

Scaling of hunter-gatherer camp size and human sociality

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From hunter-gatherer encampments to modern cities, permanent human settlements tend to densify as the population grows, while mobile human settlements do the opposite.

New research in *Current Anthropology* by SFI's Luís Bettencourt and Scott Ortman, with co-authors José Lobo, Todd Whitelaw, Polly Wiessner, and Michael E. Smith, explores these dynamics and the conditions that might lead impermanent, spread-out communities to transition to denser, stationary settlements.

"This [paper](#) represents an extension into the hunter-gatherer lifestyle of the analytical framework we have used to study cities and urbanization," says Lobo. "The transition from the hunter-gatherer lifestyle to sedentism is one of the most important transitions in the history of our species and a very active area of research."

More information: José Lobo et al, Scaling of Hunter-Gatherer Camp Size and Human Sociality, *Current Anthropology* (2022). [DOI: 10.1086/719234](#)

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