

Jomon Period

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The overall impression was that there were many results indicating development and *terminus* of the study. There was a tendency that related symposiums and theses will be held and published after publication of an important excavation report.

As for funeral systems, Jomon Jidai Bunka Kenkyukai held the second study conference “Jomon Jidai Sobosei Kenkyu no Gendankai (The Present of Jomon Period Funeral System Study),” which conducted not only collection of national data and regional movements, but also organized whole issues of funeral system study. They discussed various features and touched social theory to interpret Jomon society from funeral systems. They indicated the future issues of funeral system study as: 1) reorganization/unification of terminology, 2) problem of period identification, 3) database creation, 4) collaboration with physiochemistry, while recognizing the importance of fundamental research and fostering of future researchers.

As for settlement theory, there were many works related to rituals and funeral systems, and there was a tendency to discuss settlement structure in relation with circled stones and graveyards. Also, reexamination is progressing for the collapse of circled settlements in the second half of Middle Jomon. As for settlement study of Final Jomon, reexamination continues for an evaluation of the phase as a stagnation/decline period of settlement.

As for artifact study, many works tended to be related to rituals and the spiritual world, and discussion of artifacts as ritual tools is active. As for pottery study, progress was seen for functional study in addition to chronological study. As for lithics, study was prominent for lithics related to a plant-based diet, and it seems a series of studies combining experimental archaeology and use-mark analysis will draw further attention in the future.

As for subsistence/environment related study, while there was an impression that many were based on incorporation of natural scientific analysis or impression replica method, clarification of subsistence continued to be attempted from empirical study based on observation of archaeological data. As for pitfall study, active discussion was conducted mostly in relation with the Paleolithic.

Dating measurement and isotope analysis (eating habit analysis) on excavated human bones were even more widespread, and analysis examples are being accumulated. Discussion on pottery/culture/environment using calendar dating will continue to be active in the future.

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