

## **2.1 Recent Developments in Radiocarbon Dating**

Since the last 'revolution' in radiocarbon dating in the 1980s - the advent of AMS dating, and the concomitant reduction in sample size required, a number of other developments have taken place which may too, collectively or singly, be termed a 'revolution'. Foremost perhaps has been the development of Bayesian methodologies for the combination of radiocarbon dates with stratigraphic or other evidence to improve the accuracy of the dates. No less significant has been the development of improved understanding of the geographical and temporal variations in the value of the marine reservoir offset. More recently, it has been suggested that large freshwater drainage systems such as the Danube may also exhibit a radiocarbon reservoir offset. Technological improvements include the development of ultrafiltration procedures to purify very old or degraded collagen, the development of dating protocols for building mortars, and the use of compound-specific dating on organic materials. This session invites contributions, which discuss these or other issues in the rapid evolution of radiocarbon dating as the premier chronological tool in archaeology.