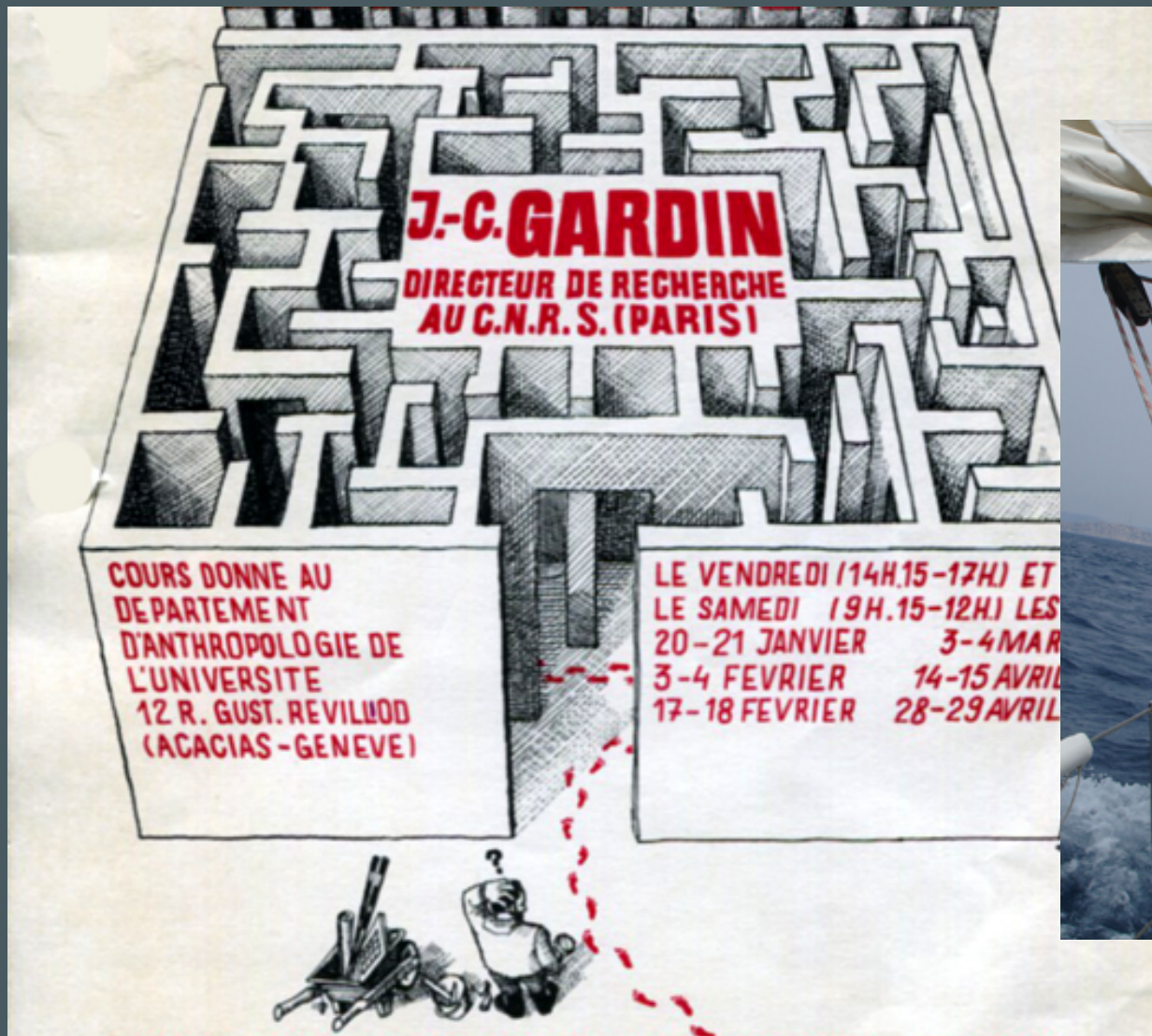


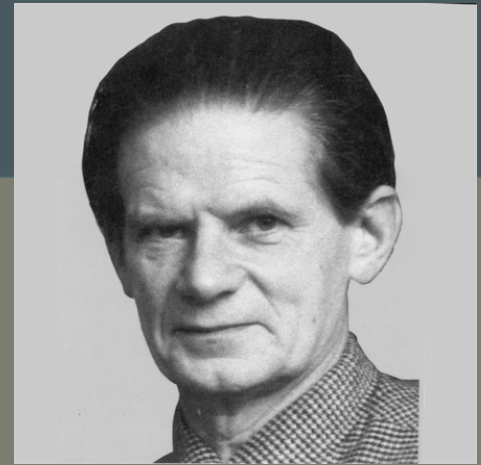
Paris : 25th April 2014



JEAN CLAUDE GARDIN :
ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH STRATEGIES
LECTURE HELD AT GENEVA IN 1978

SION, PETIT-CHASSEUR 1968 – 1971

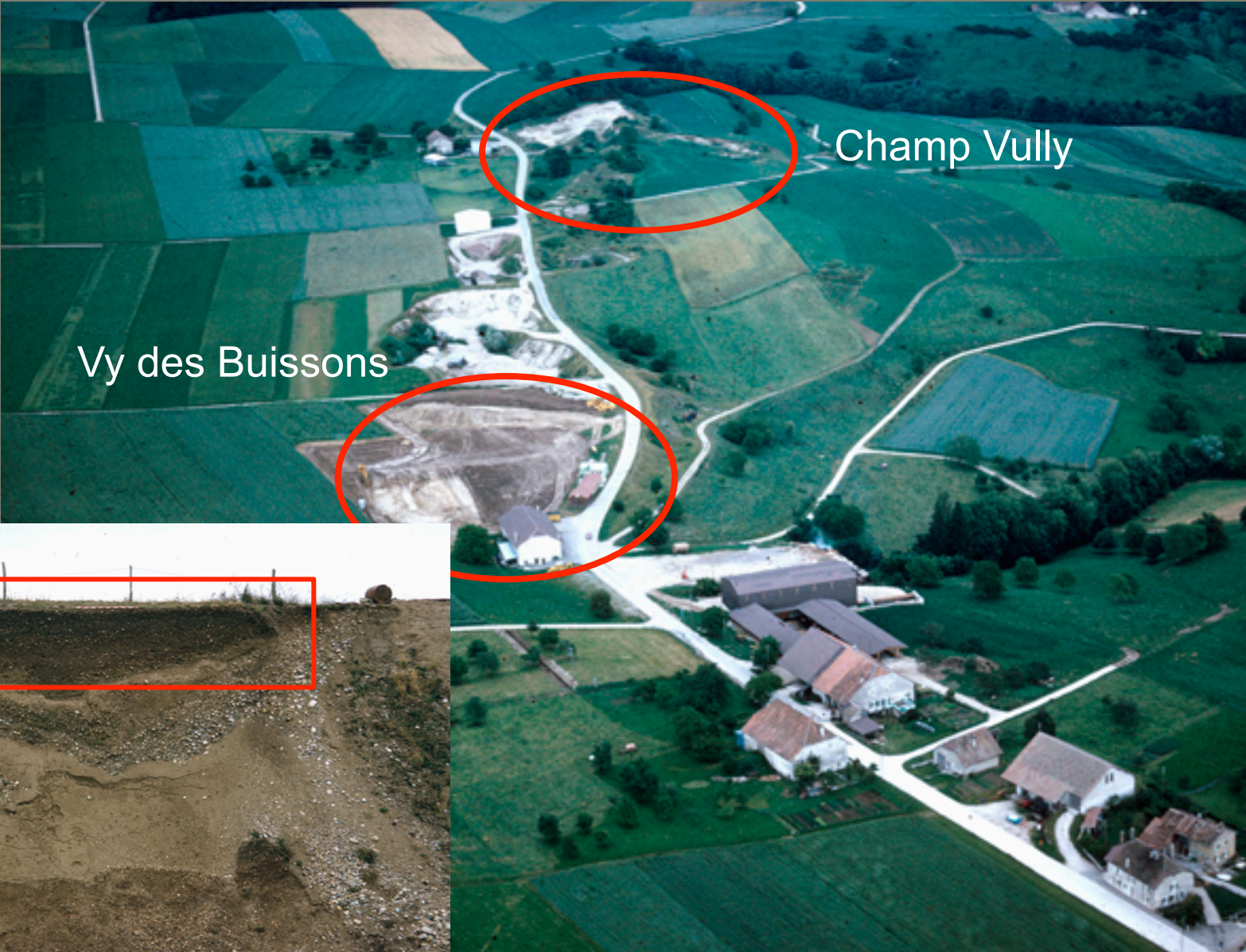
THE BIAS IN FAVOUR OF EXHAUSTIVENESS



« One main aspect of the archaeological method is imperative: we are authorized to destroy the evidence only if it has been recorded in a detailed and exhaustive manner » (Leroi-Gourhan 1983, 137).

« Instead of acquiring increasing quantities of materials, it is perfectly reasonable to gain greater knowledge by less excavating. » (Idem, p. 142).

RANCES VD 1973 – 1981 : A NEW CHALLENGE



Vy des Buissons

Champ Vully



GARDIN :

FIELD SURVEY IN THE REGION OF ANCIENT BACTRIA 1974 - 1978
AN EXAMPLE FOR RESEARCH SUBORDINATED
TO A SINGLE-ISSUE APPROACH:

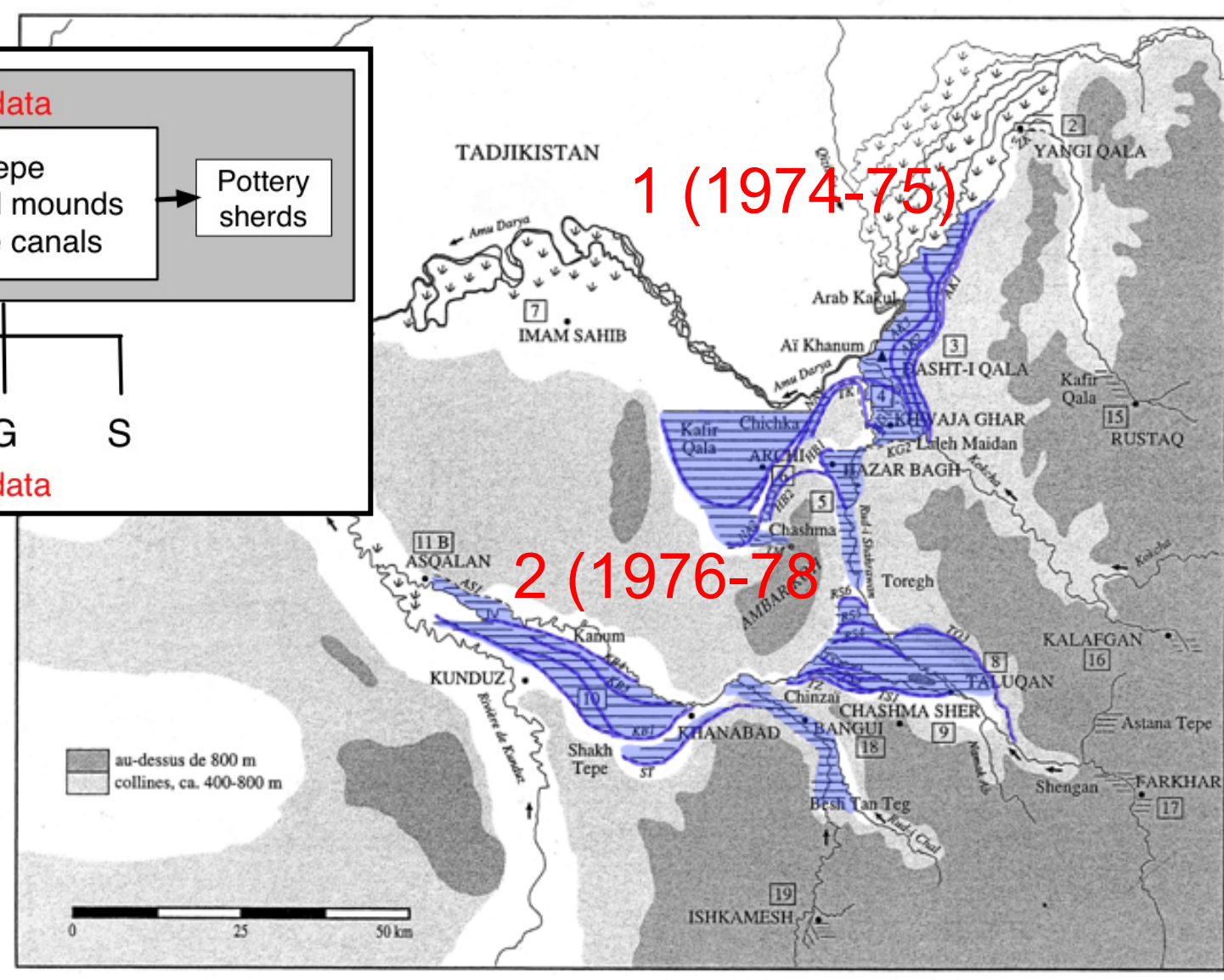
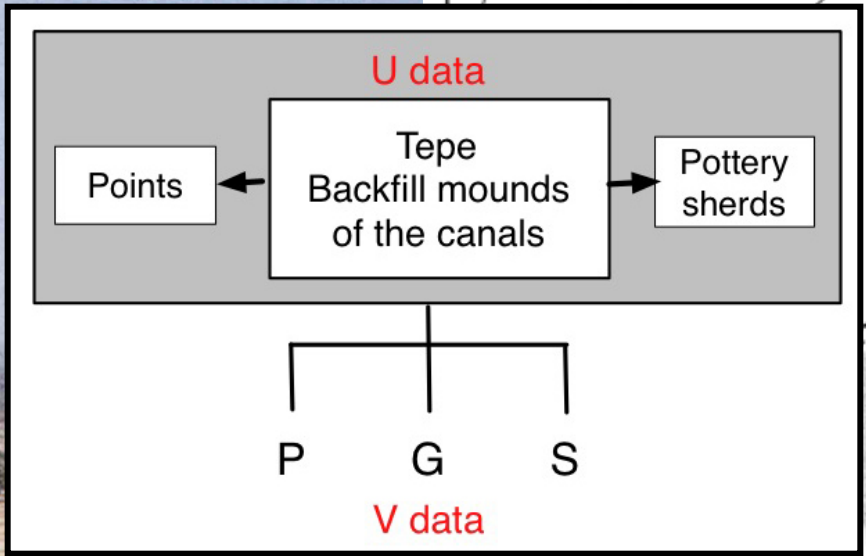


Is there a relationship between irrigation and the emergence of state societies ?

Poor performance of sophisticated methods

Poor performance with regard to the interpretation of aerial photographs
(hindered by significant alluvial deposits)

An example for research subordinated to a single-issue approach: Field survey in the region of ancient Bactria



Sites were only taken into account if they permitted the datation of the irrigation canals

GARDIN : LECTURE HELD AT THE UNIVERSITY OF GENEVA 1978

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH STRATEGIES

Issues ignored by the archaeologists

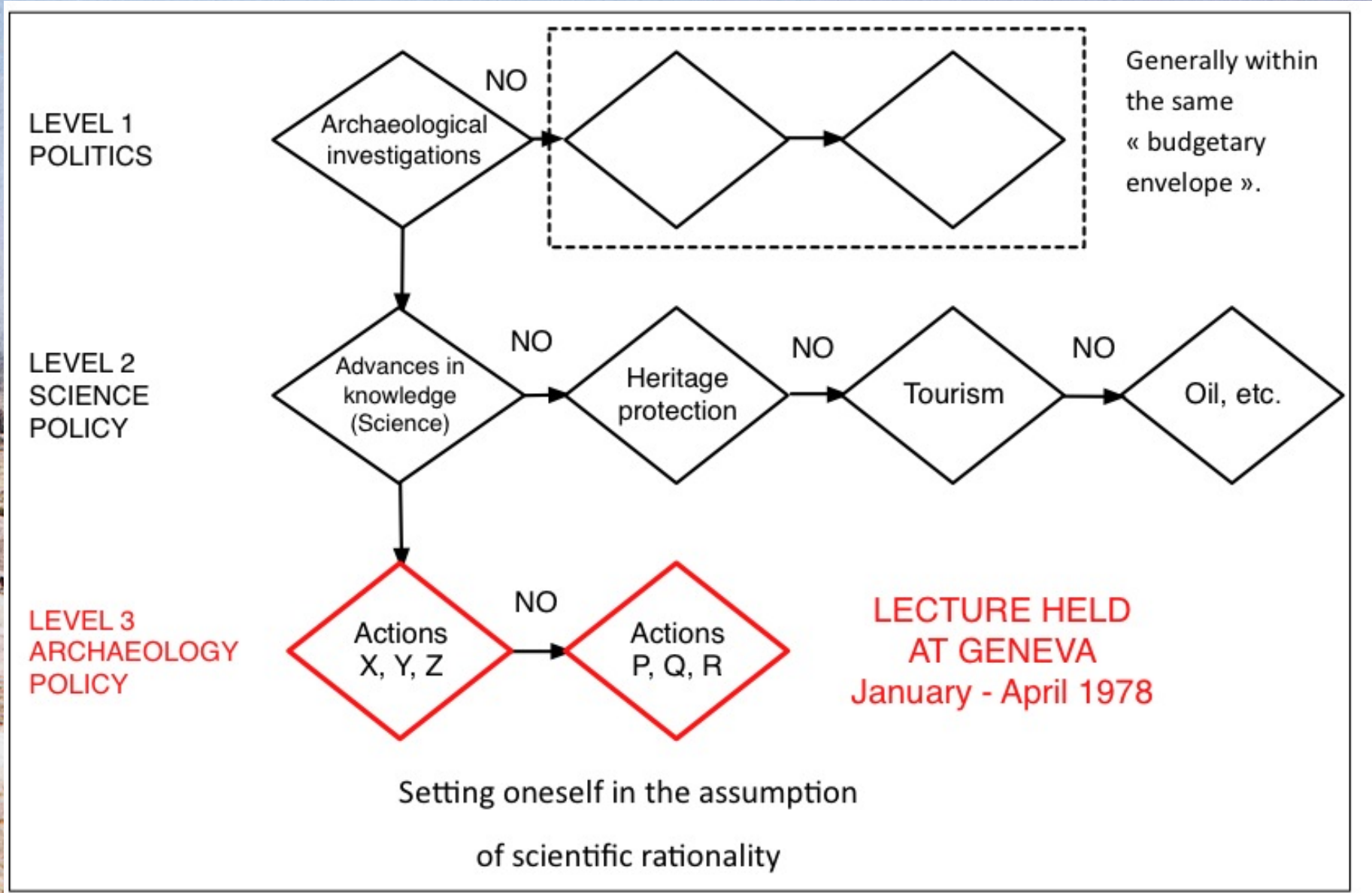
A definition :

« The study of the (in)experience of the archaeologists with regard to the modalities of archaeological practice »

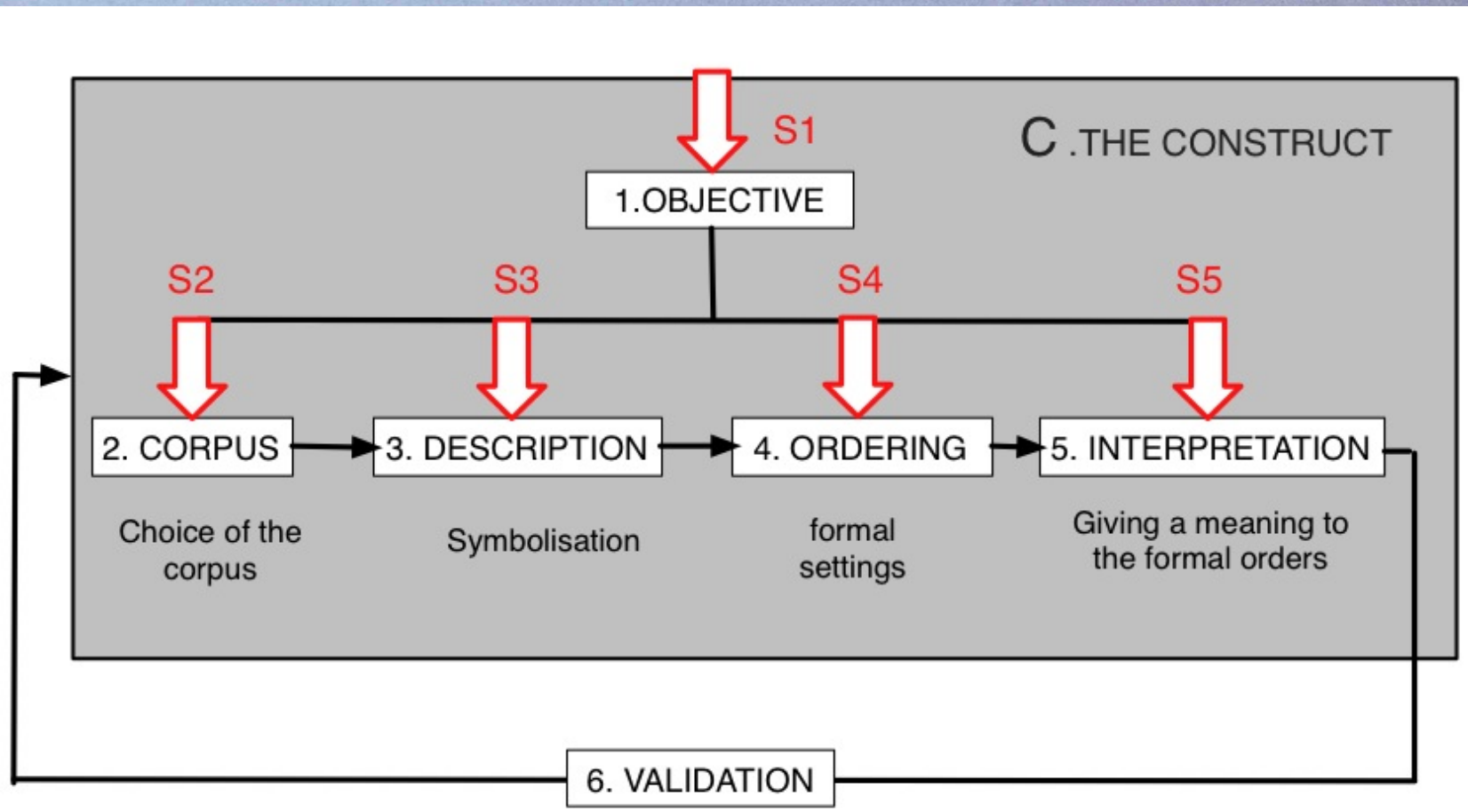
« The study of the (in)experience mirrored by the archaeological actions meeting specific objectives thought to be crucial issues »



Choice of the actions

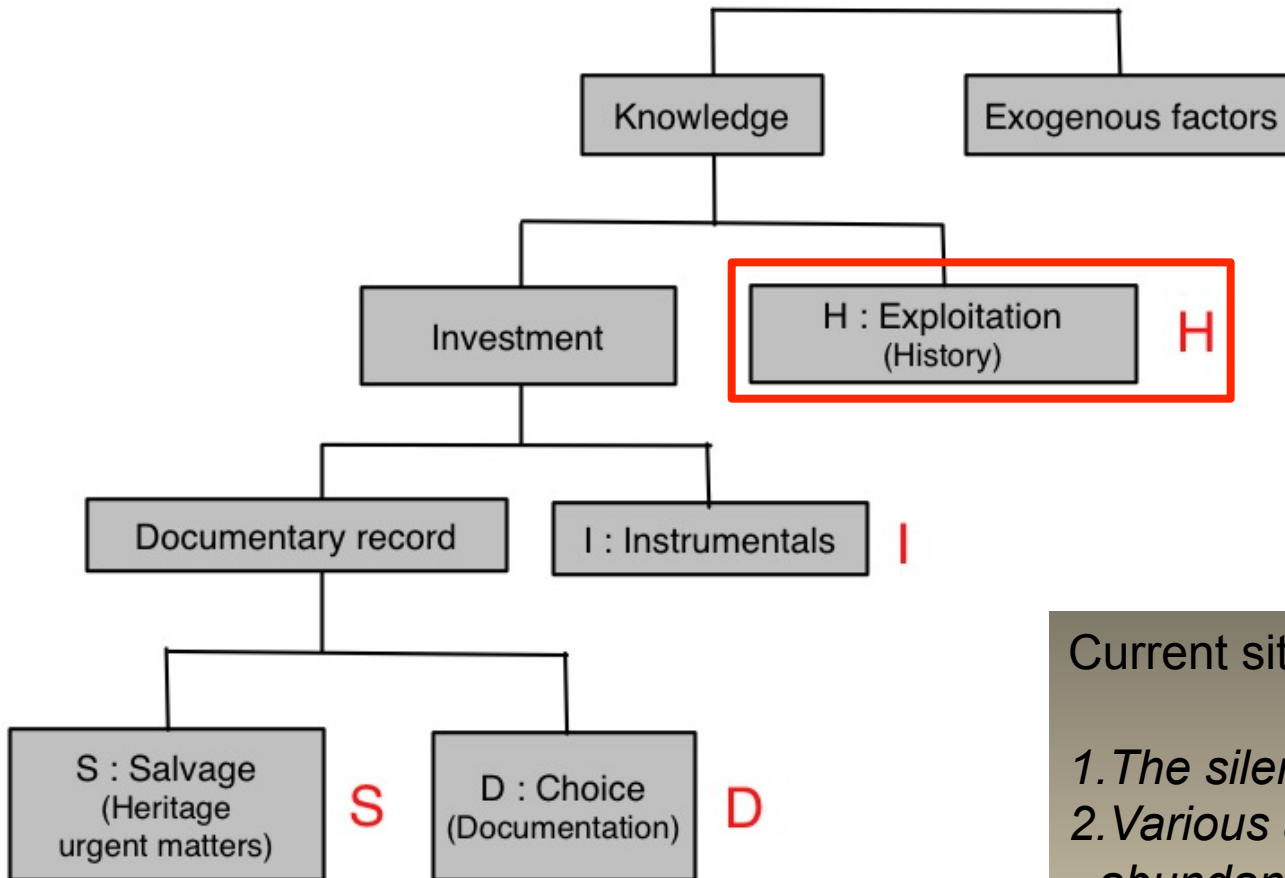


What choices at the level of archaeology policy?



Testing the empirical value of the construct on a different corpus

S1 : choice of the objectives



Current situation :

1. *The silence*
2. *Various adjectives :*
 - abundant
 - unexpected
 - interesting famous
 - physically significant
 - threatened by destruction

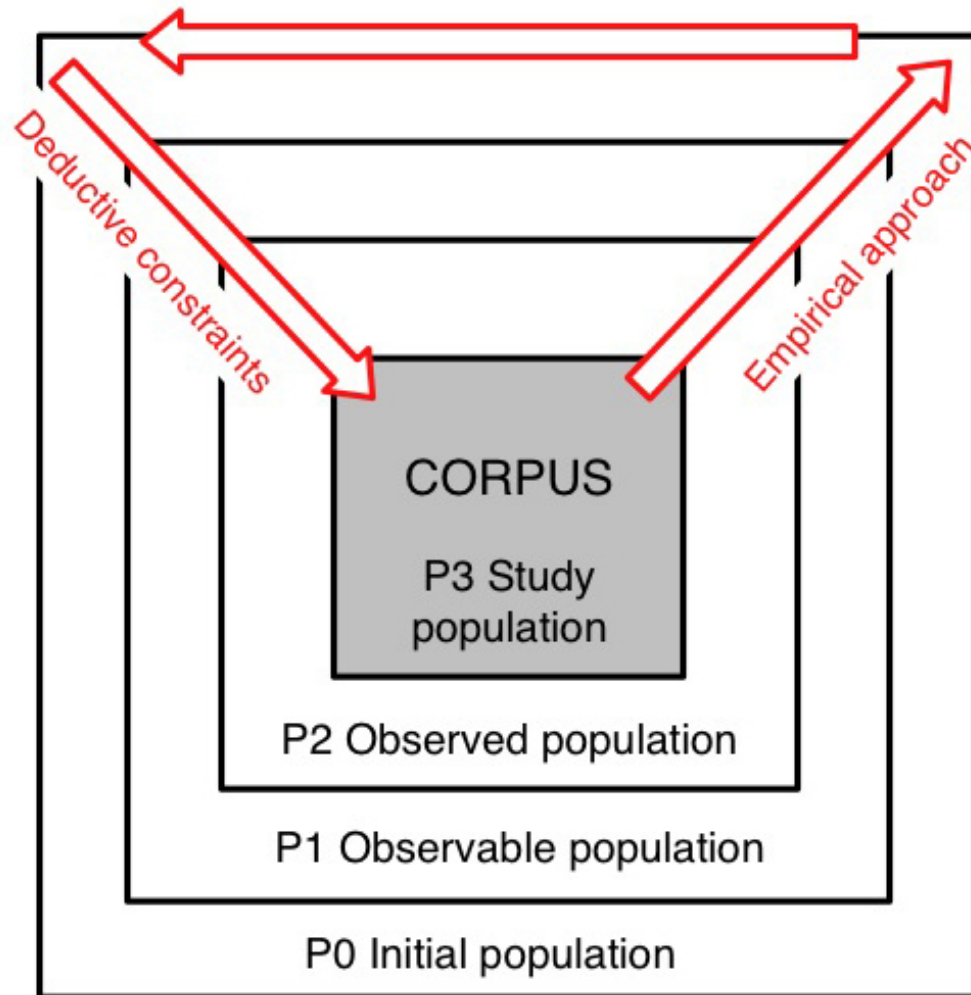
Consequently $H > (S + D + I)$

S2 : choice of the corpus, sampling procedures

Mueller, J. 1975. *Sampling in archaeology*

OBJECTIVES

INTERPRETATION



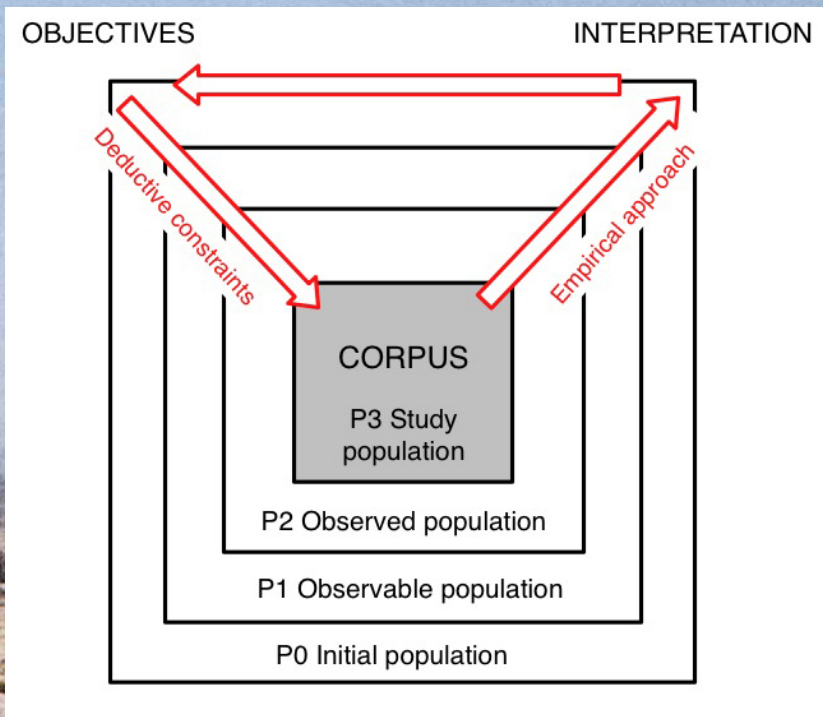
An interesting relationship from the archaeological perspective between:

P3 / P0

No conclusion possible without an estimation of the relationship between:

P2 or P1 / P0

S2 : choice of the corpus, sampling procedures

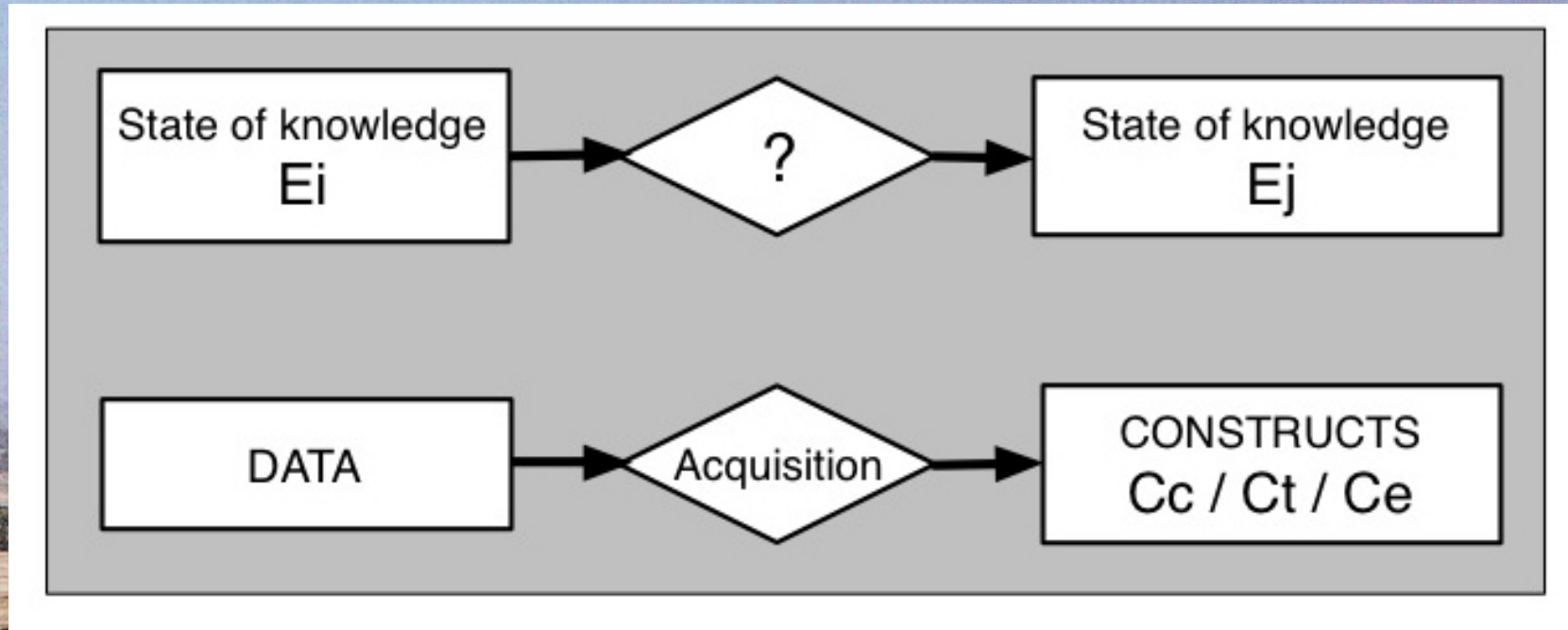


Cowgill :

« *A reasoned choice with regard to sampling should be privileged whenever*

- *it is feasible*
- *meets the objectives*
- *it is cost-effective.* »

S3. Description : strategies for recording and archiving



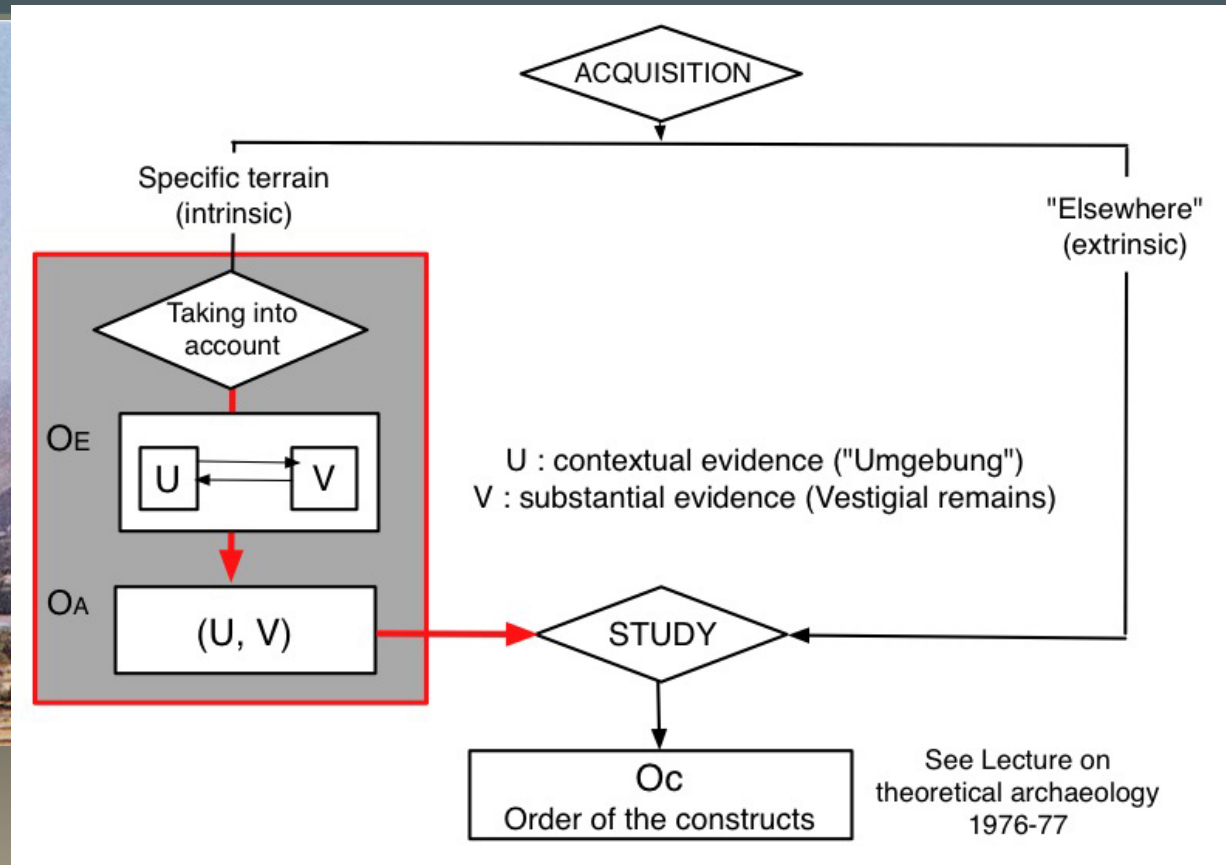
U : contextual evidence (excavation)

V : substantial evidence (vestigial remains)

attribution of U to V

relative positioning of the vestigial remains $V1, (x,y,z) / V2, (x,y,z)$

S3. Description : strategies for recording and archiving



Four issues :

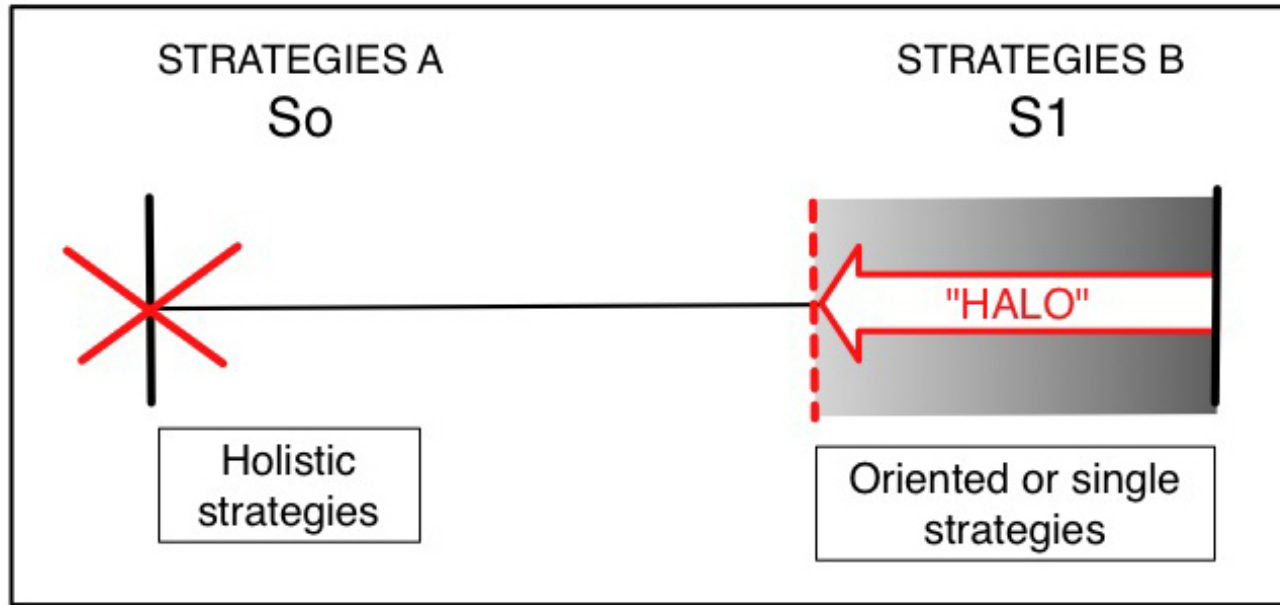
1. Recording the information with regard to the subsequent construct:
 $E+A / Cc$
2. Optimum limit between E and A
3. Optimum organisation of E according to 1 and 2
4. Optimum organisation of A according to 1 and 2

S3. Description : strategies for recording and archiving

Issue 1

Strategies taken into account with regard to the objectives : E+A / C

O_{E+}
 O_A



Strategy So (excavations at the site of Byblos)

The whole of the information supplying all the constructs will be registered

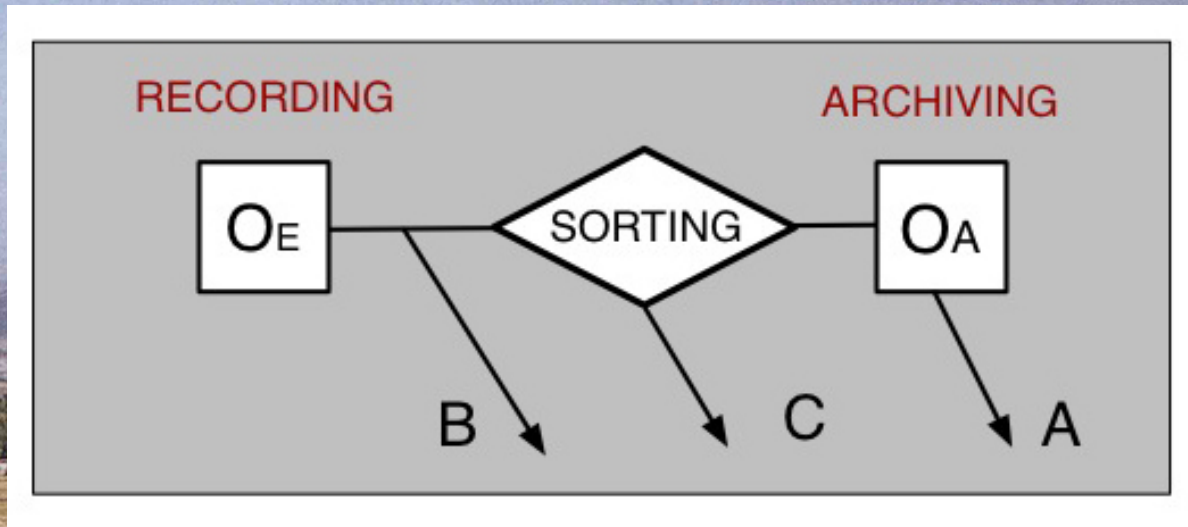
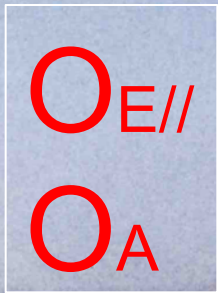
Strategy S1 (survey in the region of ancient Bactria)

Observations according to a single construct

S3. Description : strategies for recording and archiving

Issue 2

Strategies for the transition from recording to archiving E / A



Recording: restricted to the only non-renewable data (mainly data stemming from U)

FORMAL ANALOGY :

(E,A) : to restrict the collection to C-oriented data

E/A : to restrict the collection to C-oriented and to perishable data (U)

S3. Description : strategies for recording and archiving

Issue 3 : collecting considered separately

OE

ACQUISITION

|
Conservation (ad hoc)

|
Washing

|
Marking(ref U)

|
Assemblage (refitting)

|
Marking 2

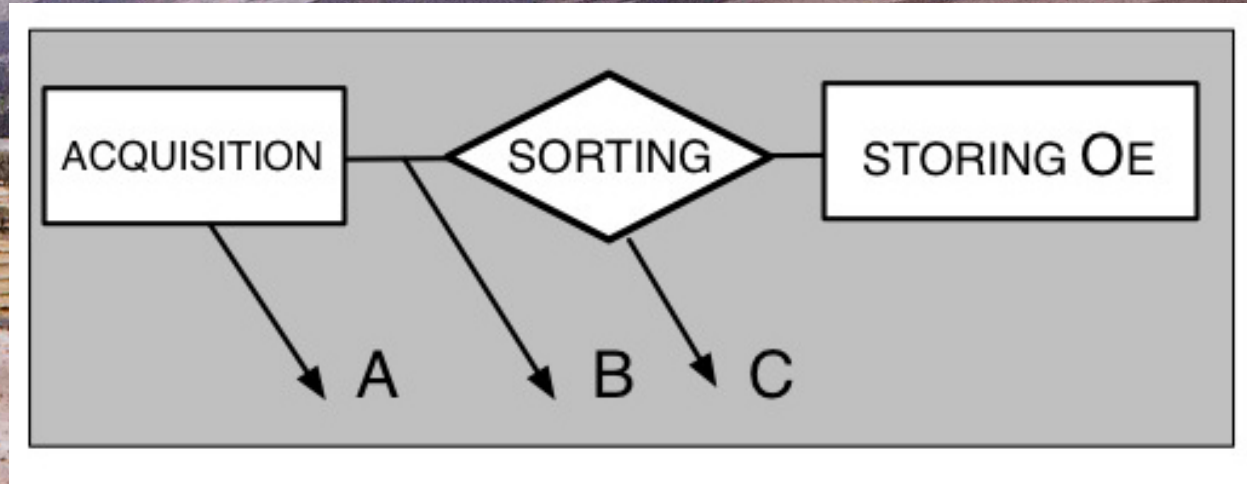
|
Conservation 2

|
STORING OE

A : rejection following an operation of collection

B : haphazard rejection between two operations

C : deliberate rejection resulting from a sorting process

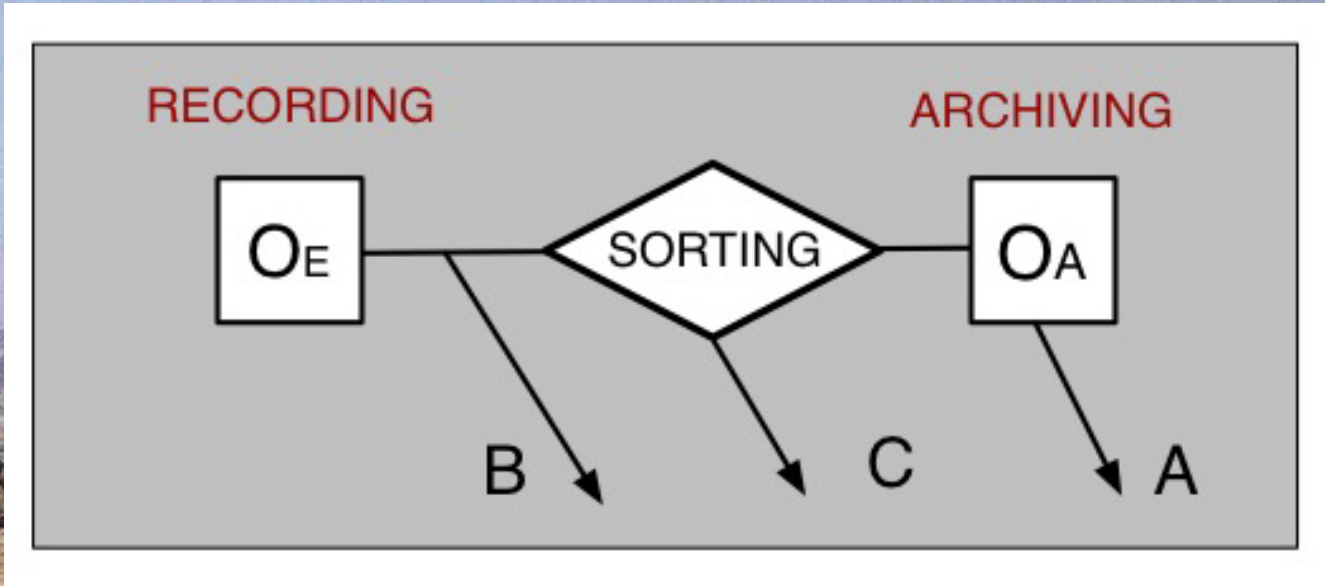


Strategy: explicitation of the C-operations

S3. Description : strategies for recording and archiving

Issue 4 : archiving considered separately

O_A



Strategy of sorting during archiving

Limit archiving to deliberate sorting of type C

Physical or symbolic sorting

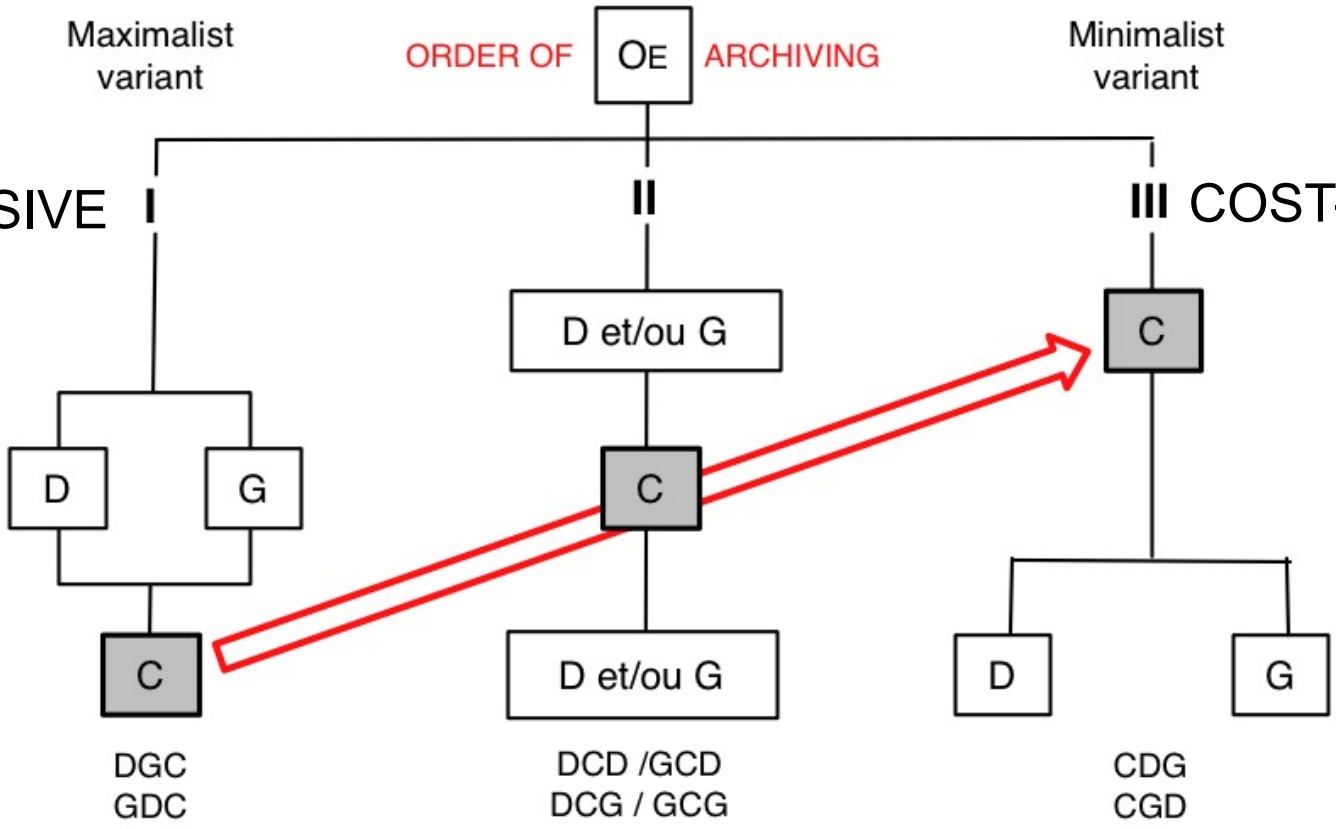
1. Subordinate the choices to a theoretical aim
2. Explaining the work without searching for being rational

S3. Description : strategies for recording and archiving

Issue 4 : archiving considered separately

OA

EXPENSIVE I



D : DESCRIPTION / G : DRAWING / C : CLASSIFICATION

In the data collection :

- D : description of the elements of recording
- G : graphic symbolism (drawing)
- C : classification

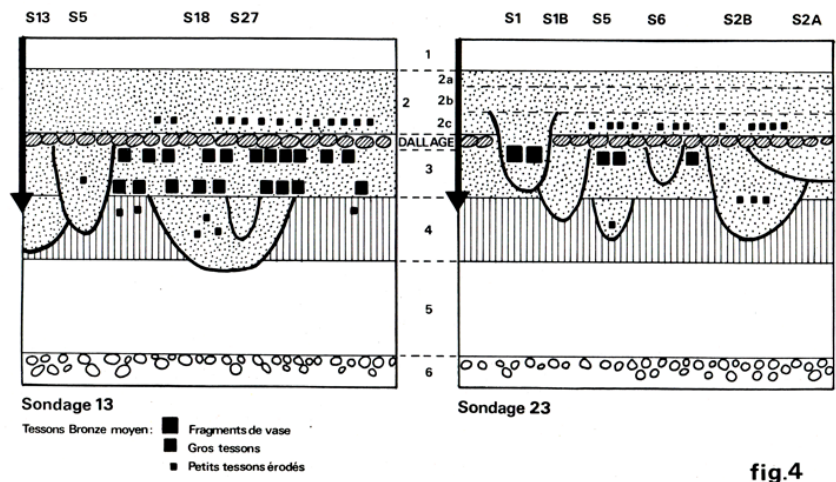


fig.4

RANCES CHAMP VULLY SUD/EST 1978 - 1981 NEW STRATEGIES

A very complex stratigraphy

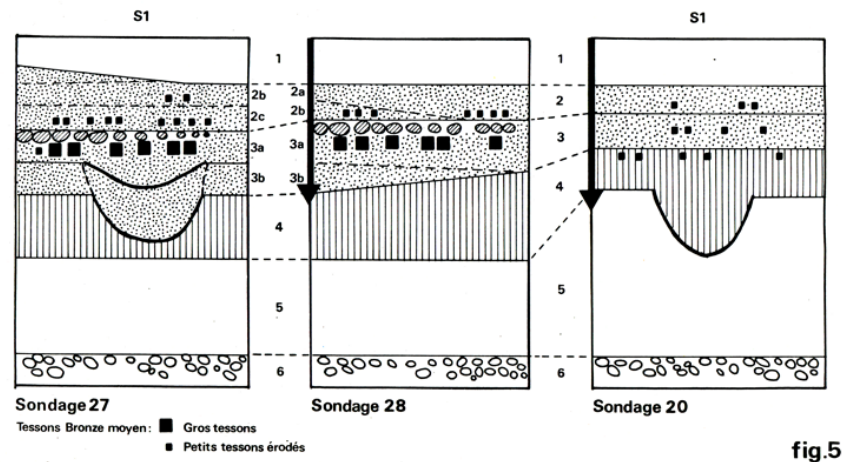


fig.5

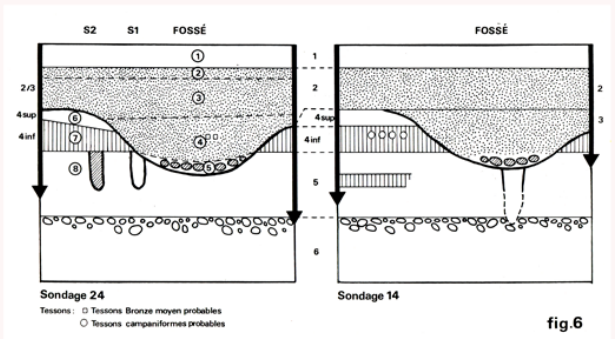
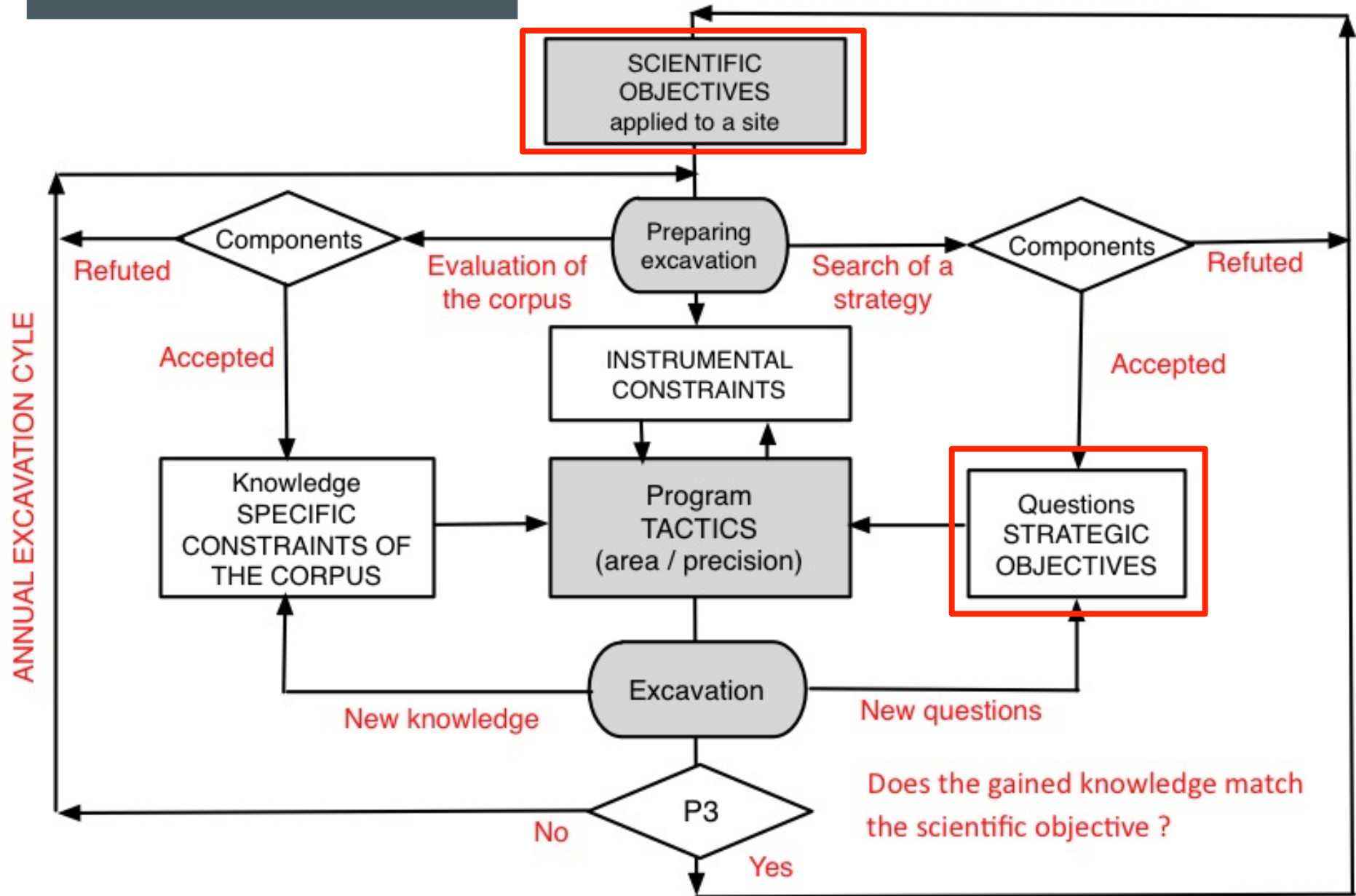


fig.6



Formalizing a research strategy



Excavation of the silty zone exclusively
(layers 4/5)

1

2

SURFACE < PRECISION
maximalist tactics

PRECISION < SURFACE
Minimalist tactics

LEVEL 1

Lower level 4
Bell beaker

Level 1 to 3
Middle Bronze Age

LEVEL 2

Archaeological
material

<

Features

LEVEL 3

Soil analyses
Subtle features

<

Cut features
Obvious features

LEVEL 4

Stratigraphic
insertion

<

General plan

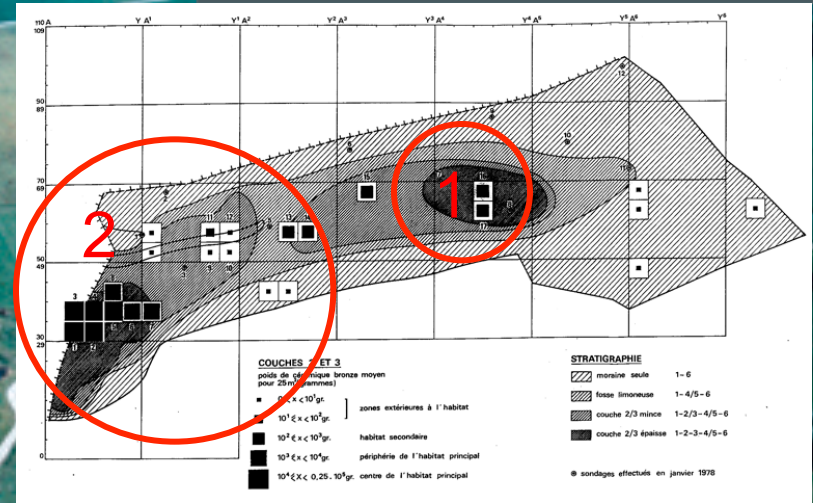
LEVEL 5

Analysis
of filling

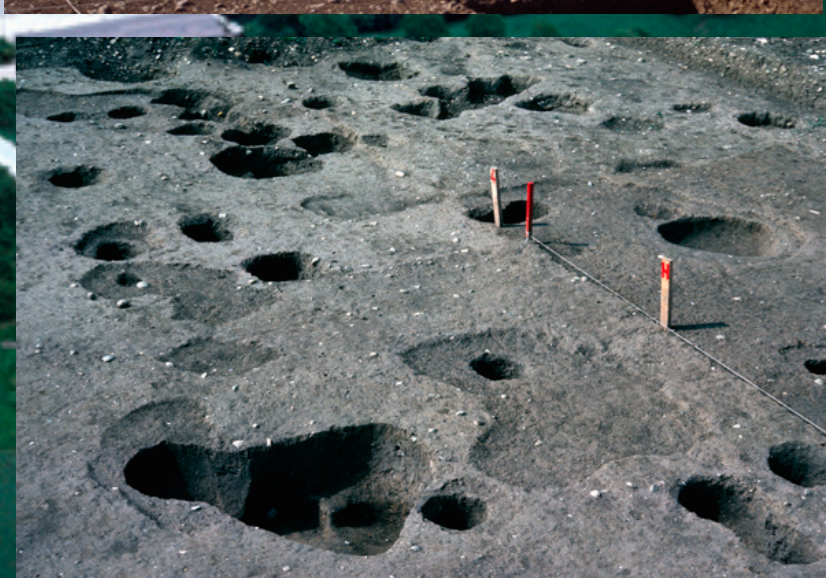
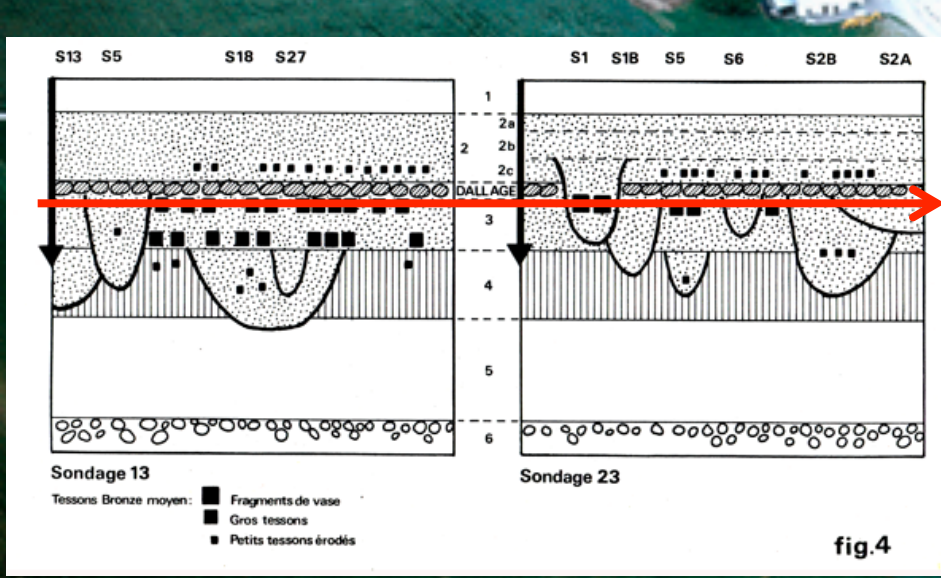
<

External
morphology

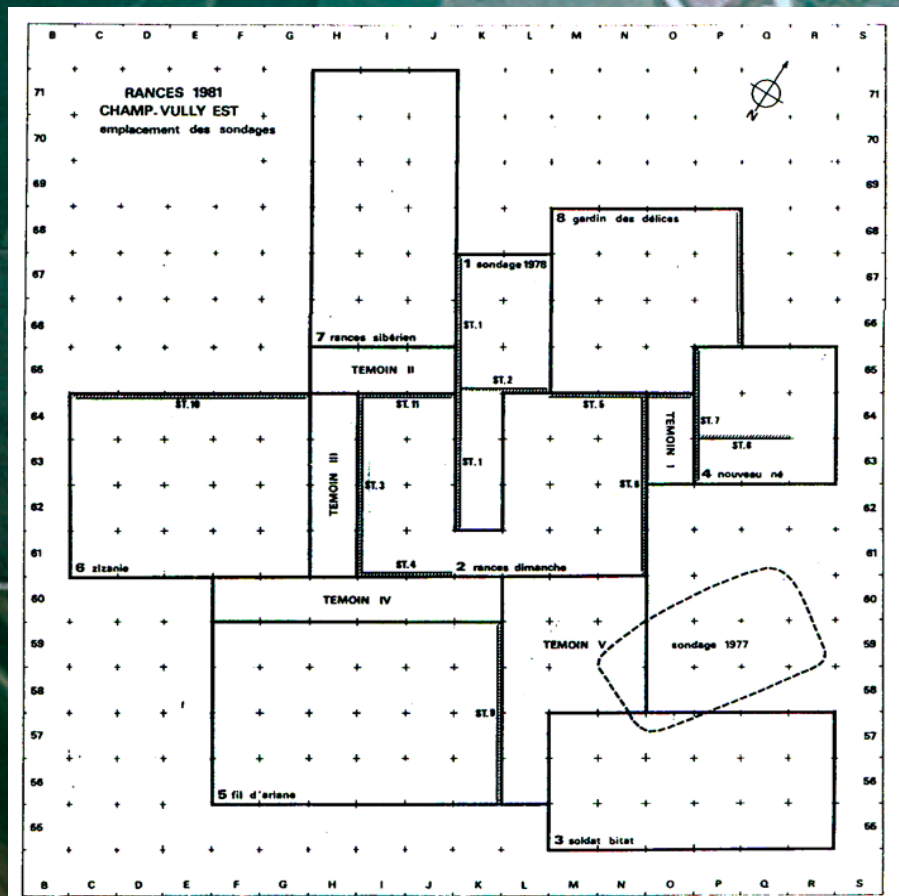
Program 1979-80 : Tactical planning



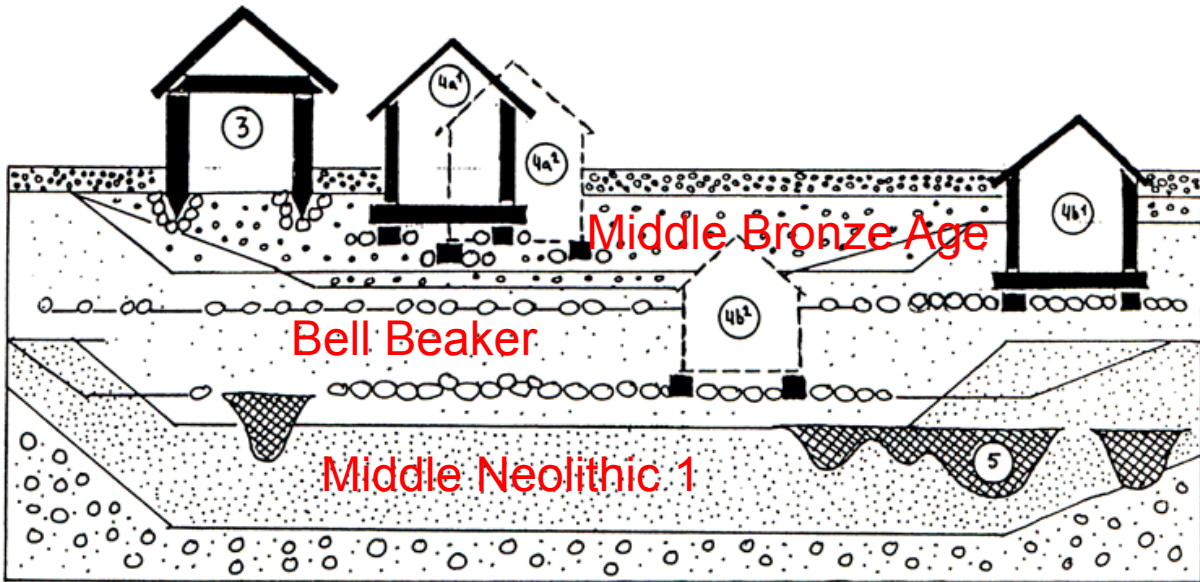
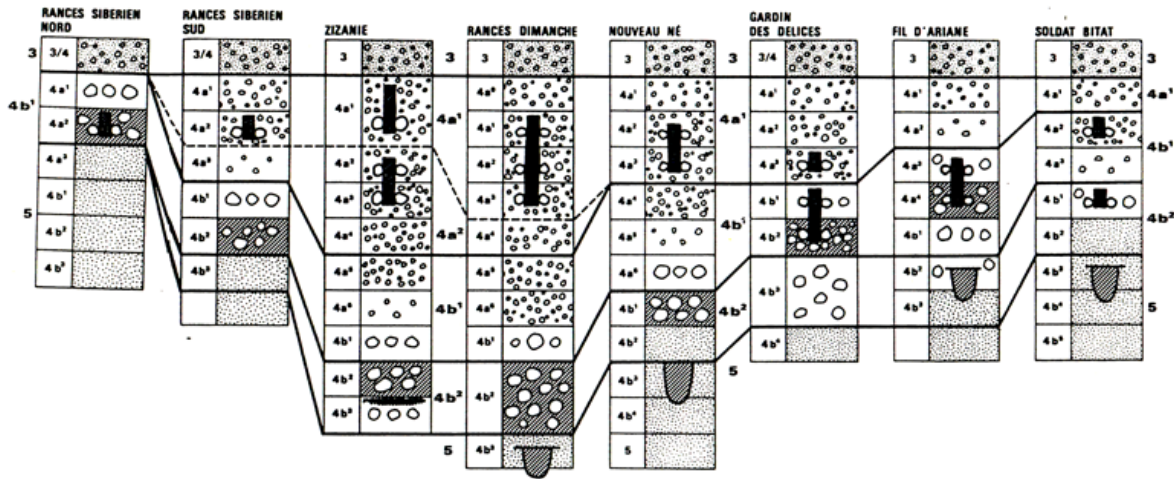
Rances Champ Vully Sud 1979 : a tactical mistake with serious consequences



Rances, Champ Vully Est : Excavation program 1980-81 : an exhaustive excavation



Rances Champ Vully : What conclusion?



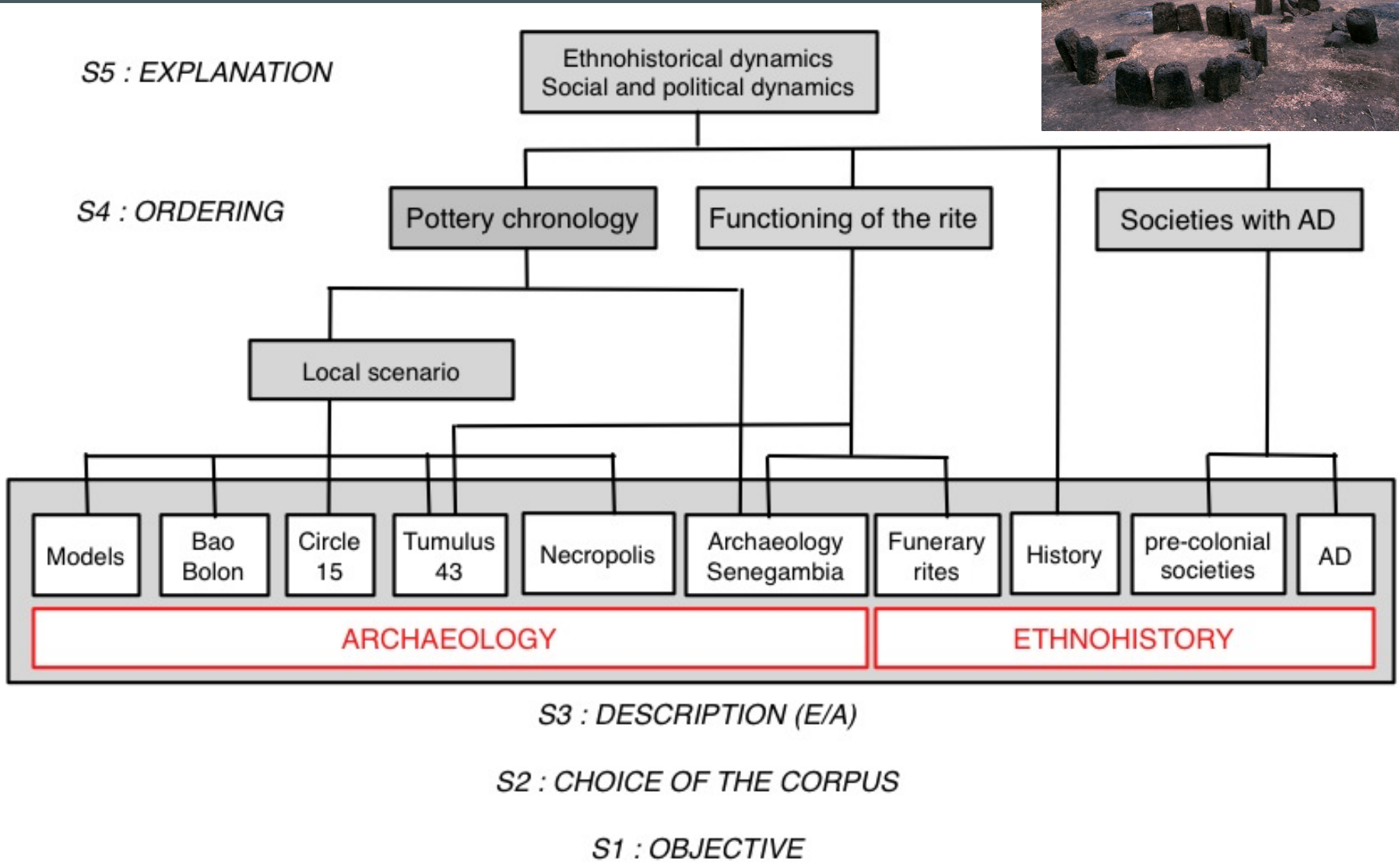
SENEGAMBIAN MEGALITHISM 1980-81 : A MINIMALIST APPROACH



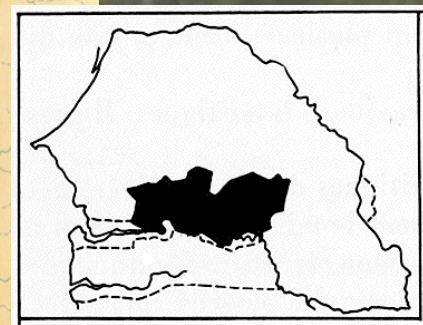
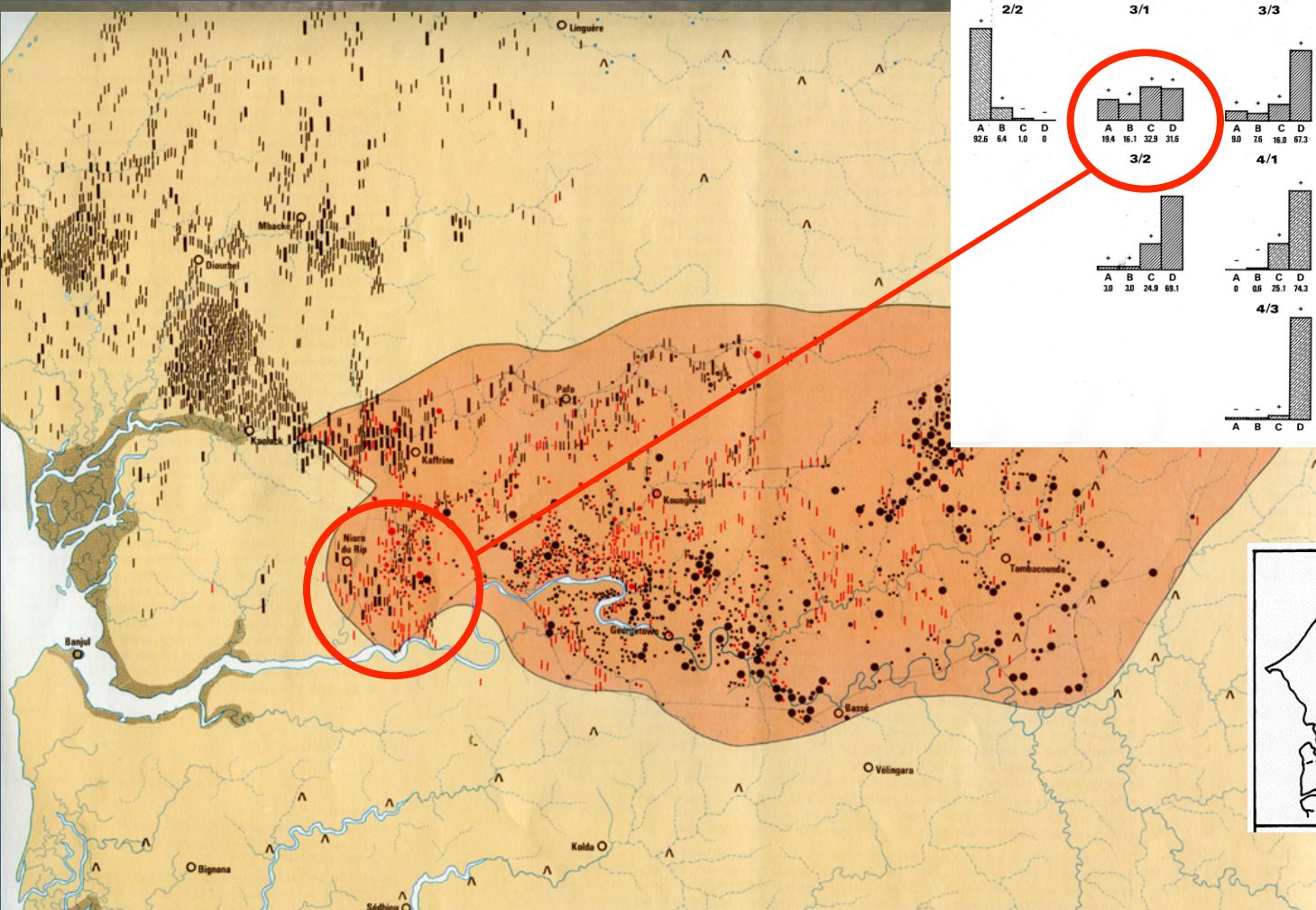
A single issue : relationships between circles and tumuli
Cf. T (time) and/or F (function)

Senegambian megalithism 1980-81 :

S1 : SCIENTIFIC OBJECTIVE



Senegambian megalithism 1980-81 : S2 : CHOICE OF THE CORPUS

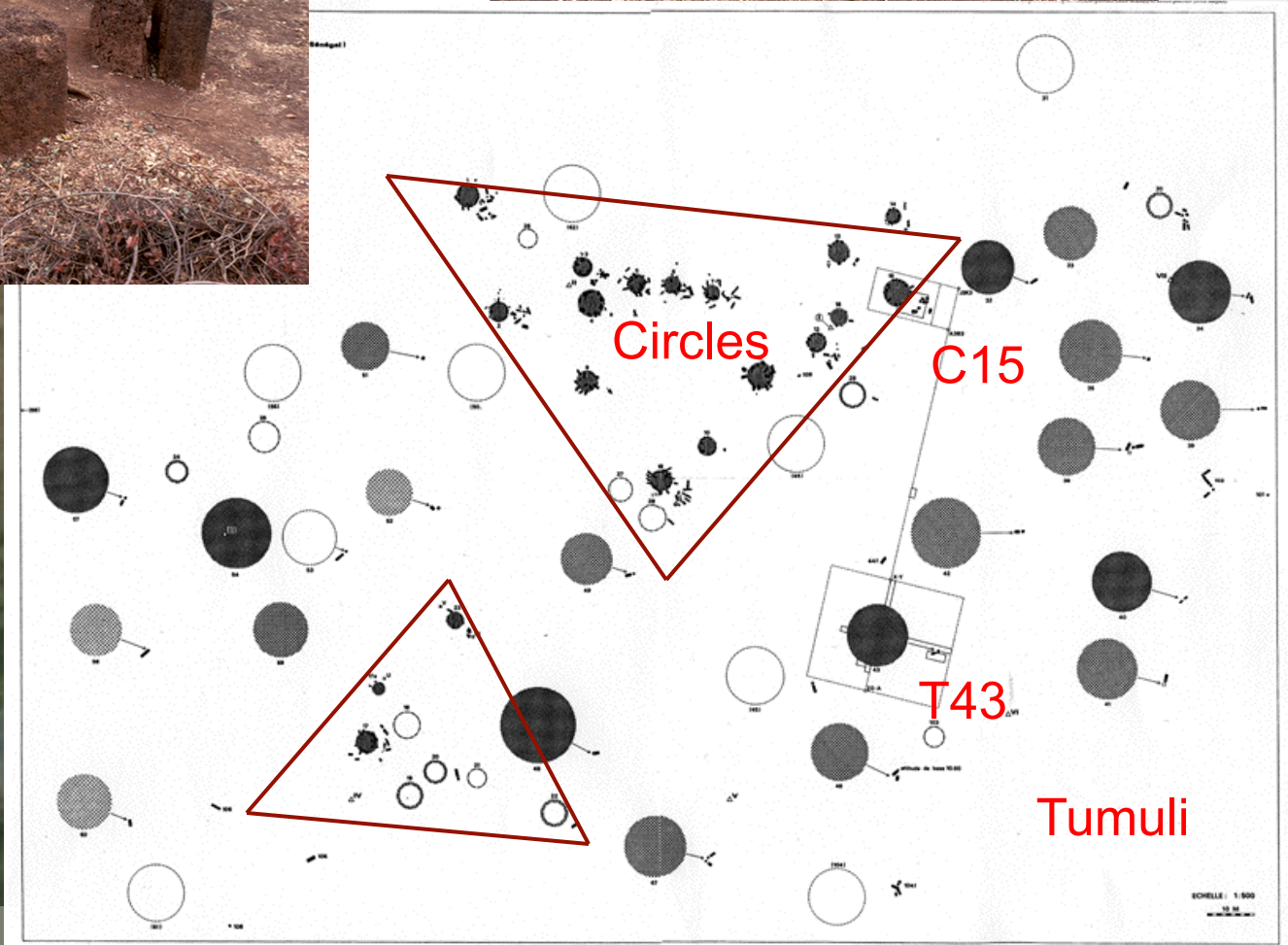


Survey in the region of Bao Bolon : an improved balance between tumuli and circles

Senegambian megalithism 1980-81 : S2 : CHOICE OF THE CORPUS



Santhiou Kohel :
A site with classical
structure



Senegambian megalithism 1980-81 : S3 : RECORDING (EXCAVATION TACTICS)

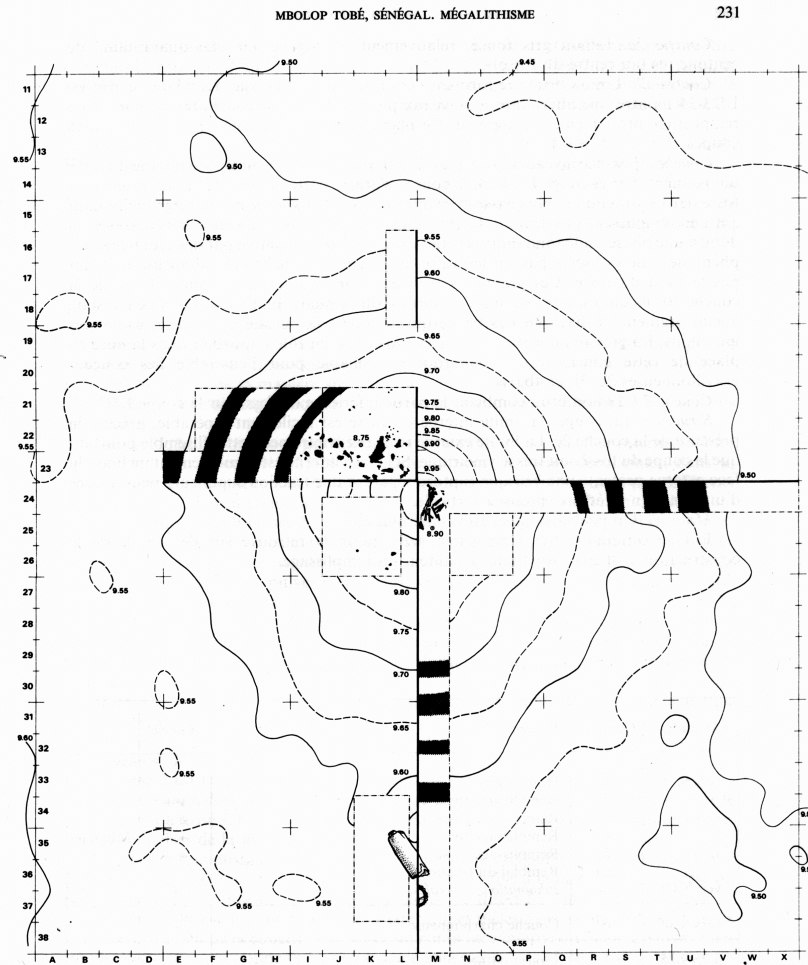
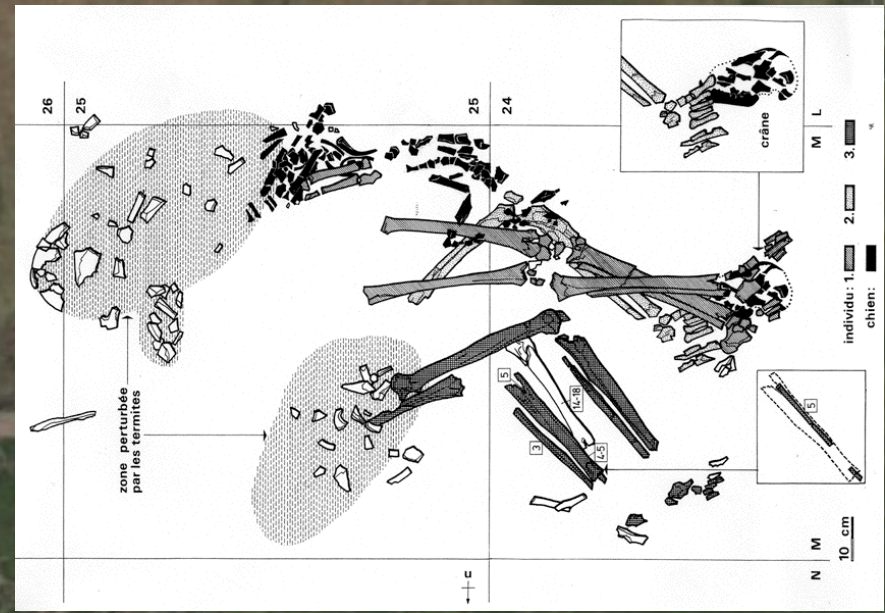
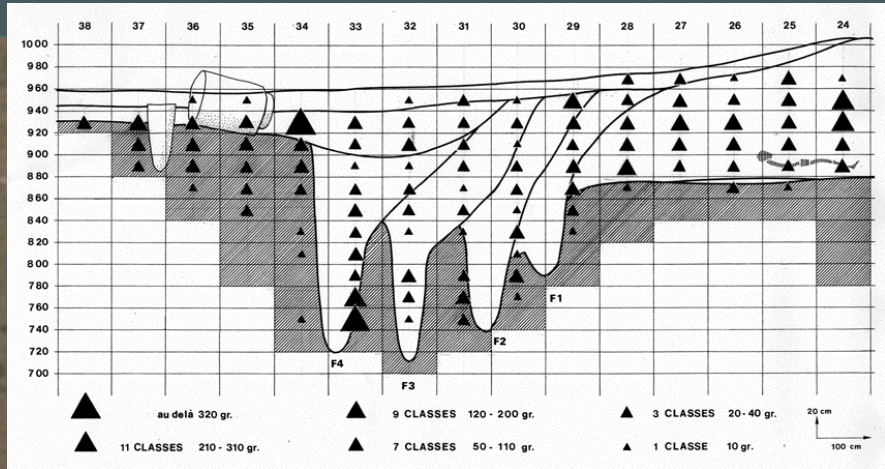


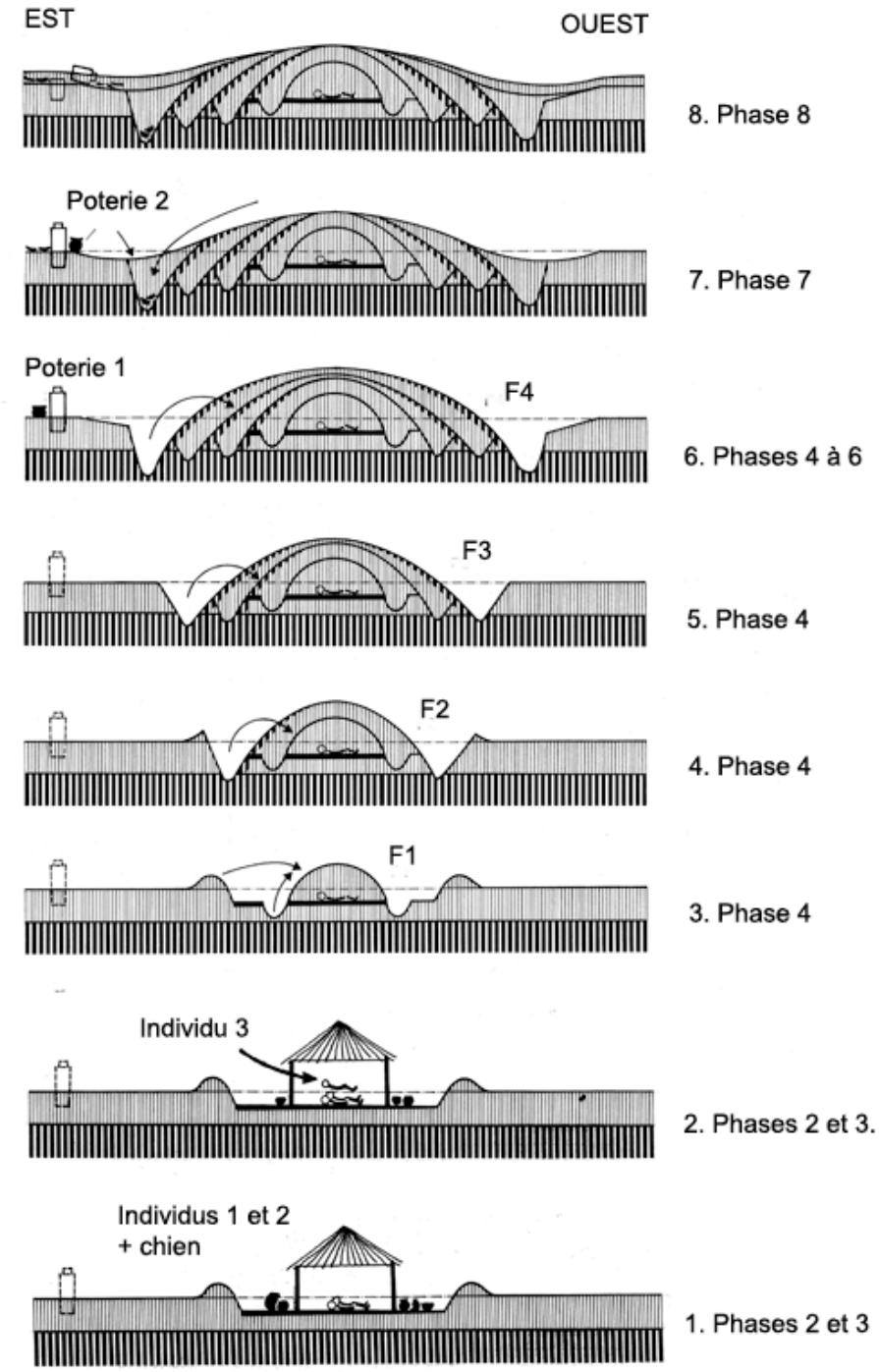
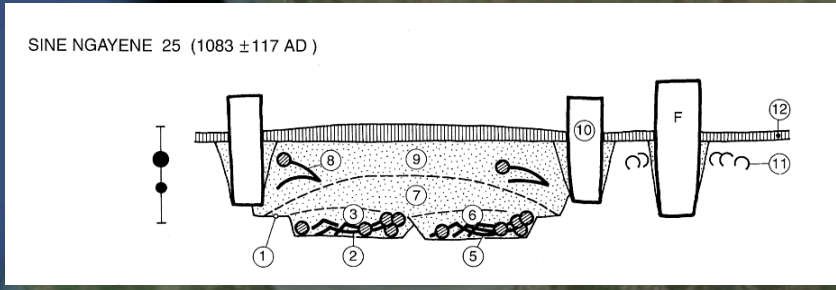
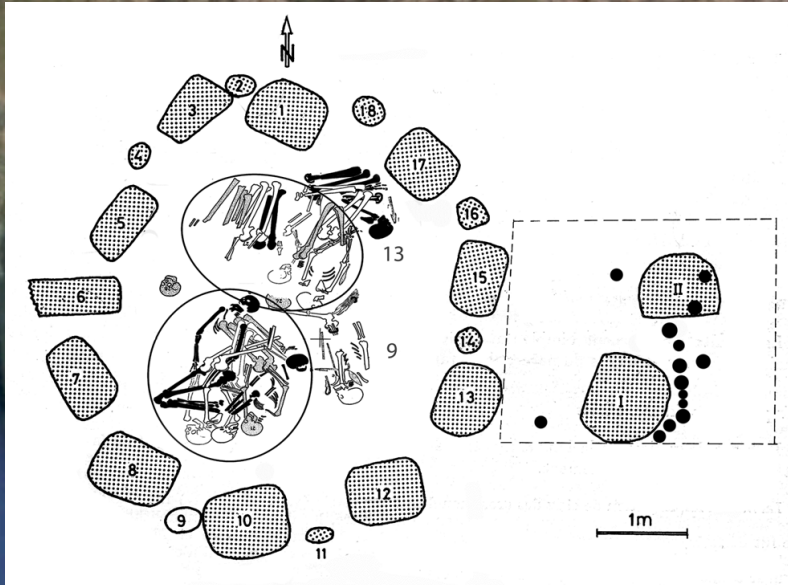
FIG. 2.— Santhiou Kohel, Mbolop Tobé. Plan général du tumulus 43. Position des sondages et emplacement des sépultures centrales.
Échelle: 5 cm par carré métrique (Dessin V. Reymond).



Tumulus 43 : an excavation tactics depending on precise questions

Senegambian megalithism 1980-81 :

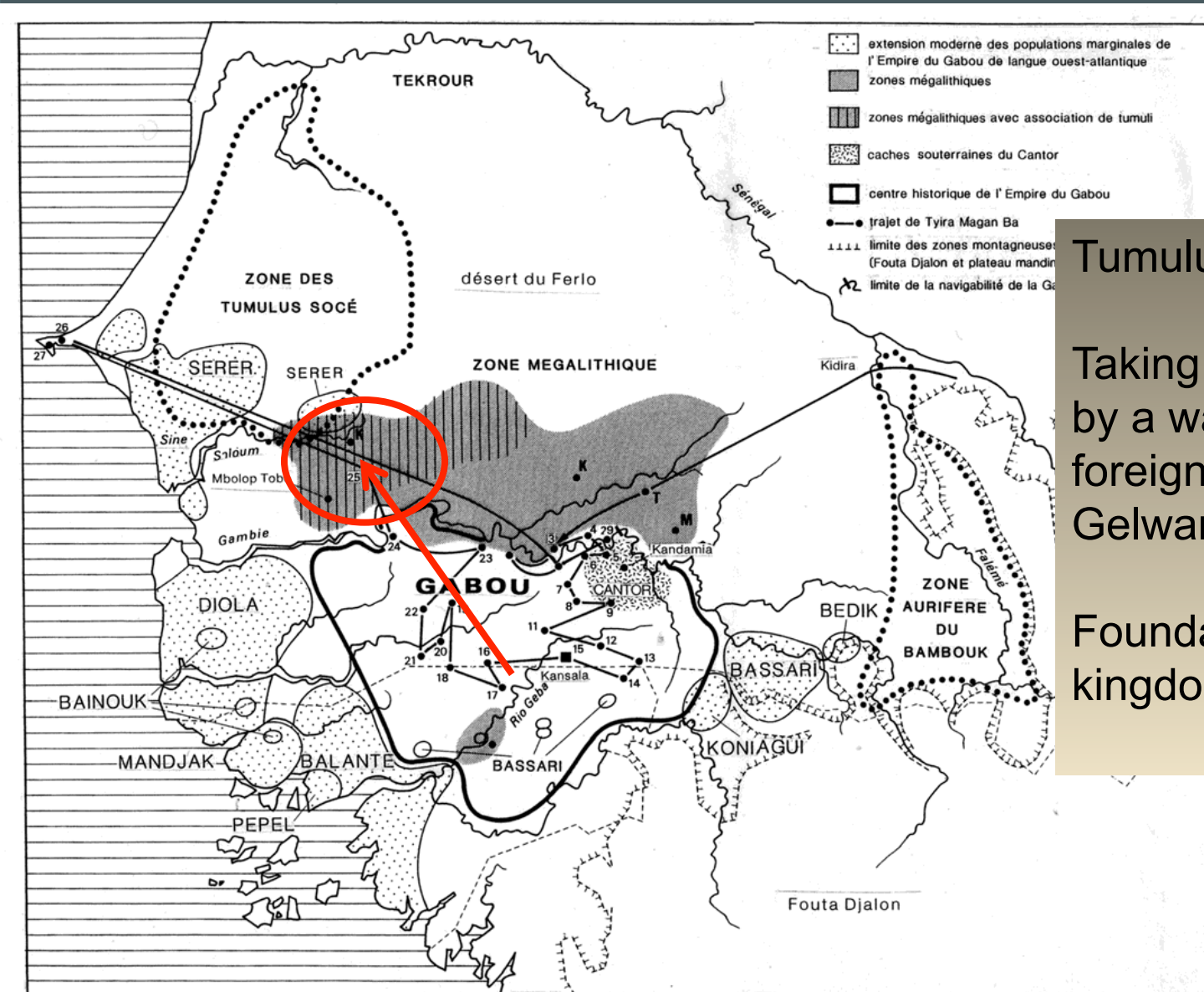
S4 : ORDERING, FUNCTIONING of the RITE



Circle versus tumulus

Senegambian megalithism 1980-81 :

S5 : EXPLANATION, ETHNOHISTORIC DYNAMICS



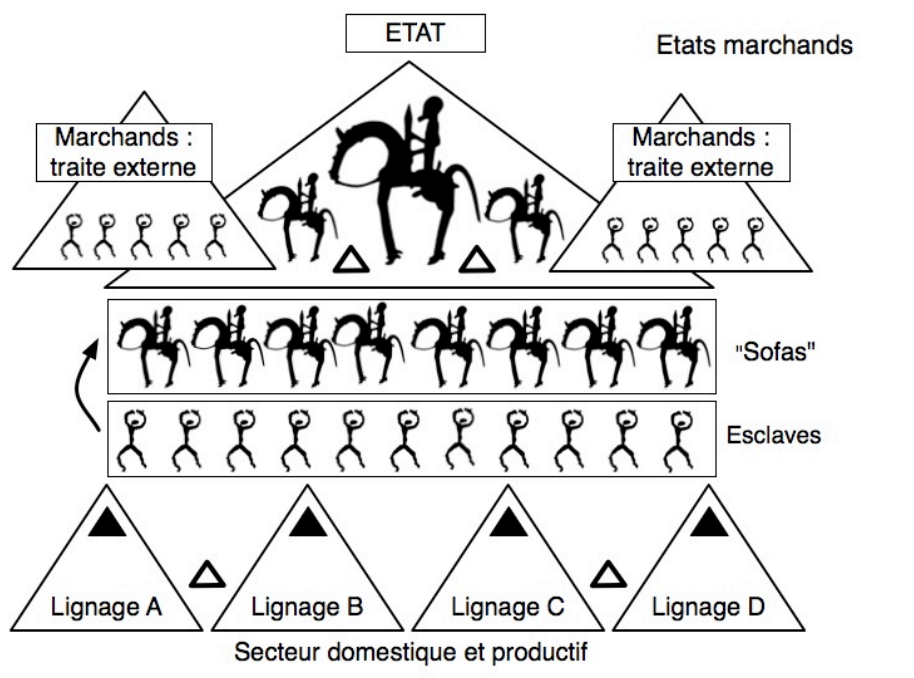
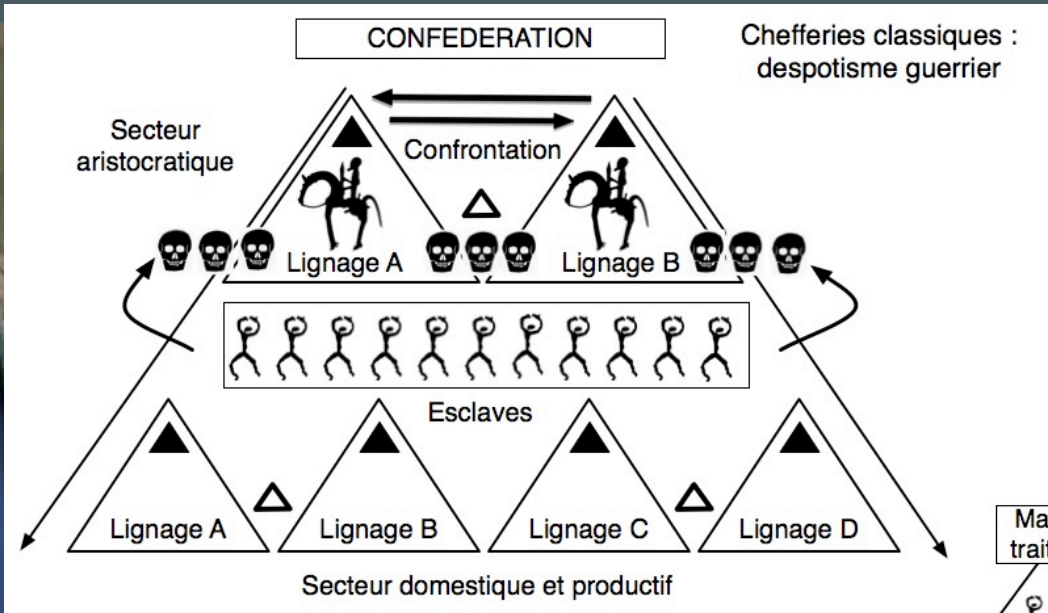
Tumulus :

Taking over of the power by a warrior caste of foreign origin : the Gelwar

Foundation of the kingdom of Saloum

Senegambian megalithism 1980-81 :

S5 : EXPLANATION, SOCIAL AND POLITICAL DYNAMICS



Circles (3rd century BC – 15th century AD) :
 A society characterised by warrior-caste despotism

Tumulus (16th century AD) :
 a Merchant Empire

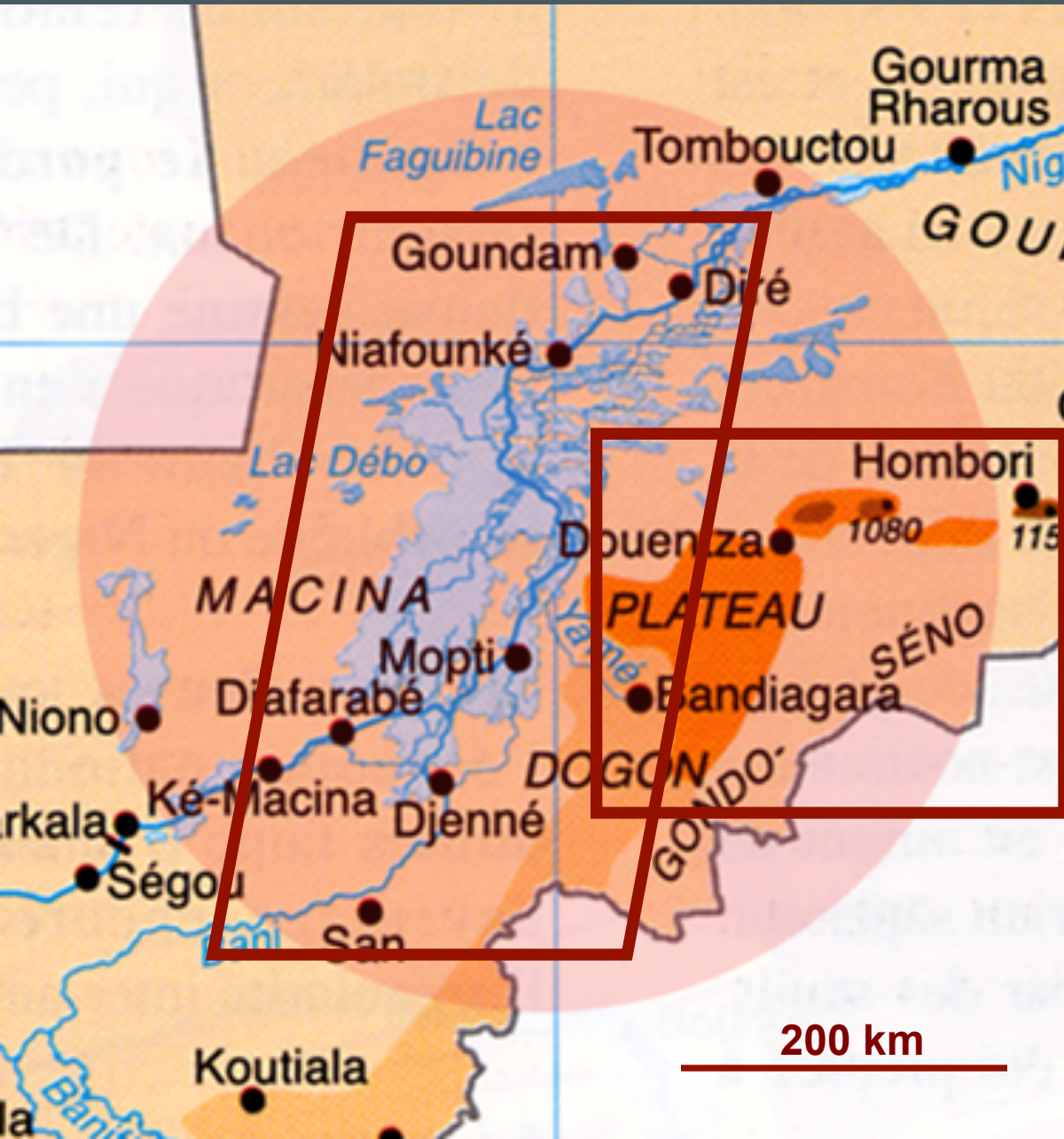
ETHNOARCHEOLOGY IN THE NIGER BEND 1988-2004 : AN ORIENTED SURVEY

Exploring a region based on a
single issue :

What are the relationships that can
be established between the
pottery traditions and the different
populations of the Niger Bend.

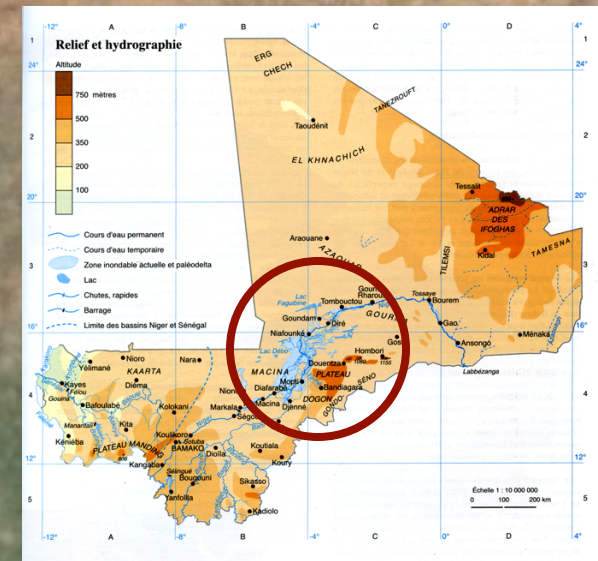


Twelve field missions



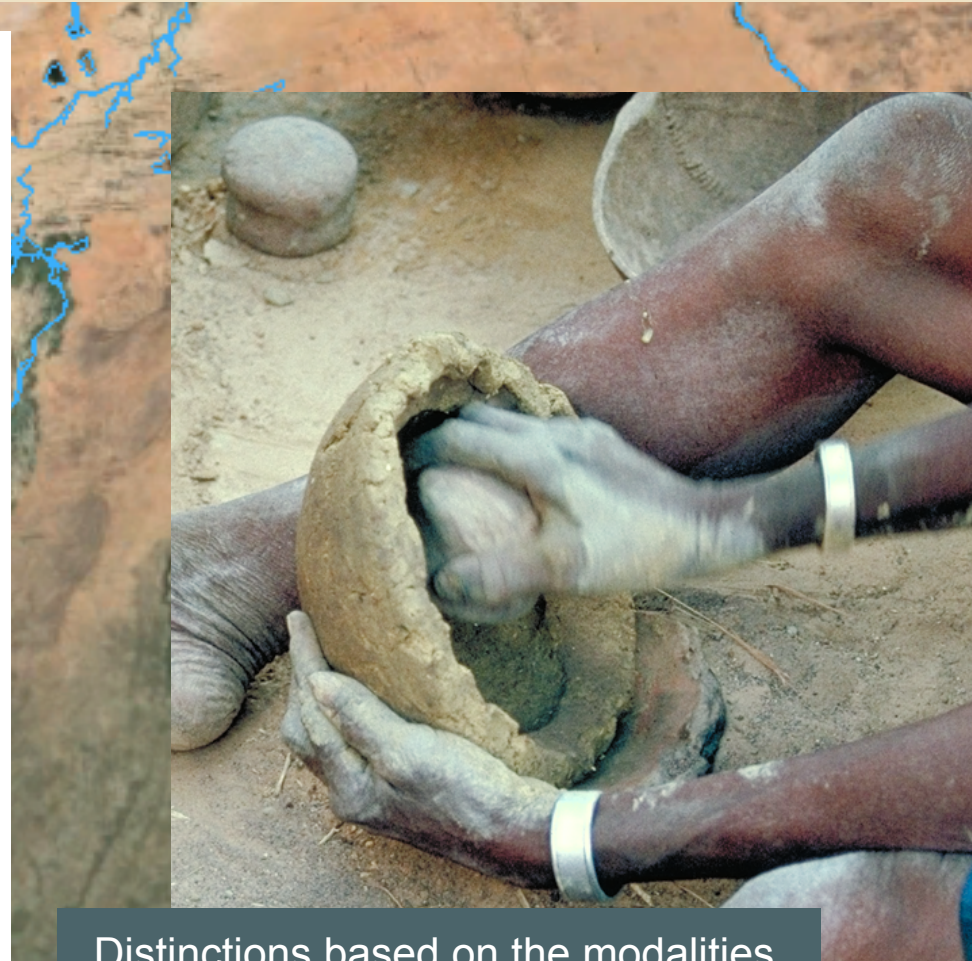
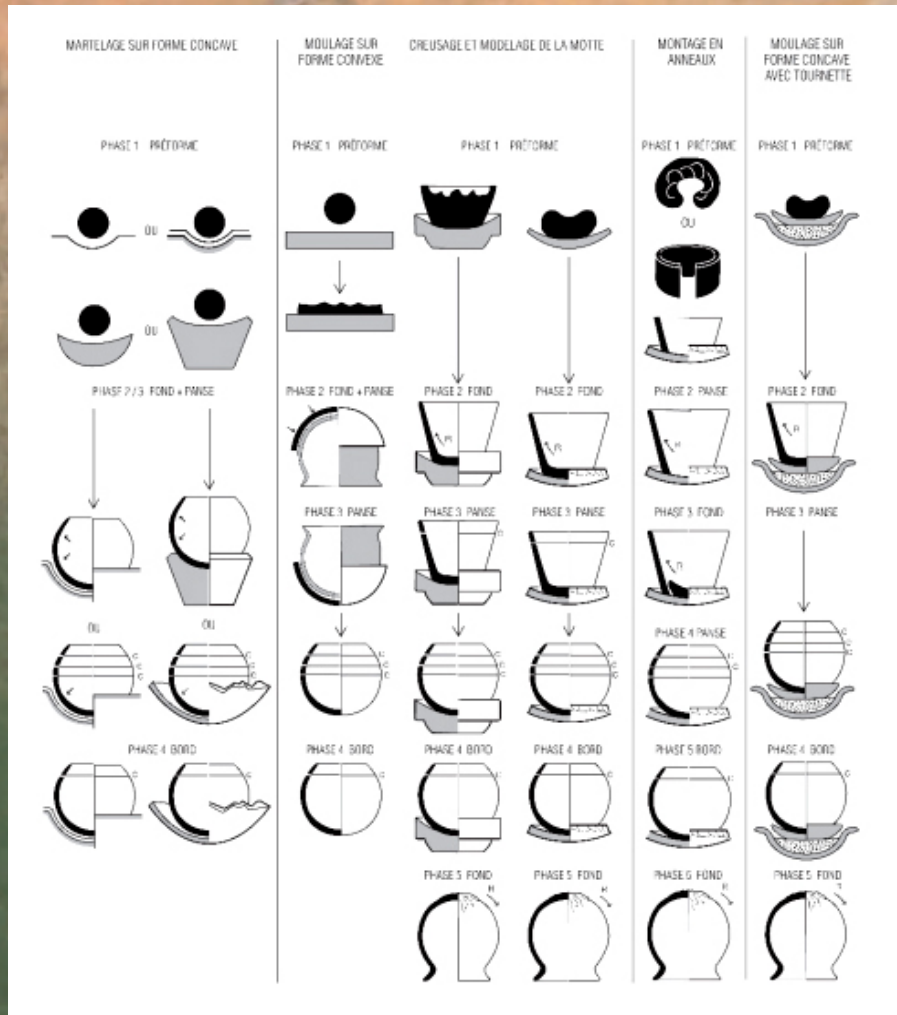
5 missions in the
INNER NIGER DELTA
1988-1993

7 missions in the
Dogon country
1976
1998-2004



Typological bases of the pottery traditions : technology

The analysis of the operational sequences of pot-forming requires a descriptive stage based on an indexing language LD/ETIC, followed by an interpretative stage using a scientific language LS/EMIC).



Distinctions based on the modalities of shaping the preform

IN CONCLUSION

Petit-Chasseur : 1968 – 1971 : exhaustive excavation strategy (Leroi Gourhan)

Rances 1973 – 1978 : the impossibility of an exhaustive excavation : a new challenge

Region of ancient Bactria 1974 – 1978 : survey made by Gardin

Geneva 1978 : lecture held by Gardin on archaeological research strategies

Rances 1978 – 1981 : new oriented excavation strategy

Senegal 1980 – 1981 : oriented excavation strategy

Niger Bend 1988 – 2004 : oriented ethnoarchaeological strategy