivariable chronometric approach to defining the duration and regional variability of this period in northern Iberia. Using a large dataset of 272 radiocarbon dates from 109 sites, the study examines the timing of the closure of Early Iron Age sites and the construction of Late Iron Age fortifications, as well as the traceability of this process in the landscape. This research raises several key questions regarding the abandonment and emergence of different occupation strategies, and the most relevant results of the methodological approach will be described.

Keywords: *Iron Age, chronometry, 400 BCE, Iberian Peninsula, European Prehistory*