

Abstract of the Dissertation

**Hunting and Butchery Patterns of the Evenki in Northern Transbaikalia,
Russia**

by

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This dissertation study is an ethnoarchaeological study of hunting and butchery among a small group of forest-dwelling hunters in Siberia. It documents a situation where there was in effect a uniform method of hunting, no differential transport and no sharing. The study thus sheds light on the behavior of a small family-sized group provisioned by whole animals that were consumed as they were caught – in other words, a 'single hearth' group engaged in an immediate return strategy. As such, it is uniquely suited for comparison to other ethnoarchaeological studies, and for its use as an analog of dispersed group behavior for archaeological studies. This is also the first large-scale, zooarchaeology-oriented, ethnoarchaeological study of a group in the cold boreal forests of Eurasia, and will be useful to the interpretation of the archaeological record of cold and temperate zones in Eurasia and the circumpolar north.

The sequence of kill to discard of large mammal bone is documented completely, including the phases of cooking and consumption. Each skeletal element is analyzed in terms of butchery procedure, processing time, use, and modification. This study proposes a different model for skeletal element ranking and use that would be more appropriate when studying cultures that have boiling technology. A new GIS image-analysis approach that allows direct comparison with other experimental and archaeological collections was used for the analysis of surface modification. Comparisons against a South African collection show that while disarticulation marks on ungulates are similar across cultural and geographical boundaries, culinary preferences and cultural behavior could also leave a trace and must be included in the interpretive framework.