

# Population genetic landscape of Basques

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*Science knows no country, because  
knowledge belongs to humanity, and is the  
torch which illuminates the world.*

Louis Pasteur





A todas las personas que de alguna forma me han acompañado a lo largo de este viaje de cuatro años.

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## **Abstract**

Basque people have been the focus of many studies in the last decades due to cultural and genetic characteristics that place them as an outlier population within the European landscape. Despite the existence of large amount of studies, several controversies exist in the population genetics field: their highest frequencies of Rh-negative, a strong genetic differentiation, a genetic substructure, and their connections with the main ancient European groups along history. Most of the previous studies focused on Basques have suffered from methodological flowbacks and weak study designs. In this thesis, these controversies are elucidated by using a more refined and accurate methodology, together with an exhaustive ethnolinguistic representation of the Basque population and surrounding groups. The main results show a high frequency of Rh-negative in agreement with previous studies, an internal genetic heterogeneity within Basques, together with a clear differentiation from the external populations, probably marked by a genetic continuity from the Bronze Age.

## **Resumen**

La población vasca ha sido objeto de estudio durante las últimas décadas, debido a características culturales y genéticas que parecen definirlos como una población aislada dentro del contexto europeo. A pesar de la existencia de numerosos estudios, diversas controversias han surgido en el área de genética de poblaciones: una de las frecuencias más altas de Rh-negativo, una fuerte diferenciación genética, una subestructura poblacional y la relación con las principales poblaciones antiguas en Europa. Los estudios previos han estado sujetos a una metodología y un muestreo limitados. En esta tesis, se abordan dichas controversias con una metodología más refinada y precisa, además de una representación exhaustiva de la población vasca y de poblaciones circundantes desde un punto de vista etnolingüístico. Los principales resultados muestran: una alta frecuencia de Rh-negativo similar a la observada en trabajos anteriores, una heterogeneidad genética interna, junto con una clara diferenciación de las poblaciones externas, marcada posiblemente por una continuidad genética desde la Edad de Bronce.



## Preface

Human population genetics is the field focused on the analysis of the genetic variation among human populations caused by the demographic processes. Together with other areas of knowledge such as history, linguistics and anthropology, they can provide insights into the roots of the origins, evolution and demographic history of human populations. The technological and analytical advances in genetics and genomics during the last decade have prompted the fast growth of the human population genetics. This increase of the studies in the field has been reflected in the large number of modern and ancient samples that are currently available.

In Europe, the genetic analyses have proved a relative homogeneous scenario where the genetic distances among populations are explained by their geographic closeness. In this general context, different outlier populations stood out breaking the general genetic pattern of the continent. Due to their peculiarities, isolated populations have been the focus of many fields. Anthropologists have studied the specific cultural traits that usually come together with the isolation. In medicine, the focus has been the genetic screening for rare monogenetic and complex diseases. Population geneticists have focused on the study of the genetic structure and the processes of genome variation.

Basques became an important object of attention. Several cultural and genetic traits pointed them as one of the most isolated and ancient population. A still lively debate emerged around Basque people's genetics related to: a high frequency of Rh-negative, a genetic differentiation from the external populations, an internal heterogeneity and an unclear origin.

In this thesis, the main genetic controversies of Basques are deep disentangled, by overcoming the limitations in the previous studies by improving the ethno-linguistic representation, and using recent technical, methodological and computational advances in order to give finer and more powerful conclusions.



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# 1. INTRODUCTION

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## **1.1. The interest in the Basques**

From the beginnings of the revolution of human population genetics with Cavalli-Sforza (Cavalli-Sforza and Bodmer 1971; Edwards and Cavalli-Sforza 1965), the general context of the modern Europe has been described as a relatively homogeneous genetic scenario, compared to the higher genetic distances observed between populations in other continents (Novembre et al. 2008; Jorde et al. 2000; Nelis et al. 2009; Lao et al. 2008; Chikhi et al. 1998). In this general background, Basques, Sardinians, Sami and Icelanders stood out in the analyses and separating from the expected pattern of the other populations in the continent (Sajantila et al. 1995; Helgason et al. 2000; Calafell and Bertranpetit 1994b; Cavalli-Sforza 1997; Renfrew 2010; Cavalli-Sforza, Menozzi, and Piazza 1994). At this moment, a general interest arose within the scientific community in understanding the singular genetic aspects of these groups of people and detect new groups with these characteristics, becoming the focus of different fields during the next decades until today.

Between the European isolates, Basques positioned as one of the most intriguing unknowns, many times subject of speculation. Different disciplines have been in agreement with the peculiarity and importance of the Basque people (Rosario and Rebato 1997; López and Alonso 2013; Mitxelena Elissalt 1981; Bertranpetit et al. 1995; Collins 1990; Igartua and Zabaltza 2016; Laska et al. 2009), even before the existence of human population genetics (Wells

1920). It has been also suggested a specific Basque morphometric, specially related to craniometrical traits (Wells 1920; de la Rúa 1992). Archeology, prehistory and linguistics started to stress the curious evidences around them. Their unique non-Indo-European language in Western Europe, the Euskara, without any direct connection to the extant languages is the most important cultural trait of the Basque people. The archaeological remains in their area, dating from Palaeolithic times, evidenced that it acted as one of the most densely populated glacial refuge during the Last Glacial Maximum (LGM) (Wren and Burke 2019; Gamble et al. 2006; Villar and Prósper 2005; Straus 1990; de las Heras et al. 2012). The advances in Genetics during the firsts 50's until the consolidation of human population genetics in the 80's, allowed to study the connection between groups of people from a new perspective (Bodmer 2015; R. L. Cann 2006; Charlesworth and Charlesworth 2017). The higher frequencies of Rhesus (Rh) negative and O blood groups detected in Basques from the first studies (Mourant 1947, 1954; Etcheverry 1947), together with the following works based on other new genetic markers (Mourant, Kopec, and Domaniewska-Sobczak 1976; Cavalli-Sforza and Bodmer 1971), gave rise to think about the unique and independent history of this group: Basques were defined as direct descendants from the European Mesolithic hunter-gatherers that inhabited the region during the LGM and remained isolated afterwards, avoiding the connection with the following people movements, and therefore maintaining their non-Indo-European language and ancestral Pre-Neolithic genetic traits (Bertranpetit and Cavalli-Sforza 1991; Calafell and Bertranpetit

1994a). This was the beginning of a still open controversial debate. The new genetic insights and more available techniques in the last decades made possible deeper and specific studies. Thus, the interest around Basques was then faced by using higher number and different DNA markers, such as uniparental markers, array and sequence data. However, despite the large amount of studies focused on Basques, several controversies started to emerge. The causes of the higher frequencies of Rh-negative remained unclear. The differentiation between Basques and the surrounding European populations became diffuse, and the evidences of a possible internal heterogeneity appeared (Manzano et al. 1996). Furthermore, the direct connection with the Mesolithic hunter-gatherers started to be replaced with the idea of a possible genetic continuity with posterior incoming groups of people, i.e. Neolithic farmers and Bronze Age herders (Günther et al. 2015; Olalde et al. 2019). Studies with opposite conclusions came to light (Laayouni, Calafell, and Bertranpetit 2010; Rodríguez-Ezpeleta et al. 2010). These controversies lied on a weak study design without an appropriate ethno-linguistic context, together with the limited genetic methods used. Most of the studies have been performed based on classical markers, which may not reflect the actual demographic processes due to the effect of natural selection. Moreover, just a few studies included all those groups where Euskara is spoken nowadays, or was spoken before in the history, in order to have a complete representation of the historical Basque area (Martínez-Cruz et al. 2012; Behar et al. 2012).

## **1.2. The Basque people: a western Pyrenees culture**

Basque people are described as the ethno-linguistic groups that have been historically distributed in the Franco-Cantabrian region alongside the western edge of the Pyrenees towards the Atlantic area, maintaining a related history, plus cultural and linguistic traits. This area between the Garonne and the Ebro, has been historically associated to the concept of *Vasconia* or *Euskal Herria*, used in different moments in the history to design the Basque-related area, where Euskara was spoken (Montero 2008). The distribution of the area has been determined by the historical records and the present-day distribution of the Euskara. Thus, it is complicated to precisely define its limits along history. It would be represented somehow by the seven present provinces of: Bizkaia (Biscay), Gipuzkoa, Araba (Alava) and Nafarroa (Navarre) in the southern side of the Pyrenees, in Spain; and Lapurdi (Labourd), Nafarroa Beherea (Lower Navarre) and Zuberoa (Soule), in the northern part, in France. See Figure 1. Nevertheless, the influence of the Euskara has been suggested beyond this geographic delimitation, pointing that probably the area inhabited by Basque-related people could have been wider in some periods (Nuñez Astrain 2004).



**Figure 1.** Map of the seven Basque provinces. BIZ, Bizkaia; ARA, Araba; GIP, Gipuzkoa; NAF, Nafarroa; LAP, Lapurdi; NBE, Nafarroa Beherea; ZUB, Zuberoa.

A common specific continuity of culture and language cannot be assured from prehistorically times due to the limited records until the arrival of the Romans to the Franco-Cantabrian region (Villar and Prósper 2005). However, it is widely known the important people settlement during the Palaeolithic and Mesolithic comparing to the main rest of Europe (Pala et al. 2012; Sazzini, Sarno, and Luiselli 2014). In addition, it is also evident the conservation of cultural traits and their pre-Indo-European language during post-Neolithic times (i.e. Chalcolithic and Bronze Age onwards), which are associated with the expansion of the Indo-European languages through Europe (Haak et al. 2015), and the Latin during the expansion of the Romans (Nuñez Astrain 2004; Collins 1990; Montero 2008). The first descriptions of the Basques from the

Greek and Roman historians and geographical writers described them as tribes with a common language, and some cultural traits that they do not explained in depth, but they were related, from the point of view of their refine society, to an overdue agricultural and pastoral lifestyles organized in small family-centered settlements (F. Ruiz 2018; Montero 2008). Even in the first literary reference to the Basques, by the Greek geographer Strabo (64 before common era, BCE, to 24 common era, CE) in his work *Geographica* (Jones 1917), singular cultural features specific for any tribe are highlighted. He limited to barely explain the lifestyle in general for the region, with diffuse definition of the geographical and cultural limits between those tribes. This allows to understand this region as a widely populated area with several groups of people spread alongside, quite separated, but connected by common language and cultural traits, with a remarkable cultural continuity in the pre-Roman periods completely unlinked to any political administration (Collins 1990). The Roman period in the Basque area involves the arrival of the first political concepts and boundaries. It implies the beginning of the consolidation of the pre-Roman tribes as a whole entity with a delimited geographic area and the posterior reorganizations in the following centuries (Collins 1990; Montero 2008).

This cultural continuity should not be misled understanding a stereotyped hermetic society without contact to other external groups of people along history, but the evolution of a common culture and language in the region together with the coexistence



with external sources and the assimilation of new traits. In fact, bringing forward the content of the next chapter, despite the preservation of the Euskara, the cultural influence during the Neolithic and the Indo-European incomers in the area is reflected in the archaeological remains, with typical tools and buildings of the Indo-European societies (Carretero Díaz et al. 2008; Montero 2008). The cultural sharing during the Roman Period is the clearest example of that, with the emergence of urbanized areas in many parts of the region, as well as the economic activity (Montero 2008; Collins 1990; Zubillaga Gil 1990; Thierry 2010; Ceberio Rodríguez 2009; Urteaga Artigas 1988). The influence of other languages in the Euskara, specially Latin, is also a fact that reinforces those historical connections (Nuñez Astrain 2004; Zuazo 2010).

### **1.3. A travel time: from prehistory to history**

*“The scant, fragmentary and frequently contradictory evidence for the earliest recorded periods of Basque history is almost too frail to bear any substantial construction and can reduce the aspiring chronicler to the rank of novelist”*

(Collins 1990).

Following the words from Collins, the controversy around Basques is also tangible in the historical records. Thus, to not err on the side of novelist, a brief review throughout the available information of the history of the Basque people is shown in this chapter to give a historical context to complement the genetic results of the thesis,

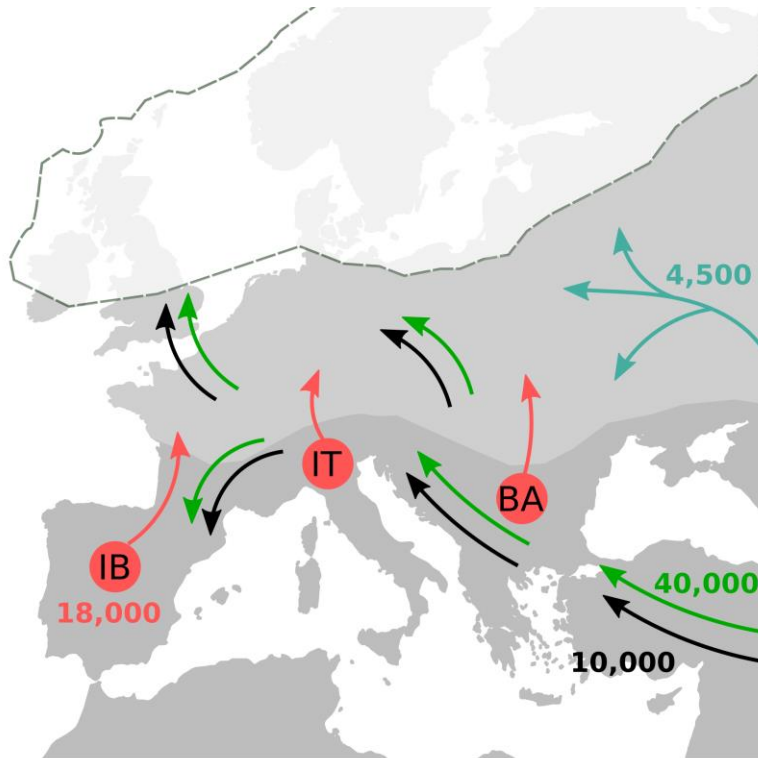
from the obscure prehistory, following with the arrival of the Romans and ending with the unification of the Basque people as a political entity in the already advanced Middle Age.

### **1.3.1. The prehistory of the Basque people**

The prehistory of the Basques encompasses approximately from the Upper-Palaeolithic (c. 30,000 BCE) with the first evidences of presence of *Homo sapiens*, to the arrival of the Romans in the 2nd century BCE, when the first written records in the area were produced (Montero 2008). The historical information related to these periods is scanty and it is based on the archaeological remains found in the Franco-Cantabrian region.

The Upper-Palaeolithic period in the Franco-Cantabrian region (c. 30,000 - 10,000 BCE) is marked by the presence of the hunter-gatherer people, who obtained most of the food by foraging, and the peak of the Last Glacial Maximum (LGM) (Montero 2008; Sazzini, Sarno, and Luiselli 2014; de las Heras et al. 2012). During this final glacial period much of the northern hemisphere was uninhabitable, covered by large ice sheets (Mithen 2004). In Europe, the northern populations were forced to move towards the southern regions, where the glacial refugia maintained the proper conditions to survive (Sazzini, Sarno, and Luiselli 2014; Pala et al. 2012; Barbujani and Bertorelle 2001) Figure 2. Those glacial refugia were distributed along the Mediterranean area, especially in the Franco-Cantabrian region, as well as the Italian and Balkan peninsulas.

Here, the new incomers established contact with the southern people that already dwelled these European regions (Sazzini, Sarno, and Luiselli 2014). This new merge of people remained in the glacial refugia until the climatic conditions started to improve and the ice sheet started to melt, leading to the beginning of a slow but gradual expansion (Achilli et al. 2004; Barbujani and Bertorelle 2001). Based on the archaeological data recovered, the Franco-Cantabrian region draws attention to have been one of the most densely populated area in Europe during this dramatic period (Sazzini, Sarno, and Luiselli 2014). Due to the climatic conditions, the hunter-gatherers in the region were mainly relegated to the life in caves. This period outstands in the region because of the emergence of the first evidences of human art in the paintings of important caves, such as the one of Altamira and Izturitz (de las Heras et al. 2012).



**Figure 2.** Schematic demographic processes in Europe from Palaeolithic to Late Neolithic. The Palaeolithic colonization c. 40,000 years before present (ybp) in green. The representation of the glacial refugia in red during the LGM, and the ice sheets in white along the northern area of Europe. The post-glacial expansions starting around c. 18,000 ypb. The Neolithic expansion c. 10,000 ybp in black. And the arrival of the steppe herders in central Europe c. 4,500 ybp. IB, Iberian Peninsula; IT, Italy; BA, Balkans. Modified from: (Barbujani and Bertorelle 2001; Sazzini, Sarno, and Luiselli 2014).

The Mesolithic (c. 10,000 – 5,000 BCE) is characterized by a transition period. The end of the LGM boosted the movements beyond the glacial refugia that had been started during the end of the Palaeolithic (Figure 2). The hunter-gatherers left behind the caves, but maintained the same foraging lifestyle. This wide

geographical re-peopling of Europe, from the admixed and reduced populations of the glacial refugia, should have been a critical factor in reshaping the genetic landscape and culture of Europe, compared to the previous widespread Palaeolithic patterns (Achilli et al. 2004; Rootsi 2006; Pala et al. 2012). It has been suggested the Franco-Cantabrian region as the major source in this process, and the posterior isolation of the remaining people in the region that ended becoming the known Basque people. These hypotheses pointed to them as ancient European proxies. Although it had occurred, the archaeological remains seem to show that, in spite of a possible lower assimilation of the subsequent cultural waves in some areas or periods, they followed similar steps as in other European populations at the end (Montero 2008).

During the Neolithic period (c. 5,000 – 2,000 BCE) an important, but gradual, cultural revolution took place in the region with the arrival of the agriculture and animal domestication, that had been born in the Near East around ~9,000 BCE (Gangal, Sarson, and Shukurov 2014) (Figure 2). The people started a producing lifestyle, leaving the hunting and gathering. However, this process was more gradual than in the general European context. The foraging still remained the main lifestyle in many parts of the area (Cava 1990). Another important event in the Neolithic was the emergence of the pottery, related to the Cardial Ware culture (Alday Ruiz 2009). It was not a simultaneous process; it seemed to have been higher in the southern part of the region, while in the northern Atlantic basin

the evidences point to a smaller impact (Cava 1990; Alday Ruiz 2009).

The Bronze Age and Iron Age (c. 2,000 BCE– Roman Period) are characterized by a cultural continuity, with a very slow, scarce and irregular introduction of new cultural traits from the incoming Indo-European people from the steppes (Gorrochategui and Yarritu 1990; Montero 2008) (Figure 2). In this period, the dichotomy between the Eastern and Western part in the assimilation of the innovations is still visible in the archaeological remains. In the general context of Europe, this period is a crucial chapter since it is related to the expansion of the Indo-European languages (Haak et al. 2015). Unlike in most of the rest of the continent, the Euskara overcame to the influence of the new widespread languages. The survival of the Euskara in this time, as the unique non-Indo-European language in Western Europe, is still quite an enigma.

### **1.3.2. The history of the Basque people**

The presence of the Romans, between the 2nd century BCE and the 5th century CE, involve the beginning of the history of Basques. The first literary references related to Basque people appear in this period, from important historians and geographers like Ptolemy, Pliny the Elder or the already mentioned Strabo (Collins 1990; Kurlansky 1999). They described six groups of people or tribes living in the region, from east to west: *Aquitani*, in the northern area of the Pyrenees; and *Vascones*, *Varduli*, *Caristi*, *Autrigones* and

*Berones* in the southern (Collins 1990; Montero 2008) (Figure 3) The descriptions of these tribes were fairly diffuse, every writer gave them different distributions, names and characteristics, but they were defined with similar ethnic and linguistic profiles. So that at the end of the 5th century the term *Vascones* is started to be used to refer in general to all the people inhabiting the area (Montero 2008).



**Figure 3.** Approximate distribution of the pre-Roman tribes. Dotted lines indicates the area of the correspondent tribe. Modified from: (Martínez-Cruz et al. 2012).

This period has been suggested to be characterized collaborative relationship between the tribes and the Romans (Montero 2008; Amela Valverde 2000; Collins 1990; Kurlansky 1999). This situation led to a political, economic and infrastructural rise in the region with the construction of the first road network, connecting

the region to the external areas with military and commercial purposes. The first cities were founded, starting with *Pompeo* (current Pamplona) in the 1st century BC (Amela Valverde 2000). Thus, the emergence of a political-administrative structure started in the region. From the 3rd century onwards the Roman Empire would start the crisis that would lead to the fall of the Western Roman Empire in the 5th century (Goldsworthy 2009).

The beginning of the Early Middle Ages, were marked by a complicated period based on confrontation and the pressure from the groups that settled around them. Franks in the north and Visigoths in the south, both did not stop, trying to control the territory. However, they just could sporadically dominate some areas (Collins 1990; Montero 2008; Waldman and Mason 2006). Around the 7th century, the first political crystallization as an autonomous region of the Basques from both sides of the Pyrenees took place with the formation of the Duchy of Vasconia (Waldman and Mason 2006). The bellicose situation continued with the arrival of the Arabs in the Iberian Peninsula in the year 711 and the replacement of the Visigoths. Arabs swept deep into the Iberian Peninsula, but they barely influenced in the north (Waldman and Mason 2006; Ruiz 2018).

During the next years, synchronically to The *Reconquista*, several politic situations took place related to the Basques. The pressures in the south with the Arabs and in the north with the Franks led to the dilution of the Duchy of Vasconia in the year 824 (Waldman and



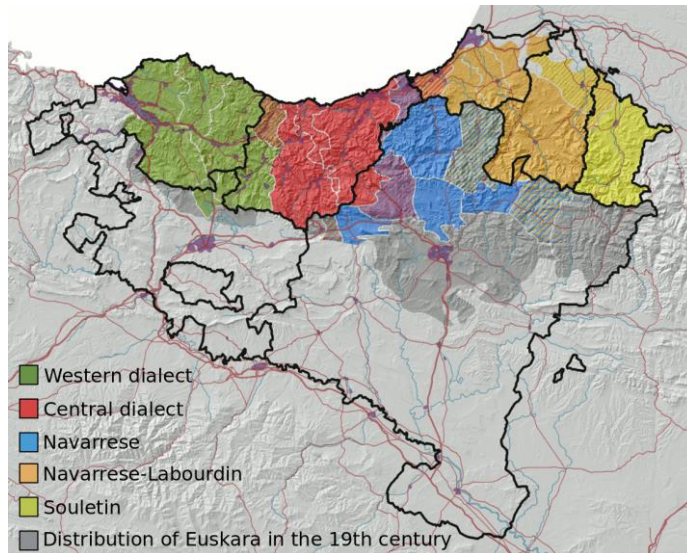
Mason 2006; Collins 1990). It was separated into Gascony, that merge with the Duchy of Aquitaine leaving behind the connection to Basque people, and the Kingdom of Pamplona (and later would be Kingdom of Navarre) (Waldman and Mason 2006), that finally included a similar area as the present-day Basque-related region. Along this period, an internal political delimitation into communities within the Kingdom of Navarra took place, shaping a similar distribution as the actual provinces (Waldman and Mason 2006). The following years after were based on a complex political situation in the Iberian Peninsula related to The *Reconquista*, with the formation and union of the Kingdom of Castile and Aragon in the 15th century (Thomas 2005) until the assimilation of Biscay, Alava, Gipuzkoa and Navarre to the Spanish territories and Labourd, Soule and Lower Navarre to the French ones.

## **1.4. The Euskara and its dialects**

### **1.4.1. The distribution**

The Euskara is an isolated non-Indo-European language with no close relation to any present language in the world (Hualde, Lakarra, and Trask 1996; Comrie, Polinsky, and Matthews 2003; Villar and Prósper 2005; Zuazo 2010). It is spoken in the historically Basque-related territory, i.e. the seven present-day regions that have been mentioned above, but the scholars suggest that it had been spoken in a larger area in the past due to recorded evidences from inscriptions, classical texts and linguistic remnants in those areas (Caro Baroja 1973; Gorrochategui Churruca 1984;

Luchaire 1877; Mitzelena Elissalt 1976; Rohlf's 1935; Zuazo 2010; Nuñez Astrain 2004). However, the current Euskara-speaking area does not encompass completely the seven provinces (Figure 4).



**Figure 4.** Present distribution of the Euskara dialects based on Koldo Zuazo's classification. Modified from (Igartua and Zabaltza 2016).

The Euskara was spoken in the western part of Biscay until the Middle Ages. Furthermore, the use of Euskara has been dramatically reduced since the 19th century in the southern area of Alava and the southeastern part of Navarre, including the valley of Roncal in the north (Abasolo 2002; Nuñez Astrain 2004; Borrás 2008) (Figure 4). In the present-day Euskara-speaking territory, the 33.9% of the population speaks the language, and the 19.1% is passive speaker. All of them are bilingual, also speaking Spanish or French in the southern or northern areas respectively. The other 47% speaks Spanish or French. (Eusko Jaurlaritz 2016).

Beyond the seven provinces, the Euskara was spoken in almost all the area of Aquitania in the northern side of the Pyrenees, below the Garonne River, at the arrival of the Romans. Furthermore, in the southern part, there are also evidences of a pre-Roman language related to Euskara in the northern areas of La Rioja, Burgos and Aragon (Nuñez Astrain 2004; López-Mugartza Iriarte 2008) (Figure 5). In the areas surrounding the seven provinces, there was actually bilingualism with other languages at that time. In Aquitania, the Euskara coexisted with the Gallo, whereas in the northern Iberian Peninsula it lived together with the Celtiberian and Iberian, in the western and eastern areas respectively.



**Figure 5.** Distribution of the archaic Euskara in the 1st century suggested by Luis Nuñez Astrain. Source: (Nuñez Astrain 2004).

### 1.4.2. The dialects

*“Everyone knows how the manner of speaking almost changes from one house to the next in Euskal Herria”*

(Leizarraga, 1571)

These words, from the Basque priest Joanes Leizarraga (1506-1601), in the prologue of his translation of the New Testament to Euskara (Zuazo 2010), reflect clearly, simply and directly the internal dialectal diversity within the Euskara.

The Euskara has been actually the coexistence among five different dialects (Figure 4) distributed along the seven mentioned regions, at least from their origins, that are still quite disputed as it will be discussed in the next point. Thus, the normative Euskara or *Euskara batua* (from bat-, one; batu-, to unite) is the result of the process of unification, completed in 1968, of these dialects to be used as register in the administration, education and media (Zuazo 2010; Nuñez Astrain 2004).

It is widely, and wrongly, assumed that the dialects of the Euskara are abundant and different enough to be considered independent languages, although it is true that there is variation among them and, in some cases, they are more distant. They are actually several shared linguistic varieties among some dialects that overlap along the geography, and not a strict linguistic differentiation by areas (Zuazo 2010; Abaitua 2018). Thus, the distribution and classification of the dialects has been fairly diffuse and difficult to

define. Different scholars have established different number and distributions of the dialects, reinforcing the difficulties of their classification. In fact, just focusing on two of the most important works defining the dialects, they are very different. In the first classification, by the historian Arnaut Oihenart (1592-1667), he described four dialects, related to the pre-Roman tribes in the area (Domene Verdú 2011). On the other side, Louis Lucien Bonaparte (1769- 1821), linguist and nephew of Napoleon Bonaparte, differentiated eight dialects and mentioned that the number could change depending on the characteristics considered (Bonaparte 1869). However, the number of dialects that modern scholars acknowledge in the present are five, although with internal variations (Zuazo 2010; Abaitua 2018): Western or Biscayan dialect, Central or Gipuzkoan dialect, Navarrese dialect, Navarrese-Labourdin dialect, and Souletin dialect (Figure 4). Another specific dialect was considered until the end of the 20th century, the Roncalese, but it has already been extinct (Estornés Lasa 1983). Despite the classification, only the dialects in the extremes are considered as the most specific and differentiated, while among central dialects the distances are small and are mainly related to the influences from the Spanish and French languages. Furthermore, the distances are smaller as closer are the dialects. Thus, a West-East/Gipuzkoan-Souletin cline could be defined through the Euskara-speaking area (Zuazo 2010; Abaitua 2018).

### **1.4.3. The origins**

The origin and survival of the Euskara to the expansion of the Indo-European languages, plus the Latin and the following derived languages until today is still a lively open question, subject of many interpretations. Unraveling this issue could shed light on the suggested isolation of Basques during the time, possibly related to the cultural barrier that could suppose the language.

The study of the origins of the Euskara and its connections to other languages is quite complex, due to the scant written records during its history until the 16th century (Nuñez Astrain 2004; Waldman and Mason 2006; Igartua and Zabaltza 2016; Villasante 1979). Some inscription evidences in Aquitaine that date from 1st to 3th centuries CE, show a link to the contemporary Euskara (Nuñez Astrain 2004). It has been demonstrated that this ancient Aquitaine was actually an older form of the Euskara at that time (Igartua and Zabaltza 2016). The scholars have failed trying to find connections to any other language in the world: the ancient non-Indo-European Iberian (Bedialauneta Marcos 1992), the Caucasian group of languages, the Finno-Ugric languages, Berber, Paleo-Siberian or the Na-Dene languages of North America (Igartua and Zabaltza 2016; Hualde, Lakarra, and Trask 1996; Trask 1997). Thus, there is no evidence to confirm the origin of the Euskara, or a link to any other language in the history beyond to that with the ancient form of Aquitaine. Despite this, the Euskara has not been hermetic along history and it is well known the influence from its surrounding languages. Evidences have been found for Celtiberian, Latin and its

romance languages, such as Gascon, Navarro-Aragonese, French or Spanish. Arabic influence is also observed in present Euskara, which was probably introduced by romance languages. One of the most accepted explanations to the survival of the Euskara from those historical external influences is the good contributions with the Romans, together with the higher linguistic distances from the Latin and the support of the Church. This helped Basques to raise a good organization and economy, allowing them to resist the following pressures of Goths, Franks and Arabs. Although it was barely written until the end of the Middle Ages it was still being spoken in the Basque area.

Regarding the dialects, there are two main streams of opinions about its origin. The first one suggests a relationship “tribes-dioceses-dialects”. Based on this thought, the dialects would be very old; pre-dating the arrival of the Romans, and their origin and distribution would be related to the demarcation of the pre-Roman tribes and the medieval dioceses, which would have been quite similar (Mujika Zufiría 1914). The second one, which is the most accepted, propose an origin around the Middle Ages (Mitxelena Elissalt 1981; Igartua and Zabaltza 2016). This idea relies on five points: i) the high unity of the Euskara do not reflect an old fragmentation, ii) the abundant common post-Roman linguistic innovations in all the dialects show that they have evolved similarly in recent times, iii) the large similarities among the central dialects evince more recent times of divergence, iv) the number of innovations are quite small, and v) the limits of the tribes and

dioceses do not match with the delimitation of the dialects (Zuazo 2010). Thus, the cause of the emergence of the dialects during the medieval period could have been the different processes of administrative reorganization together with the influences of the closest surrounding languages.

## **1.5. Population Genetics: a powerful tool for studying diversity and history**

*“[h]istory can get contaminated over time. But DNA does not lie”*

Rene J. Herrera (2008) (Wolinsky 2008)

The principal aim of human population genetics has been the study of the genetic variation across populations in order to depict its frequency, distribution, origin and causes, to understand the connections between them, trying to reconstruct their history. Although collaterally it has been always playing a crucial role into the medicine field by detecting new variants, studying different demographic scenarios and its genetic consequences or more recently defining the specific population genetic panels that could help in disease screening programs and genetic counseling (Templeton 2019; Burke et al. 2001; Wolinsky 2008; Bodmer 2015).

Herrera’s words, although fairly extreme, reflect somehow the importance and power of population genetics in historical researches. Genetics can supply data and new interpretations to



elucidate unsolved unknown and controversies, such as the case of the Basques. Furthermore, just as cultural and historical studies have more room for speech and overinterpretation, the genetic evidences separates from ideological, essentialist, deterministic and reductionist conclusions by considering several possible representation and establishing probabilistic relationships between them (de Chadarevian 2010). However, an interdisciplinary approach is required. Historical, linguistic, anthropological and archaeological data are needed to contextualize, to test hypotheses and to help the interpretation of the results (Samida and Feuchter 2016; Wolinsky 2008; Cavalli-Sforza, Menozzi, and Piazza 1994).

### **1.5.1. Methods in human population genetics: a brief review**

From classical markers as the basic tools in human population genetics during the early and middle 20th century, the methodology and data have experienced an astonishing development opening new chances and challenges for studying human populations (Bodmer 2015). The evolution of genome-wide data, with available samples from worldwide geographic areas, together with the advances in the statistical methodology to infer demographic events, has marked the beginning of a new era in population genetics, making possible to include thousands of markers and samples instead of the reduced and limited resources in the last century (Stoneking and Krause 2011; Schraiber and Akey 2015; Wangkumhang and Hellenthal 2018).

The classical genetic markers used to study the human genetic diversity were actually protein particles detected through indirect methods, based on immunological reactions (Stone et al. 1993; Bodmer 2015; Jobling et al. 2013). They were discovered and widely used during the 20th century, outstanding the red blood groups systems, that were the first defined human polymorphisms (Hirschfeld and Hirschfeld 1919; Fisher and Taylor 1940; Mourant, Kopeć, and Domaniewska-Sobczak 1976). Among the different blood group systems described after the ABO by Karl Landsteiner in 1900 (Owen 2000), the Rh system (Levine, Newark, and Stetson 1939) drew attention by its biomedical implications due to its importance in hemolytic reactions from transfusion incompatibilities, and its connection to the hemolytic disease of the newborn (HDN), when the immunological system of a mother lacking the Rh factor (d; Rh-negative), reacts to the presence of the factor in her child (D, Rh-positive) (Fisher 1947). The emerging studies enabled constructing the first human evolutionary tree using polymorphism frequency of just five blood group systems (Edwards and Cavalli-Sforza 1965; Cavalli-Sforza and Edwards 1963). Later, the methods evolved to electrophoretic analyses of gene product and the detection of DNA variation through Southern blotting analyses, specially focused on the detection of restriction fragment length polymorphisms (RFLPs) (Jobling et al. 2013; Solomon and Bodmer 1979).

The first big impulse of human genetic diversity was the development of the polymerase chain reaction (PCR) (Sanger, Nicklen, and Coulson 1977). This method led to the introduction of the DNA marker studies and allowed the improvement of approaches in the field during the next decades (Bodmer 2015). The problematic of the possible selection that could have been affecting the gene products of the classical markers, and therefore the results of the analyses, had been overcome. The first systematic application was the analysis of the variability of short tandem repeats (STRs) in the populations (Weber and May 1989).

The publication of “The History and Geography of Human Genetics” (Cavalli-Sforza, Menozzi, and Piazza 1994) became the reference par excellence in the field, compiling and analyzing the human genetic variation accumulated over the last fifty years. This prompted to the development of essential methods in the present, such as the implementation of Principal Components Analysis (PCA) in population genetic variation.

The achievement of the Human Genome Project (Lander et al. 2001; Venter et al. 2001) prompted the emergence of several projects analyzing the human genetic variation in a genome-wide context. It was unraveled that the actual genetic variation when studying differences among humans relies on just a 0.1% of the genome. It was also defined the concept of single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) when more than 1% of a population presents the same variant of a position with two distinct alleles. SNPs are

less variable than STRs, but they are more stable due to a lower mutation rate. Their large number in the genome made that the genetic information per individual was no longer limiting. Thus, the analysis of this variation became the essence of population genetics (Gardiner 2002; LaFramboise 2009).

After the development of Sanger sequencing (Sanger, Nicklen, and Coulson 1977), high-throughput genome wide SNP typing, together with next- and third-generation sequencing methods were developed. The reduced cost and time-processing of these methods massively increased the production of high-throughput data. All these advances made possible the freely accessibility to such an amount of diverse genomic data that could be used as reference panels, through several projects that emerged in the last decade: Human Genome Diversity Project (HGDP) (H. M. Cann et al. 2002), HapMap Project (The International HapMap Consortium 2003, 2005) and the 1000 Genomes (Laska et al. 2009). This came together with the development of more powerful computational methods to manage the large amount of genomic data produced. The populations were not studied based on just some specific genetic markers anymore, but they were helpful as starting point to carry analyses along the genome and in a wide population context (Li et al. 2008; Novembre et al. 2008; Lao et al. 2008; Bryc et al. 2010).

The revolution of ancient DNA (aDNA) with the publication of the first three ancient hominid nuclear genome sequences in 2010,

meant a transformation in human population genetics (Rasmussen et al. 2010; Green et al. 2010; Reich et al. 2010). The following ancient genomes that have been available in the last years allow to describe the different demographic processes in the past (Lazaridis et al. 2014, 2016; Haak et al. 2015; Günther et al. 2015; Olalde et al. 2019; Mittnik et al. 2018; Rasmussen et al. 2010; Posth et al. 2018; Shinde et al. 2019; Schaefer and Shapiro 2019). The different main ancient populations and cultures in the world are being genetically described and, comparing them with present-day samples, allow to deeper describe and reconstruct the history of the modern populations. However, the aDNA presents several drawbacks. The damage of the DNA molecules due to conservation during long periods, together with the contamination of the samples because of the direct contact with the environment, and the length of the molecules are some of the limiting factors that are important in aDNA analyses (Stoneking and Krause 2011; Pickrell and Reich 2014; Schaefer, Shapiro, and Green 2016).

The huge impact of the methodological advances during the last decades has been reflected even in the basic analysis of  $F_{ST}$ . Its first definitions (Wright 1951) have been reconsidered in order to asses more accurate and powerful results (Nei 1973; Weir and Cockerham 1984; Slatkin 1991; Hudson, Slatkin, and Maddison 1992; Weir and Hill 2002; Holsinger and Weir 2009), with new computational methods that enable working with the new large amount of data, implementing internal jackknife permutations to obtain confidence intervals and p-values of the pairwise

comparisons, and allowing to better rely on the results (Pembleton, Cogan, and Forster 2013).

Clustering sequence analyses experienced their major leap with the development of network-based methods (Bandelt, Forster, and Rohlf 1999), overcoming the limitations of trees where branches diverge but never coalesce (Templeton 2019). Networks allow to study the intraspecific genetic diversity of sequences, plus the evolutionary relationships in a more accurate and robust way, enabling extensive interconnections between individuals without assuming or excluding population trees (Templeton 2019; Mardulyn 2012).

When studying demographic history of populations with large datasets, PCA is useful to synthesize in a smaller dimension the genetic variability from the multiple independent markers to describe population structure, drift and admixture populations (Cavalli-Sforza, Menozzi, and Piazza 1994; Schraiber and Akey 2015). Thus, when samples are plotted according to their loading on the PCs, they will sparse according to their genetic closeness. This is a fundamental first step to understand the general genetic scenario of our data (e.g. if our target population separates from the other populations included in the analysis, it would be evidencing a high genetic differentiation and a possible isolation). Nevertheless, to support the information suggested in a PCA, further methods have been developed to specifically probe for those evidences (Novembre and Stephens 2008; McVean 2009). Global ancestry methods, such as ADMIXTURE, STRUCTURE and FRAPPE are

based on model-based clustering approaches (Alexander, Novembre, and Lange 2009; Pritchard, Stephens, and Donnelly 2000; Tang et al. 2005). They complement the PCA looking for groups of individuals that share common underlying allele frequencies. However, in order to formally test for admixture between populations, specific methods are required. *F-statistics* encompasses a series of statistical methods that allow testing for the presence of admixture or not, evaluating phylogenetic relationships based on the sharing of allele frequencies between populations along tree branches (Patterson et al. 2012; Wangkumhang and Hellenthal 2018; Peter 2016). Moreover, recent explicit spatial statistical approaches, such as SpaceMix (Bradburd, Ralph, and Coop 2016) and EEMS (Petkova, Novembre, and Stephens 2016), have emerged to test for isolation-by-distance and infer migration rates, giving a visual spatial context of corridors and barriers to complement the genetic diversity patterns observed in the basic PCA.

These methods do not consider linkage disequilibrium (LD) and can lead to a remarkable loss of genetic information that could be retained and considered for more robust and specific analyses. LD between markers can be highly informative by considering haplotype information, rather than pair of independent SNPs (Wangkumhang and Hellenthal 2018; Gattepaille and Jakobsson 2012). Thus, several methods that consider the individual haplotype information, retrieved through LD and phasing, have been developed in the last decade to analyse admixture patterns in the

populations. These are ChromoPainter, fineSTRUCTURE and GLOBETROTTER (Lawson et al. 2012; Hellenthal et al. 2014). These haplotype-based methods enable analyzing the individuals in a more robust and finer structure resolution, classifying them in genetically homogeneous groups beyond the geographic labels, and allowing to infer the individual shared ancestries to describe demographic processes.

ChromoPainter (Lawson et al. 2012) depicts individually the chromosomes of each recipient sample, without population specification, as a combination of chunks in LD (chromosome haplotypes) from all the other samples, treated as donor. It uses a Hidden Markov Model (HMM) in order to assemble this information in a coancestry matrix, that reflects the total length and count of the shared haplotypes among individuals, estimated from the chunks of the recipient genome that coalesce with one of the two haplotype lineages from a specific donor before that of any other individual. ChromoPainter can also be run by grouping individuals in clusters or populations that can be defined as recipient, donor or both. In this case, the coancestry matrix will reflect just the information of the individuals included in a recipient population. FineSTRUCTURE (Lawson et al. 2012) uses the coancestry matrix from ChromoPainter to perform a clustering analysis, through a Monte Carlo Markov Model Chain (MCMC), in order to assign individuals in genetically homogeneous clusters or populations that a priori were not known. GLOBETROTTER (Hellenthal et al. 2014) uses the coancestry matrix from



ChromoPainter, together with the clusters defined in fineSTRUCTURE, in order to infer admixture patterns and dates. It is used to first model each recipient cluster or population as a mixture of the haplotypes from the donors, in order to obtain the ancestral proportion of each recipient based on the donors. This is performed through a non-negative-least-squares regression (NNLS). Then, GLOBETROTTER can be used to infer specific admixture events and their respective dates, based on the estimation of the decay on the coancestry curves, that represent the distribution of the relative probability that a pair of chunks could be assigned to two surrogates (donors in ChromoPainter) separated by a given distance. The rate of decay is related to the time since the admixture event, being that recombination through generation will reduce the lengths of the admixed chunks. The strong advantage of this method is that the original sources that have been involved in the admixture events, and are not sampled because they do not longer exist, can be reconstructed from the surrogates to explain the target (recipient).

## **1.6. The genetic landscape of the Basques**

*“Despite the numerous methodological and technological advances that we have witnessed over the last few years, the demographic history of the Basque people is still far from being completely elucidated”*

(López and Alonso 2013)

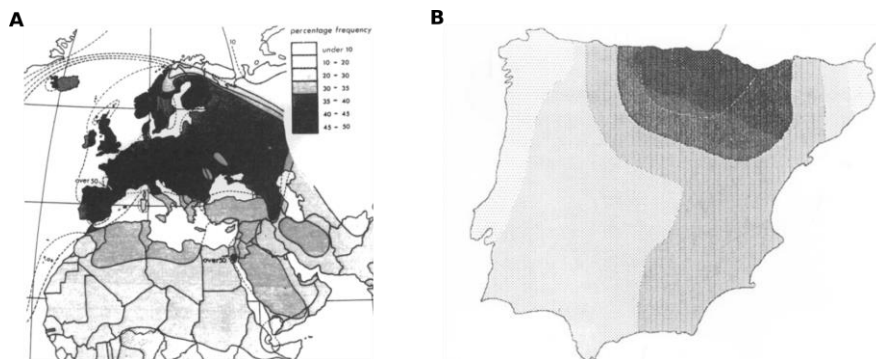
These words, from just six years ago, put in the context the unsolved situation and complicated scenario related to the genetic panorama of Basque people, and the lively controversy that has arisen during the last decades related to their genetic differentiation, heterogeneity and origins.

### **1.6.1. Classical markers: simple, yet interesting**

The genetic interest in Basques emerged when Etcheverry observed, for the first time in 1945, a remarkable high frequency of the Rh-negative blood group (Etcheverry 1945). This high frequency impressed the scholars. Due to the association between the Rh-negative variant and the HDN, as mentioned above, a high frequency of this variant was not expected to be found in a population. Thus, many subsequent studies focused in the analysis of blood group systems arose. They confirmed Basques as the population with the highest frequency of Rh-negative in the world and clearly differentiated from the surrounding populations (Mourant 1947, 1954; Van Der Heide, Magnée, and Van Loghem 1951; Chalmers, Ikin, and Mourant 1948, 1949) (Figure 6).

New other studies including more genetic markers appeared, showing the same pattern of differentiation (Calafell and Bertranpetit 1994b; Bertranpetit and Cavalli-Sforza 1991; Calafell and Bertranpetit 1994a) (Figure 6). These results, together with the cultural, archaeological and linguistic interest of Basques led to the assumption that they would have locally descended, from ancient Rh-negative pre-Neolithic Europeans that remained isolated during

the LGM, and that during the following periods avoided the gene flow with the upcoming population migrations (Van Der Heide, Magnée, and Van Loghem 1951; Bertranpetit and Cavalli-Sforza 1991; Mourant, Kopeć, and Domaniewska-Sobczak 1976; Calafell and Bertranpetit 1994a). The controversies of a pre- or post-Palaeolithic origin and the existence of an internal heterogeneity started to arise in further studies by analyzing other polymorphic genetic markers (Aguirre et al. 1991; Calafell and Bertranpetit 1994a; Calderón et al. 1998a; Manzano et al. 2002; Manzano, Orue, and de la Rúa 1996).



**Figure 6.** Synthetic maps from previous studies. (A) Distribution of the Rh-negative negative from the analysis by Mourant. He highlighted the Basques with a frequency over 50%. Source: (Mourant, Kopeć, and Domaniewska-Sobczak 1976). (B) Map of the Iberian Peninsula with the result of a principal component analysis using the frequencies from 54 alleles of 20 human loci. Source: (Bertranpetit and Cavalli-Sforza 1991).

Moreover, evidences of genetic connection to unexpected populations were reported. Some studies proposed a genetic closeness with North African and Caucasian populations (Arnaiz-Villena et al. 1997; Piazza et al. 1988; Arnaiz-Villena et al. 1995;

Calderón et al. 1998b). This suggestions were mainly prompted by the widely extended hypotheses of connections between the Euskara and the North African and Caucasian languages those years (Hualde, Lakarra, and Trask 1996; Igartua and Zabaltza 2016).

Nonetheless, caution should be taken when analyzing functional markers since similar selective pressures in different populations might provide similar results, masking the population history of the populations under study. This fact, plus the limited number of classical markers analyzed in each study, challenges the reliability of the demographic conclusions provided by classical genetic markers.

### **1.6.2. DNA markers: a parental quest**

The analyses with DNA markers have not been much prominent in Basques as the ones preformed with classical markers. Some works showed a pattern of homogeneity through Europe (Pérez-Lezaun et al. 1996). Otherwise, other analyses came out showing a clear genetic differentiation of Basques from the European and North African populations, together with an internal substructure within the region (Pérez-Miranda et al. 2005; Iriondo, Barbero, and Manzano 2003; Bauduer, Feingold, and Lacombe 2005; Young et al. 2011). An internal heterogeneity within Basques was evidenced, suggesting three main western, central and eastern geographic clusters, instead a differentiation affected by the Pyrenees (Iriondo, Barbero, and Manzano 2003). However, other studies did not

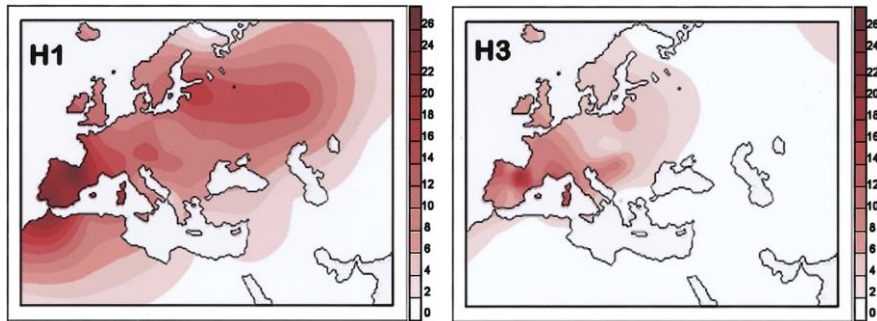
support this internal differentiation and reported a pattern of homogeneity (Comas et al. 1998; Young et al. 2011). The analysis of the minisatellite locus MS205 drew attention by suggesting some specific lineages to the Basque population pre-dating Neolithic times, reflecting an ancient local continuity (Alonso and Armour 1998). Furthermore, the previously suggested relationship with North African populations was not generally supported by DNA markers (Comas et al. 1998; Zlojutro et al. 2006; Perez-Miranda et al. 2004; Pérez-Miranda et al. 2005; Young et al. 2011).

The studies based on DNA markers stood out with the analyses of uniparental markers, trying to reconstruct the history of the population by describing their paternal and maternal lineages. In general, all major mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) haplogroups in Basques are shared with the rest of Europe (Behar et al. 2012; Bertranpetit et al. 1995; Chikhi et al. 1998; Comas et al. 1997; Sajantila et al. 1995), but some peculiarities have been reported.

It has been suggested a pre-Neolithic origin in Basques, together with an expansion and resettlement of Europe after the LGM from the Basque area. The mtDNA haplogroup V is considered as representative of the European Palaeolithic hunter-gatherers, and it was reported the highest frequencies and diversities in the Basque region and the Saami. This suggested a population expansion along Europe after the LGM, from the Franco-Cantabrian glacial refuge, through a southwest-northeast cline (Torroni et al. 1998; Barral-Arca et al. 2016; Cardoso et al. 2013; Soares et al. 2010; Pala et al.

2012). The same proposal of an expansion was reported by the highest frequency in Basques of the most common European mitochondrial haplogroup H (specially H1 and H3) (See Figure 7), which has been related to the expansion of the Near Eastern Neolithic farmers (Richards et al. 1996; Côrte-Real et al. 1996; Barral-Arca et al. 2016; Achilli et al. 2004; Pereira et al. 2005; Soares et al. 2010; Szécsényi-Nagy et al. 2017; Pala et al. 2012). Besides the post-LGM expansions, a genetic continuity since pre-Neolithic times was observed in Basques (Behar et al. 2012; Martínez-Cruz et al. 2012; Cardoso et al. 2013). Moreover, it has been also suggested a possible connection between Berbers, Basques and Saami by the identification of the mtDNA haplogroup U5b1b, pointing to a second hunter-gatherer migration to the south through the Strait of Gibraltar (Achilli et al. 2005; Soares et al. 2010; Pala et al. 2012). It is also interesting the presence of the ancestral and specific phylogeny of the haplogroup U8a in Basques (González et al. 2006). Conversely, other studies have refused the idea of a pre-Neolithic Basque continuity and the post-LGM resettlement of Europe from the region. By contrast, other studies have detected low frequencies and polymorphisms of the European pre-Neolithic mtDNA haplogroups V and H along the region, refusing the hypothesis of a human refuge-expansion after the LGM (García et al. 2011; Alfonso-Sánchez et al. 2008). Regarding the internal genetic landscape, analysis of mtDNA evidenced an heterogeneity within Basques related to geography (Martínez-Cruz et al. 2012), following the previous result from Iriondo and his colleagues (Iriondo, Barbero, and Manzano 2003). In addition, a

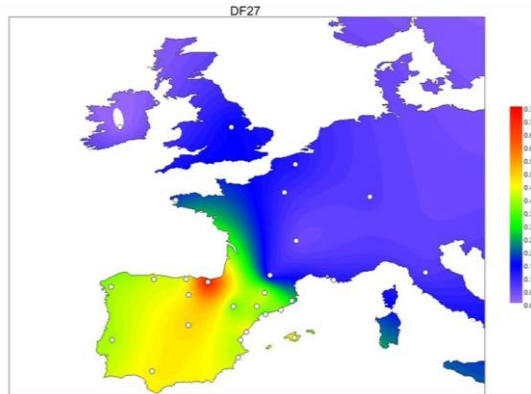
gene flow from the surrounding Franco-Cantabrian groups was observed, explained by the ancient extension of the Euskara beyond the present-day Basque area (Behar et al. 2012; Martínez-Cruz et al. 2012).



**Figure 7.** Spatial distribution of mtDNA H1 and H3 haplogroups. The higher frequencies are observed in the Franco-Cantabrian region. Source: (Achilli et al. 2004).

Concerning the Y-chromosome (Ychr), a reduced genetic structure has been reported though the Iberian Peninsula mainly represented, Basque inclusive with low diversities (Flores et al. 2004; Bosch et al. 2001; Alonso et al. 2005; Martínez-Cruz et al. 2012). Otherwise, an old-Pre-Neolithic substrate in the Pyrenean populations was shown by other studies (Lopez-Parra et al. 2009; Hernández et al. 2017). The distribution of some Ychr haplogroups, as R1a and R1b, together with the mtDNA haplogroup V, also seemed to support the post-LGM expansion (Semino et al. 2000; López and Alonso 2013; Soares et al. 2010). Moreover, the sublineage R1b-DF27, with a possible origin in the Bronze Age, is present in Basques at frequencies of ~70%, in contrast to the ~50% in the rest of Spain and the <20% in Europeans (Figure 8), evidencing the influence of

the Bronze Age/Iron Age steppe ancestry even in the Basque area, contrary to the previous evidences of Pre-Neolithic or Neolithic continuity (Solé-Morata et al. 2017; Villaescusa et al. 2017; Valverde et al. 2016).



**Figure 8.** Spatial distribution of the Ychr R1b-Df27 haplogroup. Basques present the higher frequency of the haplogroup. Source: (Solé-Morata et al. 2017).

### **1.6.3. Genome-wide studies: two sides of the same coin**

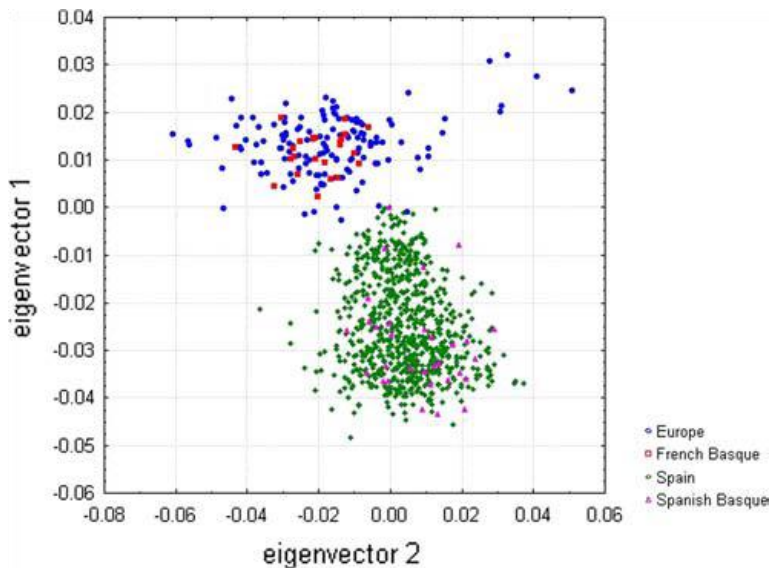
The genome-wide data studies focused on Basques are very scant. Li et al. performed an analysis of 650,000 SNPs in a worldwide context, observing the differentiation of Basques as a whole from the other populations (Li et al. 2008). On the contrary, another study showed a homogeneity pattern analyzing just 123 SNPs in a 1-Mb chromosome 22 (Garagnani et al. 2009).

However, a very clear case that reflects the controversy around the genetic landscape of Basques is the publication of two papers, the same year in the *Human Genetics* journal, showing completely



opposite results (Laayouni, Calafell, and Bertranpetit 2010; Rodríguez-Ezpeleta et al. 2010).

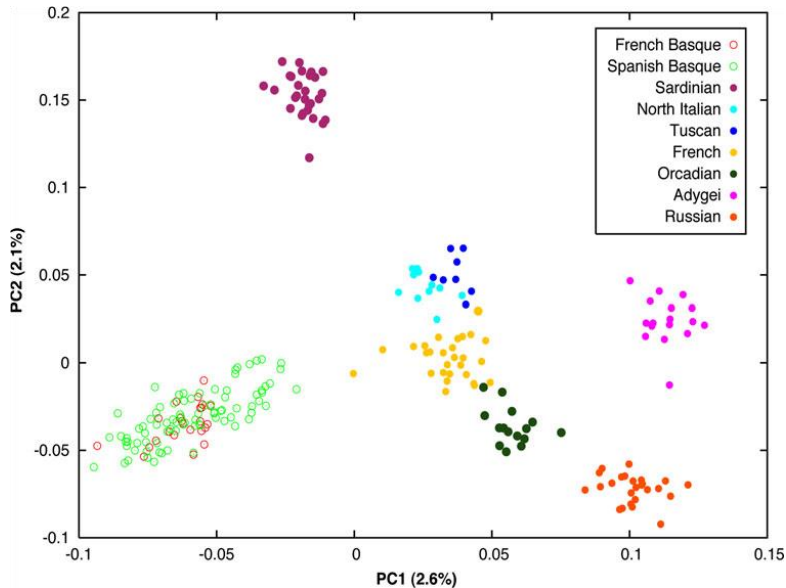
First, Laayouni et al. performed the analysis of ~300,000 SNPs genotyped by pools of DNA from 30 individuals for each of 10 Spanish populations, including Basques. A clear homogeneity of Spanish Basque with the other Iberian groups was detected. However, they clearly separated from the French Basques and the other European samples (Figure 9).



**Figure 9.** PCA performed with 109 highly informative SNPs from genotyping data, including Basque, Spanish French and other European samples. Image from: (Laayouni, Calafell, and Bertranpetit 2010). Basque Spanish fall with Spanish samples, separated from the Basque French that fall within Europe.

In contrast, Rodríguez-Ezpeleta, et al. analysed ~60,000 SNPs from 83 Spanish Basques individually genotyped. In this case, a

homogeneous scenario was observed within the Basques, together with a genetic differentiation from the other external population (Figure 10).



**Figure 10.** PCA performed with 61,504 SNPs including Basques in an European context. Source: (Rodríguez-Ezpeleta et al. 2010). Basque Spanish and French appear separated from the other samples forming a cluster.

The differences found in both studies might be explained by the different number of SNPs analyzed, but mainly by the different techniques used (pooling individuals versus individual data), which point to differences due to technical issues.

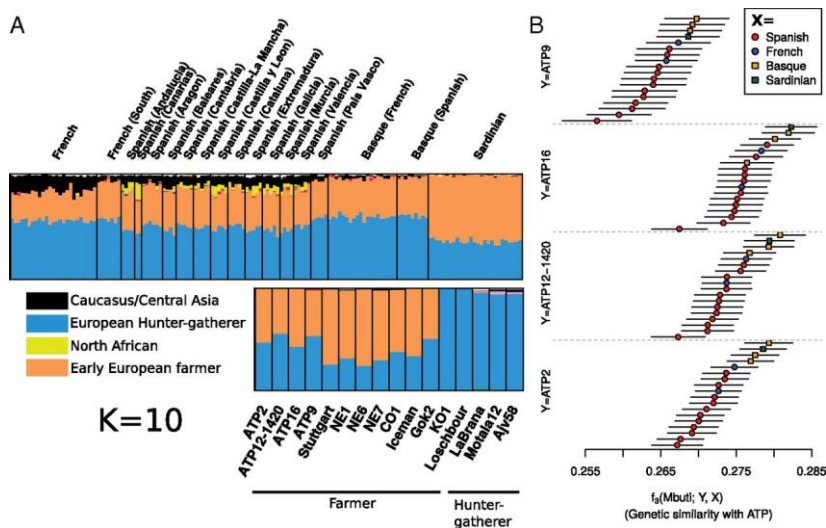
#### **1.6.4. aDNA analyses: connecting with the ancestors**

The analysis of mtDNA from ancient samples allowed to directly clarify the presence, or not, of the previously dated haplogroups in ancient samples from a specific period. A study analyzing ancient

samples along the Franco-Cantabrian region, dating between the Neolithic and the Bronze Age period, suggested that, contrary to the analyses with modern samples (Torroni et al. 1998; Behar et al. 2012), the haplogroup V in ancient Basques samples were actually in small frequencies, not supporting the idea of a pre-Neolithic continuity (Izagirre and de la Rúa 1999). However, the latest studies with ancient mtDNA have supported the continuity, by detecting less impact in the Iberian Peninsula, and especially in the Franco-Cantabrian region, the Neolithic mitochondrial lineages compared to Central Europe (Palencia-Madrid et al. 2017), in the line of the present-day analyses (Behar et al. 2012). However, the Franco-Cantabrian refuge during the LGM and the posterior expansion have not been supported by the evidences from ancient mtDNA (Szécsényi-Nagy et al. 2017). Evidences of Neolithic influences in the region, although low, were proposed by the contradictory observation of the representation of the mtDNA haplogroup J (related to the expansion of Neolithic farmers from Near East) in modern and ancient samples from the Basque area. Moreover, the analyses with ancient mtDNA showed again a possible connection between the Basques and Northwest Africa, before the arrival of the Arabs to the Iberian Peninsula (Alzualde et al. 2005; Soares et al. 2010). In addition, considering several modern and ancient samples from the Palaeolithic to the Bronze Age suggested a genetic pattern of heterogeneity among the haplogroups of mtDNA along the Franco-Cantabrian region originated during the Palaeolithic (Hervella et al. 2012), that followed by different drift effect along the region could explain the differences observed in the ancient

mtDNA analyses depending on the samples studied (López and Alonso 2013).

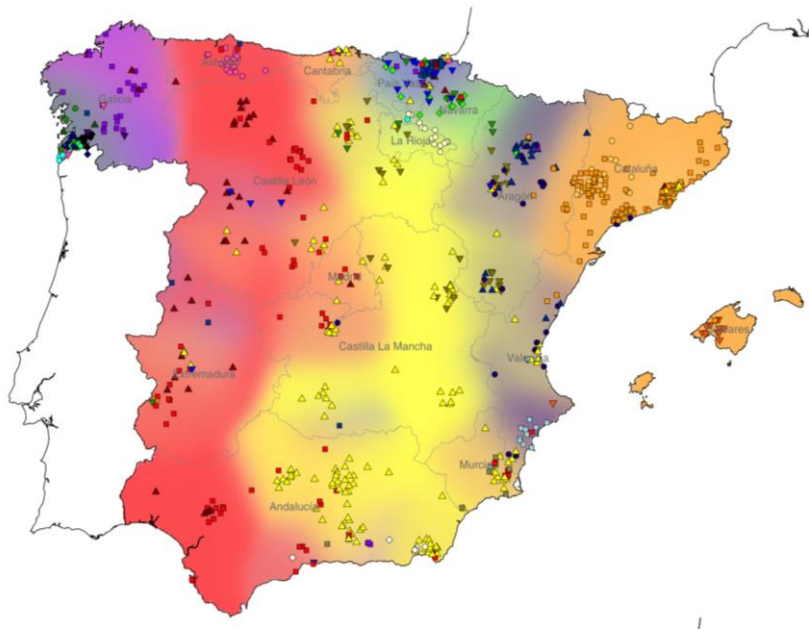
Analyses with genome-wide sequence from ancient data helped to shed light on the ancient scenario in the region. In 2015, an analysis was performed including the first genome-wide data from Chalcolithic and Bronze Age human remains in the Iberian Peninsula (Günther et al. 2015) (Figure 11). This study supported a remarkable influence of Neolithic migrations in the Basque area and a subsequent isolation, refuting the idea of a possible Pre-Neolithic isolation as widely shown before.



**Figure 11.** Observed connection between ancient farmers from Atapuerca and present-day Basques. (A) ADMIXTURE analysis including modern and ancient samples. Basques, Sardinians and farmers present similar genetic components. (B) Genetic closeness observed with outgroup  $f_3$ -statistics. Basques and Sardinians present the highest shared drift with farmers. Source: (Günther et al. 2015)

### 1.6.5. Latest genetic results

The latest results that gave information about Basques, do not specifically focus on them, but in the Iberian Peninsula. They have started to support, with more accurate methods, the idea of the genetic differentiation of Basques in a general context. Bycroft et al., applying haplotype-based methods with modern samples, observed Basques clearly differentiated from the surrounding Iberian groups (Bycroft et al. 2019) (Figure 12).



**Figure 12.** Spatial density distribution for the clusters defined in the fineSTRUCTURE tree. Basques appear represented by a specific cluster differentiated from the surrounding groups. Source: (Bycroft et al. 2019).

In addition, a recent paper analysing 271 ancient Iberian samples covering the periods from Mesolithic to 2000 CE suggested, based on PCA projection and qpAdm modeling, that Basques could be

better described as a typical Iberian Iron Age population, reflecting the genetic influence of the steppe ancestry also in Basques together (in fact, as mentioned above they present the highest frequencies of R1b Ychr haplogroup), without the evidences of the posterior admixture events that were observed in the rest of the Iberian Peninsula (Olalde et al. 2019).

As evident while reading this chapter, in spite of all these analyses mentioned along, there has been a lively controversy around Basques due to the opposite and numerous results that have been emerging during the last decades. These main points about Basque people could be summarized into four: i) the high frequency of Rh-negative, ii) their distinctiveness from the external European genetic context, iii) their internal heterogeneity, and iv) their most plausible origin.

Those previous genetic works have been mainly affected by a weak study design, without a correct ethnolinguistic, geographic and genetic representation of Basques. They have just included some samples from the Basque area and considering them as a single population. Many studies have performed the analyses just including a small number of genetic markers (Rodríguez-Ezpeleta et al. 2010), performing genotyping by pooling individuals (Laayouni, Calafell, and Bertranpetit 2010) or using genome-wide data from biomedical arrays that could lead to an ascertainment bias in the analysis (Bycroft et al. 2019).







## **2. OBJECTIVES**

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The aim of the thesis is to shed light on the four main peculiar points of Basques, by using more powerful and refined methodology to overcome previous limitations.

In the first project, the classical question about Basques, related to the highest frequency of the Rh-negative variant is studied, but improving the methodology through recent technical approaches by using high throughput sequencing instead of serology. Besides looking for the frequencies of the different variants of the Rh system, we explore the general framework of the genetic scenario of the Rh system in Basques.

In the second project, the other three points about Basques are assessed overcoming the previous limitations. An exhaustive representation of the Basque people in an ethnolinguistic, geographic and historical context is considered. Furthermore, a specific array designed for population genetics is used in order to avoid the ascertainment bias that could affect the analyses. Moreover, finer and more robust methodology is applied, combining allele and haplotype-based methods in a wide and fine scale context.



## **3. RESULTS**

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### **3.1. Sequence diversity of the Rh blood group system in Basques**

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## **3.2. The genomic history of the Franco-Cantabrian region: deciphering the genetics of the Basques**

(in preparation)

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## **Abstract**

Basques have been historically distributed along the Western Pyrenees, in the Franco-Cantabrian region, between the current Spanish and the French territories. They have been in the limelight of many researches due to the several singular cultural and biological traits that, with high controversy, seemed to place them as a heterogeneous, isolated and unique population within Europe, highlighting their own non-Indo-European language, Euskara, and its five main dialects. Due to the limitations of previous studies about Basque genetic structure, there is still a lively debate about their history and their presumed singularity. To overcome the previous limitations, we have analyzed, at a micro-geographical level, genome-wide data of all Basque and surrounding groups that do not speak Euskara. Overall, a total of ~200 individuals from 18 different geographical areas were included. We have also considered other external modern and ancient samples from publicly available datasets in order to have external references. Our results, mainly focused on haplotype-based methods, show a clear differentiation of Basques from other European populations, as previously suggested. Even at a local scale, we detect a genetic differentiation of Basques compared to surrounding Spanish and French groups, with a genetic cline through the non-Basque Franco-Cantabrians. Moreover, this internal genetic heterogeneity shows a significant correlation with geography. Finally, our analyses including ancient samples show that the ancestry of Basques is mostly defined by a genetic continuity since the Bronze Age period,

which challenges the previous ideas of the Palaeolithic/Neolithic composition of Basques.

## **Introduction**

The Franco-Cantabrian region has drawn big attention in multiple disciplines due to several factors that depict its important big role in the European human history. This region encompassed the Northern border of Spain and the Southern France through the Pyrenees. It is known that this region was one of the most densely populated glacial refugia in Europe, during the Last Glacial Maximum in the Palaeolithic [1] and it is related to very important archaeological discoveries, especially the first human cave paintings [1]. However, the most interesting peculiarity is the presence of the Basque people. They have been historically distributed along the western edge of the Pyrenees between the Spanish and the French territories currently organized in seven provinces: Gipuzkoa, Bizkaia and Araba in the southern side of the Pyrenees; and Zuberoa, Lapurdi and Nafarroa Beherea located in the northern side. Basques have stood out due to their cultural and biological traits that suggested their singularity and isolation. Their main cultural trait is the Euskara and its dialects, which is the unique non-Indo-European language in Western Europe, that has been pointed as a possible cultural barrier along history. Beyond the current distribution of the Euskara, it was historically present in a larger area where it is supposed to have coexisted with other languages. This would include the neighboring Northern Spanish areas and Southern half of Aquitaine in France [2]. Moreover, Basques have been widely

studied during the last decades, trying to depict their distinctiveness from a biological point of view with the analysis of classical markers [3], microsatellite data [4], uniparental markers [5] and genome-wide data [6]. However, in spite of the numerous studies, a clear conclusion about the genetic scenario of the Basques has not been assessed yet, and a strong controversy is still alive behind it. Some studies suggested a clear differentiation of Basques from the surrounding populations, as well as an internal heterogeneity within, whereas other studies resulted in the opposite conclusions [6], [7]. The same situation is observed in relation to their origin, from previous studies pointing them as Pre-Neolithic remnants[8], [9] to the latest results that define a genetic continuity from earlier periods [10]–[12]. These remarkable contradictory results are related to the weak study design in these studies. The poor number of samples used in the analyses to represent the Basque groups and the neighboring areas in the region has supposed the major limiting factor. Furthermore, the methodology previously used was quite limited, mostly based on blood type frequencies or a reduced number of genetic markers [13]. In this study, we shed light on the distinctiveness, heterogeneity and origin of Basques people, overcoming the limitations burdened in the previous studies and giving more powerful conclusions. To that, we present here a high-resolution representation of the whole Franco-Cantabrian area to allow fine-scale results, by using genome-wide data genotyped with the Axiom™ Human Origins Array, that is optimized for human genetic studies [14]. Besides the Euskara-speaking area, Spanish and French surrounding groups that do not speak this language were

also included. Furthermore, these newly reported data was merged with publicly available external modern and ancient samples to contextualize the region in a large and genetically diverse scenario. Finally, beside the allele frequency methods, haplotype-based approaches were performed. These methods analyse the samples in a more robust and refined way, beyond the geographic labels, and allow us to infer the shared ancestries among the analysed groups [15], [16]. For the first time, fine-scale and wide-scale analyses from genome-wide data have been performed covering the whole Franco-Cantabrian region, combining allele frequency and haplotype-based methods.

## **Materials and methods**

### ***Sample collection and genotyping***

A total of 190 unrelated individual samples were collected from 18 microgeographical areas in the present-day Spanish and French territories of the Franco-Cantabrian region, including Basque-speaking, Spanish-speaking, and French-speaking groups (Fig.1A). Written informed consent was obtained from the participants, who were interviewed to determine their speaking dialect and to confirm their four grandparents were born in the same microgeographical area (Fig.1 and Table S1). The collection procedures were approved by the CCPPRB (Comité Consultatif de Protection des Personnes dans la Recherche Biomédicale d'Aquitaine) and the Ethics Committees at Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Institut Pasteur, Université Michel de Montaigne Bordeaux 3. The dataset includes seven areas where Euskara is spoken at present [5], [9] (Central

Gipuzkoa, Southwestern Gipuzkoa, Bizkaia, and Northwestern Nafarroa in the southern side of the Pyrenees; the admixed zone of Lapurdi/Baztan, Lapurdi Nafarroa, and Zuberoa in the northern side), besides three regions where it was spoken until the end of the 19th century [17], [18] (Central Western Nafarroa, Roncal, and Araba). For the sake of clarity, the previous ten regions where Euskara was spoken in historical times will be referred as “Basque” groups hereafter. The dataset also includes five surrounding Spanish-speaking areas where Euskara was never spoken but with evidence of influence from the Euskara up to medieval period (Cantabria, Northern Burgos, La Rioja, Northern Aragon and Western Bizkaia), and three French-speaking areas where Gascon was previously spoken (Bigorre, Béarn and Chalosse) [18]–[21], here described as Spanish and French Peri-Basques, respectively. DNA was extracted from blood samples using standard methods, and genotyped with the Axiom™ Genome-Wide Human Origins Array (~629 K variants) [14]. Genotype calling was performed by using the software Axiom™ Analysis Suite 3.1.51.0 through the Affymetrix Best Practices Workflow. All samples passed the genotype calling process with an average quality control call rate of 99.8%. After exporting those variants that properly passed the recommended thresholds, 597,638 single-nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) remained in the dataset.

### ***Data Quality Control and merging data***

PLINK 1.9 [22] was used to apply the quality control filters after excluding uniparental markers and the X chromosome. No sample

was excluded after applying a quality control filtering to remove individuals with more than 10% of missing SNPs. A total of 434,664 SNPs remained after removing SNPs missing in more than 5% of the samples, with an extreme deviation from Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium ( $p < 10^{-5}$ ), and a minor allele-frequency (MAF) below 0.05. For those analyses that required linkage equilibrium between SNPs, linkage disequilibrium (LD) pruning was performed using a windows size of 200 SNPs, with a shifting of 25 SNPs and a maximum pairwise LD threshold ( $r^2$ ) of 0.5. A total of 171,275 SNPs remained after LD pruning. Two individual samples (one from the Lapurdi/Baztan zone and one from Zuberoa) were discarded from the dataset due to their high relatedness to other samples of the same group (PI\_HAT>0.125).

Our Franco-Cantabrian samples were merged with public available data genotyped with the same array: samples from Catalonia, Valencia and Balearic Islands [23]; North African [24]; plus modern and ancient Western Eurasian samples [24]. Basque samples from Lazaridis et al. [24] were included in the analyses in the Basque category as Spanish and French Basques. Samples from Eivissa were removed from most of the analyses since it has been recently reported to be an isolated population differentiated from the mainland context [23]. Thus, a final dataset containing 1,549 samples was used to perform the analyses.



### *Allele frequency analyses*

PCA eigenvectors were computed by using the SmartPCA v13050 from EIGENSOFT v6.0.1 [25]. For the PCA including ancient samples, ancient samples were projected in the PCA.

Weir and Cockerham's pairwise  $F_{ST}$  indexes were calculated between the different groups by using the R package stAMPP [26], with confidence intervals after 1,000 bootstrap repetitions, and represented in a multidimensional scaling (MDS) plot.

In order to explore the population structure in the region, an analysis of the molecular variance (AMOVA) was performed with the R package poppr [27]; 1,000 permutations as described by Excoffier et al. [28] were carried out with ade4 R package [29], in order to obtain an empirical distribution under the null hypothesis.

To test the correlation between the genetic and geographic distances among groups, isolation by distance (IBD) analysis was performed. Geographic Distance Matrix Generator v1.2.3 software [30] was used to calculate a geographic distance matrix between the groups included in the analysis. Then, a Mantel test was performed between the genetic and geographic distance matrices with the function mantel.rtest from the ade4 R package [29].

In order to test and visualize the spatial population structure, effective migration and diversity rates were modeled in the Franco-Cantabrian region dataset using the estimated effective migration

surfaces (EEMS) software [31]. We set nDemes=300, and ran four simultaneous EEMS analyses with four different random seeds. Next, we checked the best converged MCMC chain with the highest final log-posterior value, and we continued that chain with four new runs. We repeated this process three more times, taking the best chain after the previous set of runs in order to be definitely confident that the MCMC chain had converged with the optimal log-posterior value. For every set of four runs we performed 10 million iterations each, with 5 million discarded as burn-in and sampling every 50,000 iterations.

Model-based individual ancestries were defined by using ADMIXTURE v1.3.0 [32] in order to explore patterns of population structure. The unsupervised method was run for 10 independent iterations, both for the present-day and ancient samples analyses, and with K ancestral clusters ranging from 2 to 12. Then, PONG v1.4.7 [33] was used to combine and plot the result of the 10 different iterations in a consensus graph.

Outgroup  $f_3$ -statistics were performed with the qp3Pop program from AdmixTools package v4.1 [14] to calculate the shared drift between each potential ancient group and all the modern groups in the dataset. The analysis was performed in the form  $f_3(\text{Mbuti}; \text{Ancient}, \text{Modern})$ . We used qpGraph program from AdmixTools package v4.1 [14] to model the modern European samples to estimate the three major ancestral proportions in Europe as in Haak et al [34]: Western Pre-Neolithic hunter-gatherer, European

Neolithic farmer, and Yamnaya from Post-Neolithic steppe. We performed 100 replicates for each target modern population, then the average and the 95% confidence intervals of the replicates were calculated.

## **Haplotype-based analyses**

### ***Runs of homozygosity (ROH)***

In order to test for inbreeding, ROHs were estimated with PLINK 1.9 [22], including some external populations. The ROH analysis was performed in sliding windows of 50 SNPs across the genome, allowing for 1 heterozygous call and 5 missing calls per window. The minimum hit rate of all scanning windows containing the SNP to be included in a ROH was set to 0.05. Only ROHs with a minimum length of 500 kb and containing at least 50 SNPs were included in the analysis. A minimum of 1 SNP per 50 kb was set as minimum density threshold and a maximum gap of 100 kb between two consecutive SNPs in a tract. The Canary and Balearic Islands [24] samples were removed from the dataset for this analysis.

### ***Phasing***

SHAPEIT v2 [35] was used to phase the data, with the population-averaged genetic map from HapMap phase II [36] and the available 1000 genomes data as reference panel [37]. The data was first aligned to the reference and the mismatched SNPs were removed, then the proper phase inference was performed.

### ***ChromoPainter***

Haplotype sharing between individual samples was estimated with ChromoPainter [38]. ChromoPainter depicts individually the haplotypes of each “recipient” sample, without population specification, as a haplotype combination of all the other samples, treated as “donor”. Thus, it estimates the total number and length of haplotype fragments (chunks) in the recipient’s genome that shares the most common recent ancestor with every donor sample. We first run ChromoPainter to estimate the global mutation probability and the switch rate parameters. Thus, the expected-maximization (EM) algorithm implemented in ChromoPainter was used over the chromosomes 1, 4, 17 and 20 for all individuals, with 10 iterations and parameters `-in -iM`. Then, the inferred values were averaged across the four chromosomes and individuals, weighting by the number of SNPs per chromosome. It resulted in 0.000661 and 222.54421 for the global mutation (M) and switch rate (n), respectively. Finally, ChromoPainter was run for all chromosomes and individuals fixing the previously estimated parameters to obtain the final count and length sharing coancestry matrices. We then used ChromoCombine to sum the matrices across chromosomes and obtain the copying profile for each individual, as well as the C parameter ( $C = 0.281698702$ ) needed for running fineSTRUCTURE.

### ***FineSTRUCTURE***

FineSTRUCTURE v2.1.0 [38] was run to cluster the data obtained by ChromoPainter into genetic homogeneous groups following

Leslie et al. [15] documentation, using as input the chunkcount coancestry matrix of the total number of chunks copied among individuals. We performed 2 million MCMC iterations, with 1 million burn-in iterations and sampling values from the posterior probability every 10,000 iterations. FineSTRUCTURE tree was built with the default parameters -m T. The analysis was repeated for three different seeds to check consistency among the trees. Important differences were not observed among them, excepting the relocation of some individuals in other genetically close clusters.

### ***GLOBETROTTER***

GLOBETROTTER [39] was used following the recommended protocol to estimate the ancestry profile of all the modern samples in the dataset and test for admixture events in the Franco-Cantabrian, Spanish, and French groups. To perform this analysis, we first ran ChromoPainter, but now classifying the individuals based on the previous clustering results from fineSTRUCTURE. All of them were included in the analysis as donors and recipients.

Next, in order to describe the surrogate groups for the different clusters, we used the non-negative least squares (NNLS) method included in GLOBETROTTER to infer the haplotype sharing proportions between the different clusters. Thus, we set prop.ind parameter to 1, null.ind to 0 and num.mixing.iterations to 0. A different NNLS analysis was performed for each cluster as recipient and the others as donors, disallowing self-copying from the recipient itself.

Then, we ran GLOBETROTTER to check if some admixture events could be detected in our target clusters, using the others as surrogates. The copying vectors and the painting samples from the second run of ChromoPainter were used to run this analysis. As recommended, we have set null.ind parameter to 1 when testing for plausible admixture events. This accounts for uncommon patterns in the linkage disequilibrium decay that could show false signals of admixture. Then, null.ind parameter was set to 0 when estimating admixture proportions, dates and sources. We inferred the confidence intervals for the date estimates by performing 100 bootstrap iterations, for one-date and two-date admixture models.

## **Results**

### ***The differentiation of Basques in the European/Mediterranean genetic landscape***

In a PCA analysis including modern samples from Western Eurasia and North Africa, the Basque samples fall in the periphery of Europe in a similar pattern as Sardinia, with a cline formed by the Peri-Basque groups towards the rest of the European samples (Fig. 2A). When the global genetic ancestry components of these populations were inferred through an ADMIXTURE analysis (similar values of lowest cross-validation error were obtained at  $K=6$  and  $K=7$ , Fig.2B, Fig. S1) a differential genetic pattern is observed in Basques. In  $K=6$ , they present mainly two components: a major component (green), which is also a main component of the rest of European samples, and is also present at low frequencies in the Middle East/Caucasus and North Africa; plus a minor

component (pink), maximized in Central/Eastern Europe, in similar proportion as in the surrounding populations. The other components found in the rest of European groups are not present in Basques (frequencies <1%). The Peri-Basque samples, present a similar pattern as Basques but with low frequencies of the external components not present in Basques. From  $K=7$  onwards a new specific component appears, maximized in Basques and present in more than 50% in Peri-Basques. This component is also present in considerable proportions in Spanish and French samples, while is almost absent in the other external European samples.

The haplotype-based analyses performed by fineSTRUCTURE highlight the differentiation of Basques (Fig. 3, Fig. S2 and Table S2). First, the Basque groups cluster together within the large European branch, but in a differentiated external cluster (Fig. 3A, Fig. 3B -right-, Fig. S2A and Fig. S2B), which points to low haplotype sharing between this cluster and the other external European groups, and a clear internal and specific genetic profile of Basques. Secondly, the Peri-Basque groups also exhibit a differentiation from the other external populations, clustering internally with Europeans, but forming a specific branch with some exceptions, i.e. Cantabrian samples CAN clustering with Spanish samples (Fig. 3A, Fig. 3B -left-, Fig. S2A and Fig. S2B). In order to discard putative artifacts due to the overrepresentation of Franco-Cantabrian samples in the fineSTRUCTURE analysis, a random sampling of the Franco-Cantabrian region (50 samples including Basques and Peri-Basques) was performed with similar results (data

not shown). Furthermore, the ancestry profile calculated in the NNLS analysis confirms a specific genetic scenario for the Basques, mirroring the results above (Fig. 3D and Fig. S3). Basques share haplotypes exclusively with the internal groups in the Franco-Cantabrian region and the Peri-Basques mainly share haplotypes internally with the groups in the region, but also with the non-Franco-Cantabrian Spanish and French groups, acting as a cline between Basques and the surrounding external populations. The intermediate ancestry profile observed in Peri-Basques suggests gene flow between the Franco-Cantabrian region and the external groups. Therefore, potential admixture scenarios were tested in Peri-Basques by using GLOBETROTTER. Single admixture events were detected for all the Peri-Basque targets, with close dates during The *Reconquista*. Similar sources were described in each case: a major source (~70%) mainly represented by Franco-Cantabrian ancestry, plus small proportions of Spanish ancestry; and a minor source (~30%) that represents an external Spanish-like population.

In order to explore the genetic differentiation of Basques, an analysis of runs of homozygosity (ROH) was performed. Basques show the highest total number (NROH) and total length (SROH) of ROHs by individual, followed by Sardinians, which have been reported as having high inbreeding [40], and Peri-Basques in an intermediate position between Basques and Sardinians and the rest of European samples (Fig. 4C, Fig. S4, Fig. S5). These results point to some degree of inbreeding of Basques compared to surrounding



populations at a level even higher than the one reported in Sardinia [40].

### ***The genetic ancestral legacy of Basques***

The PCA projection of ancient samples shows Basques closer to Pre-Neolithic hunter-gatherers and Neolithic farmers, but also to some Steppe herders (Fig. S6A). The ADMIXTURE analysis (K=4, lowest cross-validation error, Fig S6B) show Basques and Peri-Basques with the lowest proportions of a Levant- and Iran-related Neolithic components, together with a slightly higher proportion of the Anatolian/European farmer component compared to other European populations. When testing for the shared drift with ancient samples, outgroup  $f_3$ -statistics show high shared drift between Basques and the three major ancient components in Europe (Fig. S7). We modeled our Franco-Cantabrian groups and other European populations with these ancient samples by using qpGraph (Fig. 5A). The model fitted for each tested European population, with Z-scores highly close to 0 for all the 100 permutations calculated (Fig. S8). The inferred mixture proportions of the three ancient components do not show differences of Basques compared to the general European context (Fig. 5B), and no internal differences regarding the proportions of the ancient components were not observed when modeling the Franco-Cantabrian groups individually (Fig. S9). Basques show percentages similar to the ones reported in Olalde et al. [12] ( ~11 % of WHG, ~54 % of EN, and ~35% of Steppe component), suggesting that the differentiation

of Basques cannot be explained by differences in the ancestral components at least previous to the Bronze Age.

### ***The genetic panorama within the Franco-Cantabrian region***

A genetic heterogeneity within the Franco-Cantabrian region, including Basques, is observed in the analyses. Focusing in the studied area, the PC separates the Franco-Cantabrian groups, with the Basques in the extreme, from the Spanish and French non-Franco-Cantabrians through a cline represented by the Peri-Basques (Fig. 4A); whereas the second PC separates the regions from the Spanish and the French areas. The PCA show a clear structure and clustering of the Basque groups despite the analysis at a micro-geographical level. In order to have an external reference of similar size and sampling density at a micro-geographical scale, the Catalan samples from Biagini et al. [23] were compared to our dataset. The PCA of Catalans do not show any geographical structure compared to Basques and Peri-Basques (Fig S10), reinforcing the idea of strong genetic clustering in Basques. To quantify and compare the genetic differentiation between the Franco-Cantabrian groups and the Catalan ones,  $F_{ST}$  distances for each pairwise combination were estimated and shown in a MDS plot (Fig. S11). Again, Franco-Cantabrians show a clear internal differentiation with distances in a range of  $10^{-2}$ , whereas Catalans showed no evidences of genetic structure or extreme internal differentiation with distances in the range of  $10^{-3}$ . Moreover, we tested for heterogeneity within the region by performing AMOVA analyses at different strata in the geography. Though the explained variance was not so high in the

analyses, all the results were statistically significant, pointing to an internal differentiation of the region and especially in the Basque groups (Fig. S12). In fact, the same analysis in Catalonia shows much lower explained variance in the different strata (Fig. S13).

The PCA including French and Spanish samples (Fig. 4A) show two groups of Basque samples: the Western Basque group, which includes all the Spanish Basques in the present study, with the exception of Roncal (RON), together with the samples labeled as “Basque\_Spanish” and “Spanish\_Pais\_Vasco\_IBS” from Lazaridis et al. [24]; and the Eastern Basque group including our French Basque samples plus RON and the samples labeled as “Basque\_French” in Lazaridis et al. [24]. A similar East-West pattern is shown in the Peri-Basques samples, clustered in two groups: the Spanish Peri-Basques (Western) with the exception of Northern Aragon (NAR), which is clustered with the French Peri-Basques (Eastern). The analysis of genetic components performed in the region with ADMIXTURE mirrors the results above (Fig. 4B). At  $K=2$ , the lowest cross-validation error, one component (green) is maximized in the Basques. This component is also present in the Peri-Basque groups at substantial proportions, whereas it is found at low proportions in the external samples, especially in the French ones. At  $K=3$  and  $K=4$ , internal different components appear within Basques. In  $K=3$ , the Basque-like component split in two specific components: a Western component (blue) mostly present in Spanish Basques; and an Eastern component (green) mostly present in French Basques and RON.

These components are barely presented in the non-Franco-Cantabrian samples. In the Peri-Basque groups, a heterogeneity between the samples from the French and the Spanish side of the region is also observed. Finally, at  $K=4$  another ancestral component arises, maximized in Alava and the surrounding groups (pink), especially the Spanish Peri-Basque groups. Thus, we could summarize the components in non-Franco-Cantabrian (orange), Eastern/French Basque-like (green), central Basque-like (blue), and peripheral Spanish Basque-like (pink). The distribution of these components along the samples, it is basically evidencing the connection among the groups observed in the other analyses and the correlation between genetics and geography.

To formally test for the correlation between the genetic and geographic distances in the region, we performed an isolation by distance (IBD) analysis. We applied a Mantel test between the  $F_{ST}$  values and the geographic distances in kilometers, resulting in a positive and clear statistically significant result ( $R^2 = 0.242$ ,  $p$ -value = 0.0163) (Fig. S10B -left-). Then, the spatially explicit statistical method, EEMS, showed a very well defined internal pattern of barriers (Fig. S10A -left-); both between the Basque and Peri-Basque area, as well as within them. In fact, the pattern of the corridors with higher migration rate is actually mirroring the observed relationships in the PCA and the ADMIXTURE analysis, between groups with overlapping standard deviations (Fig. S10C -left-, Fig. 4A and Fig. 4B). The same analyses were performed for the Catalan samples, showing a non-significant and negative trend

for the Mantel test ( $R^2 = -0.151$ ,  $p\text{-value} = 0.749$ ), besides the absence of barriers in the EEMS analysis (Fig. S10A, S10B and Fig. S10C -right-), despite being a geographical region of similar size.

In order to refine the relationships between the populations within the area, haplotype-based methods were applied, and similar patterns of internal heterogeneity were observed (Fig. 3). Besides the differentiation of Basque cluster in the fineSTRUCTURE tree (Fig. 3 and Fig. S2), several internal clusters in the region can be defined, mostly related to geography and language. On the one hand, three big clusters can be discerned in the Basque branch (Fig. 3B -right- and 3C): one that encompasses the Central Basque area (NNO, ZMX, plus GUI and GSO), an Eastern Basque cluster (including the French groups NLA and SOU, and RON from the Spanish side) and a Southwestern Basque cluster (ALA, BBA and NCO). On the other hand, three clusters can be differentiated in the Peri-Basque branch (Fig. 3B -left- and 3C): a Western Peri-Basque cluster (BOC, besides a cluster including RIO and BUR mixed in two branches), an Eastern Peri-Basque cluster (BIG, NAR from the Spanish side of the Pyrenees, plus a branch including CHA and BEA), and a specific branch for CAN that falls within the external Spanish cluster. Similar clusters are observed when performing the analysis reducing the dataset at two different levels: for the Franco-Cantabrian samples together with the non-Franco-Cantabrian Spanish and French samples, and for the Franco-Cantabrian samples exclusively (Fig. S2). The differences found in Basques are also evident in the ancestry profiles calculated in the NNLS analysis

(Fig. 3D, Fig. S14). The French and Spanish Peri-Basque groups have different proportions from Basque, Peri-Basque, and external ancestries; whereas Basques are mainly a mixture of Basque components with some Peri-Basque ancestries. In fact, the three main different Basque clusters are defined in the NNLS analysis, with a Central group defined exclusively by Basque ancestry; the Eastern group defined by Basque ancestry with ~25% of Peri-Basque ancestry; and the Southwestern group defined by Basque ancestry, ~25% of Peri-Basque ancestry, and some traces of Spanish and French ancestries. It is noteworthy that besides these traces of Spanish and French ancestry in the Southwestern group, no traces of external clusters are found in any of the Basque samples analyzed, pointing to an internal haplotype sharing in the region without external contributions.

## **Discussion**

We have focused our study in three direct questions: Is the genomic panorama of the Franco-Cantabrian region similar to the external European populations? How is the genomic scenario within the region? Which could be their genomic history?

First, the genetic distinctiveness of the Basques is evident in all the analysis performed. In the European/Mediterranean genetic context, the results show a similar scenario as previously reported in other studies. A peripheral distribution in the PCA (Fig. 2B) and a remarkable differentiation in the proportions of the plausible ancestral components in the ADMIXTURE (Fig. 2B) place them in

the already known wide panorama related to allele frequency studies [24]. However, the most interesting results are related to the fine-scale analysis in a Spanish-French context, that show us a very detailed panorama of differentiation. The distribution in the PCA (Fig. 4A), as well as the inferred ancestral components in the ADMIXTURE analysis (Fig. 4B), finally clarify the first question overcoming the limited representation of the Franco-Cantabrian region [6], [7]. These results are also supported by the haplotype-based methods. The external branching of Basques together with the Peri-Basques clustering more internally in the fineSTRUCTURE tree (Fig. 3A, Fig. 3B, Fig. 3C and Fig. S2), plus the higher shared ancestry of Peri-Basques with external groups (Fig. 3D) completely mirror the allele frequency results. Therefore, Basque people are defined as an isolated group with a clear genetic distinctiveness, whereas Peri-Basques can be explained as a peri-isolated transition between the Basques and the external Spanish and French populations. This mirrors the distinctive continuous pattern of genomic variation as intersection between open and isolated populations [41]. Isolated populations are characterized by large number and length of ROHs, due to high levels of inbreeding and/or small effective population sizes [41]. The results in the ROH analysis clearly show a pattern of a continuous inbreeding in the Franco-Cantabrian region, and especially in Basques. Sardinia is an already studied population reported to be highly inbred and to carry many long ROH [40], [42]. Central Western Europeans and Sub-Saharan Africans represent large populations, characterized by short and few ROHs that show the basal level of ROHs [42], [43]. The

highest individual values of total ROH number and length are observed in Basques, followed by Sardinians and Peri-Basques (Fig. 4C and Fig. S4). Moreover, the average of total number and length, calculated by ROH length category, in the different groups allows to understand the ROH values in a temporal context. Old inbreeding is related to high length and number values in the smaller categories due to the recombination during the time, thereby more recent inbreeding is reflected by high values in longer categories. The shorter categories (0.5-1 Mb and 1-2 Mb) are related to the basal ROH in human populations inherited from the Out-of-Africa, thus they are ubiquitous and the most frequent in all the populations [43]. Similar values have been reported for African and European non-inbred populations. Thus, greater number and total length of ROH in these categories are echoing scenarios of small and isolated areas with high levels of old inbreeding [43]. Our Franco-Cantabrian samples present a similar pattern as Sardinians. In the first two categories, 0.5-1 Mb and 1-2 Mb, both Spanish and French Basques present the highest values, followed by Sardinians. Despite Peri-Basques values are lower, they are higher than in the external Spanish and French groups. In the categories for runs 2-4 Mb and 4-8 Mb, an intermediate scenario is observed among the groups, without clear outstanding results in the Franco-Cantabrian region. However, the total proportion of samples representing these categories in the external groups is very small compared to the Franco-Cantabrian one, even below 30 % (Fig. S5). This shows that these categories are more common in the isolated groups, Basques and Sardinians, and the peri-isolated Peri-Basques, while in the



external groups the values observed could be more related to cryptically inbred outliers [43]. In the last category of >8 Mb, Spanish and French Basques, together with Spanish Peri-Basques are still represented, , but together with Spanish and Central Western Europeans. All of them represented by a small proportion of samples. Therefore, a pattern of genetic isolation, together with old and continuous strong inbreeding can be detected in the Franco-Cantabrians, more accentuated in Basques groups.

Second, the internal heterogeneity in the Basques is evident from allele frequency methods to more robust and refined approach with ChromoPainter, fineSTRUCTURE and GLOBETROTTER. It is striking to find a scenario of these characteristics in such a small continental area. When comparing with a region with similar extension and sampling density, these exceptional results are clearly evident (Fig. S10, Fig. S11, Fig. S12 and Fig. S13). In fact, our results remind to the internal scenario in Sardinia, which is actually a more wider and geographically isolated island [44]. All our results suggest that, generally, three main groups can be defined within the Franco-Cantabrian region: Basques, Western Spanish Peri-Basques and Eastern Peri-Basques (Fig. 4A and Fig. S10). This result is much more evident in the fineSTRUCTURE tree showing three separated clusters, plus CAN, for the groups and evidencing the closeness of Peri-Basques with the external populations (Fig. 3). Furthermore, the shared ancestry profile with the Franco-Cantabrian region observed in the Peri-Basques principally comes from the geographically closest groups (Fig. 3D and Fig. S14). Thus,

Western Peri-Basques show shared ancestry with Spanish Basque and Peri-Basque groups, whereas the Eastern Peri-Basques share with the French Basques and Peri-Basques. If we focus within Basques, a second level of differentiation can be defined. Three major Basque groups are evinced, that actually can be related to the three different components observed in the internal ADMIXTURE analysis (Fig. 4B). A Western Spanish Basque cluster that mainly shares ancestries with the Spanish Basque and Peri-Basque groups, an Eastern, mainly French, Basque peripheral area that shares ancestries from the surrounding French Basque and Peri-Basque groups, and a central Basque region with shared ancestries exclusively from Basque groups (Fig. 3D and Fig. S14). Despite small proportions, the Spanish Basque peripheral cluster is the only one that presents shared ancestry with outsider groups, probably due to a higher gene flow between these parts of the region. In fact, these genetics clusters observed here, actually reflect the historical connections between the Basques and the surrounding groups. The core cluster has been usually defined as the most differentiated and unique group in previous studies during the last decades, due to have maintained less contact with the surrounded populations [45], [46]. The Western Basque peripheral cluster, is adjacent to the Spanish Peri-Basques so the gene flow and influence with external sources should have been higher, leading to those small proportions of non-Franco-Cantabrian ancestries. Indeed, ALA and NCO do not speak Euskara anymore, and in BBA the influence of the Spanish language has been very high, reducing the number of Euskara speakers [18], [20]. In the Eastern Basque peripheral cluster, in

spite of being adjacent to the French Peri-Basques, the limits of the French Basque region have been more stable than in the Spanish area [18]. Besides observing a clear heterogeneity in the region, we can definitely correlate this with the geography. This correlation might go hand in hand with the languages and the distribution of Euskara dialects as they mainly suit with the different Basque groups [19] (Table S1). It is clear that the Euskara could have acted as a cultural barrier, due to the strong differences with the surrounding Romance languages. Nevertheless, it is more difficult to support that the dialects were the direct cause of shaping the genetic heterogeneity in the region. The classification and differences among the dialects of the Euskara are very diffuse. They are actually the overlapping of linguistic varieties along the territory with similar patterns among the adjacent areas. Nonetheless, a dialectal Western-Eastern discontinuity is evident [2], [19], [21] and it is somehow supported by the clusters and genetic affinities observed among our Basque groups. Therefore, it is more plausible to consider a scenario where geography is the determining factor of the connection among the groups along the region, leading to differential levels of gene flow and the diversification of the dialects among the groups during the history, diachronically or not. Thus, we could explain the observed genetic affinity between the close groups from the Spanish and French areas along the Pyrenees: NAR and the French Peri-Basques, RON and the French Basque groups, and Northwestern Nafarroa with the western part of Lapurdi. This suggests that the internal heterogeneity in Basques is more complex than the Northern-Southern geographic and administrative limits

between the present-day Spanish and French territories. They are diffuse and do not shape the genetic scenario in the region. Instead, concentric stripes are evident along the Western Pyrenees in the region, through a genetic cline from the core to the external groups, clarifying previous results with classical markers where strict vertical groups were described for Basques [45], [47].

Third, we do not detect specific differences in the Franco-Cantabrian region related to the main three ancestral components in Europe. Several studies, based on classical and uniparental markers, have placed Basques, as Pre-Neolithic remnants that avoided the latter Neolithic and Bronze Age migrations, with low gene flow from early farmers and steppe herders [48], [49]. However, the latest results with genome-wide data and including ancient samples abandoned those conclusions, pointing to the origin of Basques as the result of gene flow between the Neolithic and the upcoming historical groups [11], [12]. Olalde, et al. [12] suggested a genetic continuity since the Bronze Age - Iron Age for Basques, and lack of admixture with the posterior movements of people such as Roman (Italian-Greek) and North African. Despite this result has been very striking because of using many ancient samples, this was previously suggested from fine-scale studies using uniparental markers [5]. When explicitly modeling our samples for proportions of Pre-Neolithic Hunter-gatherer, Neolithic Farmer and Bronze Age Steppe components with qpGraph, no unexpected results are observed in the region (Fig. 5), following the Northern-Southern European expected cline of ancient components [34]. Furthermore,

the shared ancestry profiles inferred with NNLS (Fig. 3D) do not show any remarkable evidence of connection between Basques and post-Bronze Age potential ancestries considering the modern samples as proxies (i.e. Greek or Italian ancestries as representative for Roman gene flow, or North African from the Arab expansion). Our results confirm, in a wider European panorama and with fine-scale representation of the region, that all the Basques were influenced by the two major migration waves in Europe until the Bronze Age period, similarly as in the surrounding populations. Then, it was followed by an isolation, based on low geneflow with posterior population movements, despite having cultural contact with at least the Romans. This strong genetic continuity of Basques since Bronze also support that the expansion of the steppe ancestry do not always prompt shifts to Indo-European languages like in the rest of Western Europe as previously noticed [12], [34]. Furthermore, it does not strictly means that they would not had experienced a previous isolation to that time, in fact the results of ROHs evince a signal of ancient inbreeding in the region, higher than in Sardinia which is suggested to be isolated after Neolithic times.

## **Conclusion**

In this study, we disentangle the main controversies around Basques overcoming the limitations in the previous studies. The representation of the entire region with samples from the main Franco-Cantabrian areas allows assessing fine-scale results and describing the internal scenario in the region. Furthermore, the use

of genome-wide data genotyped with the Human Origins Array allows studying the demography with higher number of genetic markers that have been specifically selected to avoid the population ascertainment bias in the analysis. Finally, our methodology includes more robust and specific techniques that complement the allele frequency and the haplotype-based approaches to face the objectives from different perspectives and go beyond the available geographic labels. Thus, the results show that Franco-Cantabrians present a specific genetic profile that place Basques as an isolated population in the wide Western-Eurasian context and, the here called Peri-Basques as peri-isolated groups forming a cline towards the external populations. Furthermore, a clear heterogeneity correlated with geography, and potentially language, is observed within the Franco-Cantabrian region. Finally, the specific genetic scenario observed in the region seem to has started after a post-Bronze Age genetic isolation, due to the lack or very low gene flow with the following feasible components that are found in the surrounding populations. Thus, the origin of the genetic panorama in the region could be an isolation of the groups after the Bronze Age, probably encouraged by the geography and language, together with a continuous inbreeding, especially in Basques. Disentangling the controversies around Basques is useful not only in human population genetics, but also in archaeology and linguistics. In the case of using Basques as proxy for ancestral European gene pool, it should be taking into account that their genetics actually depicts the genomic situation of Western Europe in the Bronze Age - Iron Age period, but not before. Furthermore, it would be more appropriate to

use those groups from the central area of the region as genetic representatives, since they remain more genetically distant to the external populations than the other peripheral Basque groups. This should not be misunderstood in the sense of the population as a whole; at the end, Basque people are connected by a common strong culture and history more than a genetic uniformity, in the sight of the observed internal heterogeneity. Finally, our results could also be helpful to enlighten the anthropological and chronological connections between the ancient remains, as well as the historical linguistic relationships around the Euskara.

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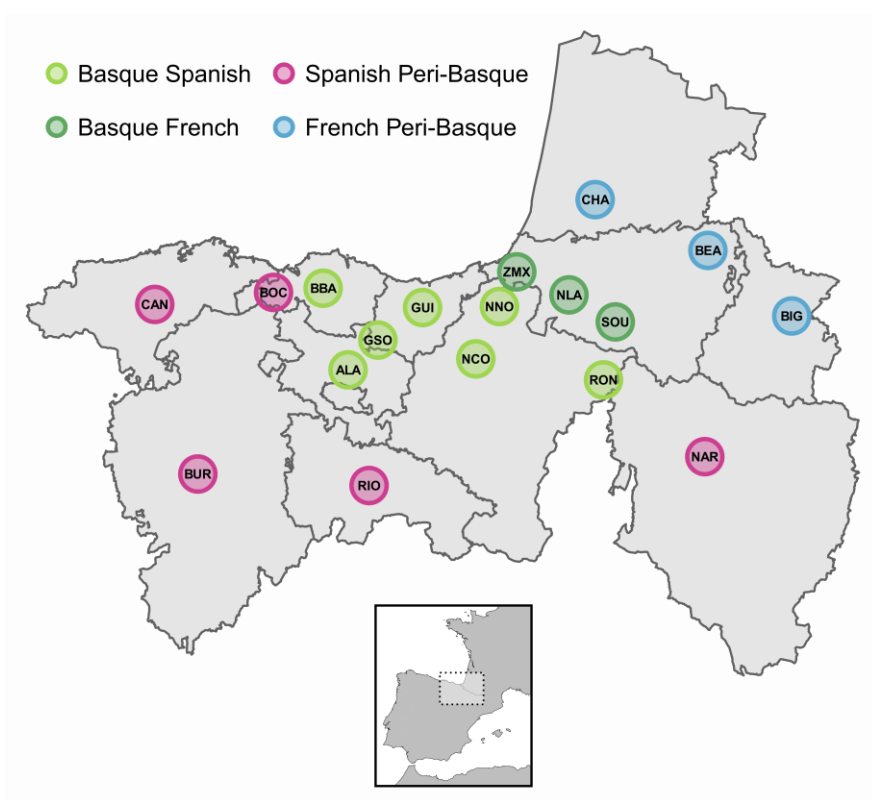
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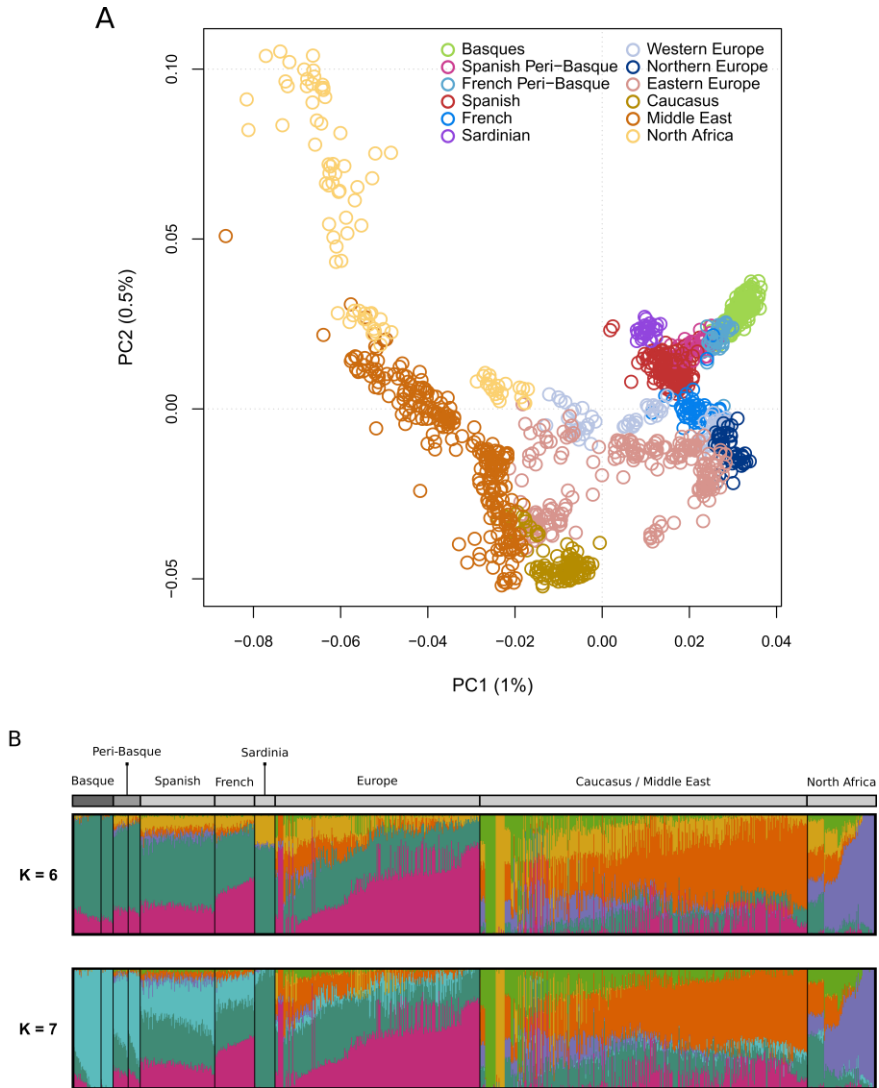
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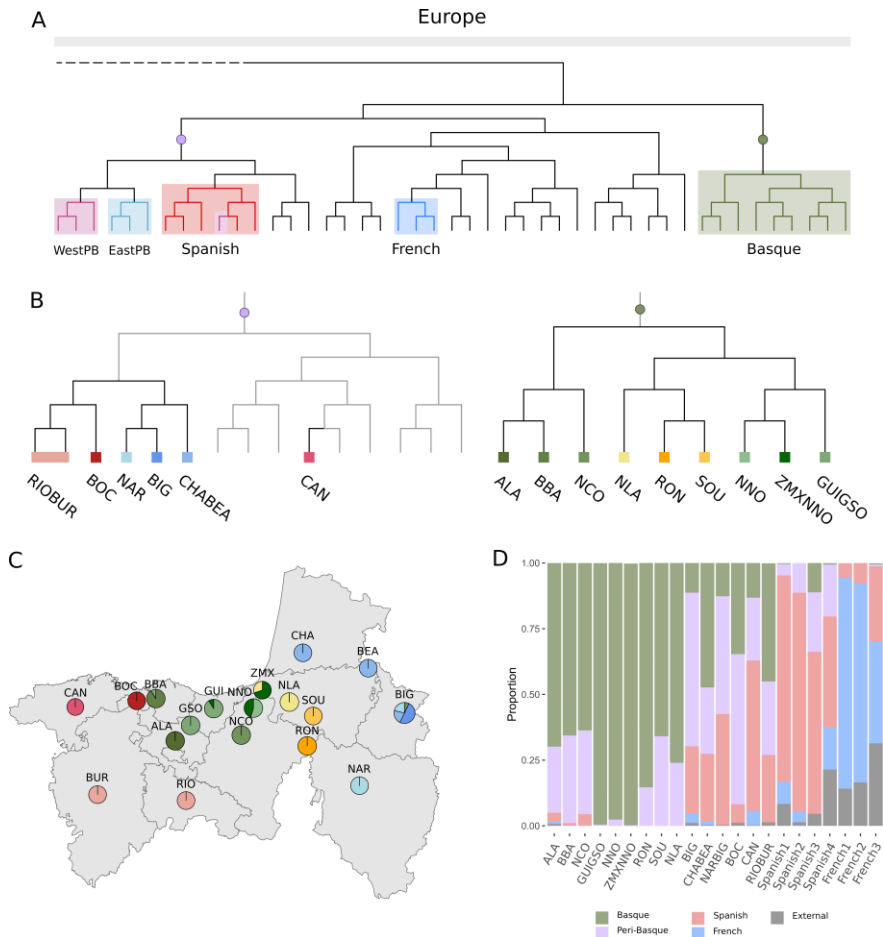
## Main Figures



**Figure 1. Geographic distribution of the Franco-Cantabrian region and the areas included in the study.** The colors represent the main language spoken in the corresponding area. ALA, Araba; BBA, Bizkaia; BOC, Western Bizkaia; GUI, Gipuzkoa; GSO, Southwestern Gipuzkoa; NNO, Northwestern Nafarroa; NCO, Central Western Nafarroa; ZMX, Lapurdi/Baztan; NLA, Lapurdi Nafarroa; SOU, Zuberoa; RON, Roncal; CAN, Cantabria; BUR, Northern Burgos; RIO, Rioja; NAR, Northern Aragon; CHA, Chalosse; BEA, Béarn; BIG, Bigorre.

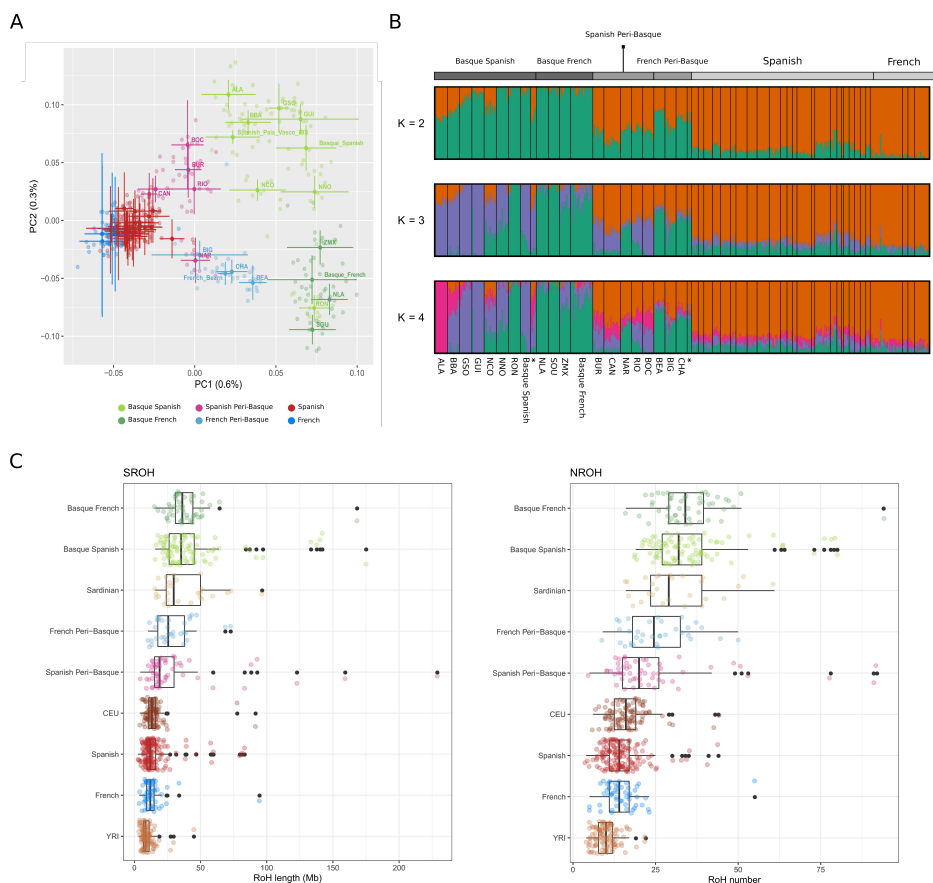


**Figure 2. Contextualizing the Franco-Cantabrian region.** (A) Principal component analysis including all the modern samples. (B) ADMIXTURE results at  $K=7$ , which is the one with the lowest cross-validation error. The other  $K$ s considered in the ADMIXTURE analysis are available Fig. S1.



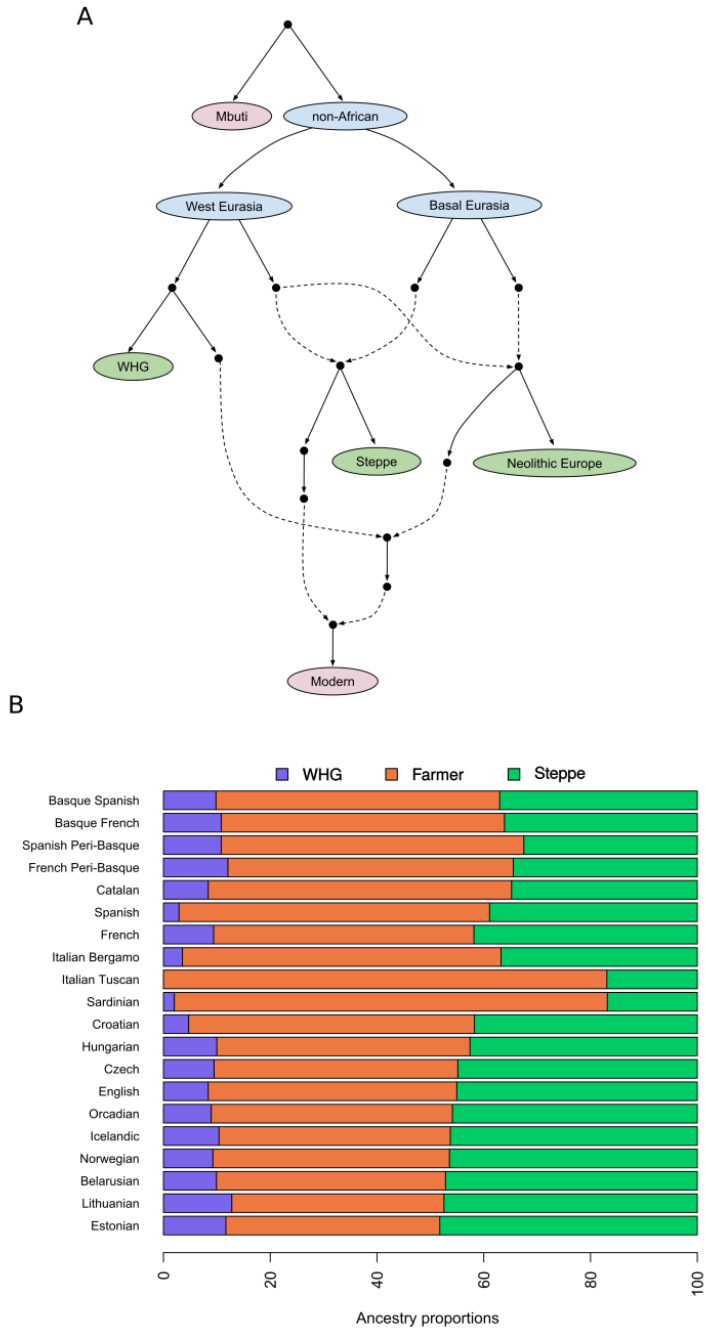
**Figure 3. Haplotype-based analyses.** (A) European branch of the fineSTRUCTURE tree inferred for the whole dataset. The complete tree is shown in Figure S2A. The Franco-Cantabrian clusters are highlighted in colors, besides the Spanish and French ones. WestPB, West Peri-Basque; EastPB, East Peri-Basques. (B) Internal Franco-Cantabrian clusters. (C) Geographical distribution of the haplotypes inferred in the fineSTRUCTURE tree. Each pie chart represents the proportion of the clusters in the corresponding region. (D) Inferred proportions of shared ancestry using the NNLS method from GLOBETROTTER. Those outsider proportions that are not Spanish or French were compiled together as “external”.





**Figure 4. Population stratification of the Franco-Cantabrian region.**

(A) PCA using the samples from the Iberian Peninsula and France. The PCA averages and standard deviation of the different geographic groups were plotted. (B) ADMIXTURE results from K=2 to K=4. The lowest cross-validation error in the analysis was K=2. The first \* “Spanish\_Pais\_Vasco\_IBS” and the second “French\_Bearn”. (C) Whisker plots representing the Individual information of SROH -left- and NROH -right- for each group from France and Iberian Peninsula. Sardinian, Central Western Europeans (CEU) and sub-Saharan Africans (YRI) were also included as reference populations with well-known demographic histories.



**Figure 5. Modeling the Franco-Cantabrian ancient history.** (A) qpGraph model used to calculate the mixture proportions. Dashed lines represent admixture. Modern samples are colored in pink, ancient samples

in green, main ancestral Eurasian groups in blue and intermediate reconstructed ancestral groups as a black dot. (B) Mixture proportions in different European populations.

## Supplementary Data

**Table S1. Information of the newly reported samples.** A total of 190 samples from 18 areas of the Franco-Cantabrian region were genotyped with the Axiom™ Genome-Wide Human Origins Array. All these individuals had their four grandparents from the same geographical area. We included the main areas where Euskara is spoken nowadays, besides the surrounding areas where Spanish and French is used instead.

Zone	Population label	Pop	Language/Dialect	Pre-roman tribes
1	BIG	Bigorre	French	Aquitani
2	BEA	Béarn	French	Aquitani
3	CHA	Chalosse	French	Aquitani
4	ZMX	Admix Zone	Basque/Labourdin côtier-haut navarrais	Admix zone
5	NLA	Navarre Labourdin	Basque/Bas-navarrais	Aquitani
6	SOU	Soule	Basque/Souletin	Aquitani
7	RON	Roncal	Basque/Roncalais-salazarais (now Spanish)	Vascones
8	NCO	Central/Western Navarre	Basque/Haut-navarrais méridional (now Spanish)	Vascones
9	NNO	North/Western Navarre	Basque/Haut-navarrais septentrional	Vascones
10	GUI	Gipuskoa	Basque/Gipuzkoan	Varduli
11	GSO	South/Western Gipuskoa	Basque/Biscayen	Varduli
12	ALA	Araba	Basque/Occidental (now Spanish)	Admix zone
13	BBA	Bizkaia	Basque/Biscayen	Caristii
14	BOC	Western Bizkaia	Spanish	Autrigones
15	CAN	Cantabria	Spanish	Autrigones
16	BUR	Burgos	Spanish	Admix zone
17	RIO	La Rioja	Spanish	Berones
18	NAR	North Aragon	Spanish	Admix zone

**Table S2. Composition of the fineSTRUCTURE clusters based on the tree.**

The first column is the clusters names used for the second step of ChromoPainter and the NNLS. The second column indicates the label of the populations within the cluster. The third column is the number of samples from each population within the repective cluster.

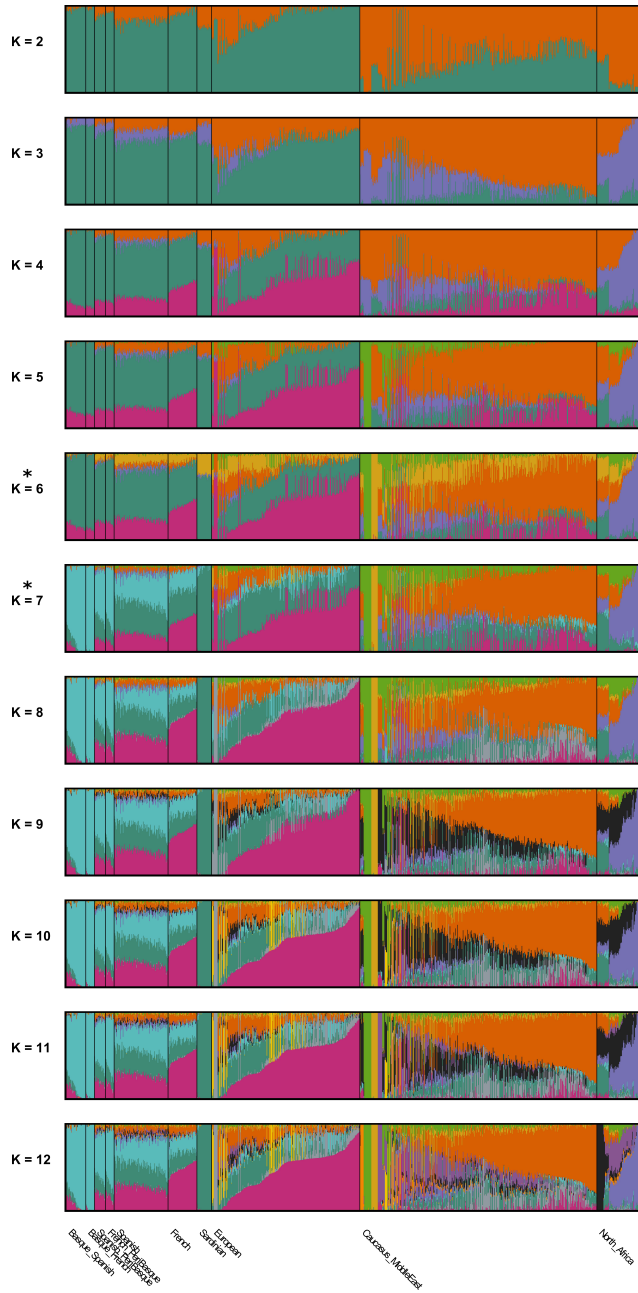
Cluster name	Population name	N
ALA	ALA	11
GUIGSO	Basque_Spanish	3
	BBA	1
	GSO	11
	GUI	10
BBA	BBA	10
	Spanish_Pais_Vasco_IBS	5
ZMXNNO	Basque_French	2
	GUI	1
	NNO	5
	ZMX	7
NCO	BIG	1
	NCO	11
NNO	Basque_French	1
	Basque_Spanish	6
	NNO	6
RON	RON	11
NLA	Basque_French	14
	NLA	11
	ZMX	3
SOU	Basque_French	3
	SOU	10
Spanish2	Alacant	2
	Camp_de_Tarragona	3
	Castello	2
	Catalunya_Central	1
	French_Southwest	2
	Lleida	1
	Mallorca	1
	Penedes	1
	Pirineu	2
	Valencia	2
Spanish1	Alacant	2
	Barcelones	5
	Camp_de_Tarragona	5
	Castello	3
	Catalunya_Central	8
	Eivissa	4
	French_Southwest	1
	Girona	10
	Lleida	8
	Mallorca	8
	Menorca	3
	Penedes	10
	Peri_Barcelona	10
	Pirineu	3
	Spanish_Aragon_IBS	1
	Spanish_Baleares_IBS	3
	Spanish_Cataluna_IBS	4
Spanish_Galicia_IBS	1	
Terres_de_Ebre	5	
Valencia	3	
	Alacant	2
	Castello	2
	Spanish_Andalucia_IBS	4

Spanish3	Spanish_Aragon_IBS	3
	Spanish_Castilla_la_Mancha_IBS	5
	Spanish_Castilla_y_Leon_IBS	3
	Spanish_Cataluna_IBS	1
	Spanish_Extremadura_IBS	2
	Spanish_Murcia_IBS	4
	Spanish_Valencia_IBS	5
	Valencia	4
Spanish4	CAN	1
	Pirineu	1
	Spanish_Baleares_IBS	1
	Spanish_Canarias_IBS	2
	Spanish_Castilla_y_Leon_IBS	2
	Spanish_Extremadura_IBS	3
	Spanish_Galicia_IBS	4
RIOBUR	BUR	10
	RIO	10
CAN	CAN	9
	Spanish_Cantabria_IBS	5
NARBIG	BIG	2
	French_Bigorri	1
	NAR	10
	Spanish_Aragon_IBS	2
BOC	BOC	10
CHABEA	BEA	10
	CHA	10
	French_Bigorri	3
BIG	BIG	7
French2	French_North	2
	French_NorthWest	5
	French_Southwest	20
FrenchUK	English_Cornwall_GBR	5
	English_Kent_GBR	5
	French_NorthWest	1
	French_Southwest	5
	Scottish_Argyll_Bute_GBR	4
	South_Corsica	5
French1	French_North	4
	French_NorthWest	6
	French_Southwest	1
Italian_North	French_NorthWest	1
	Italian_Bergamo	12
	Italian_Tuscan	8
ItalianSicily	Italian_EastSicilian	5
	Italian_South	1
	Italian_WestSicilian	6
MediterraneanIslands	Cypriot	6
	Greek_Coriell	1
	Italian_South	3
	Maltese	8
Sardinian	Sardinian	27
Ice_Orc	Icelandic	12
	Orcadian	12
Hun_Czech	Czech	10
	Hungarian_Coriell	10

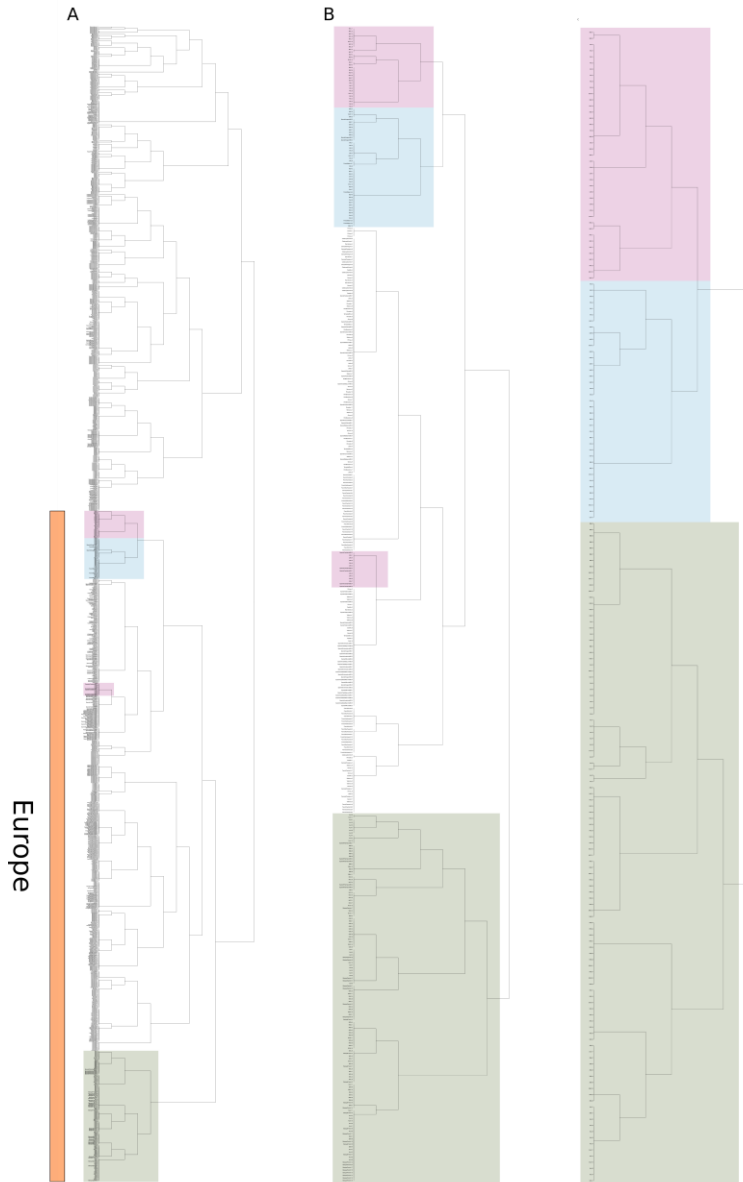
	Hungarian_Metspalu	9
	Ukrainian_West	1
NE_Europe	Belarusian	10
	Chuvash	10
	Estonian	10
	Finnish_FIN	7
	Lithuanian	10
	Mordovian	10
	Russian	22
	Saami_WGA	1
	Ukrainian_East	6
	Ukrainian_West	2
NorwCro	Croatian	10
	Norwegian	11
SE_Europe	Albanian	6
	Bulgarian	9
	Greek_Comas	14
	Greek_Coriell	4
	Hungarian_Metspalu	1
	Romanian	10
	Turkish_Istanbul	3
AshkenaziJew	Ashkenazi_Jew	7
WesternMiddleEast	Cypriot	2
	Druze	1
	Jordanian	1
	Lebanese	6
	Lebanese_Christian	9
	Lebanese_Muslim	11
	Saudi	1
	Syrian	2
	Turkish_Adana	2
Caucasus1	Armenian	10
	Assyrian	11
	Georgian_Jew	5
	Greek_Coriell	1
	Syrian	1
	Turkish_Adana	3
	Turkish_Kayseri	2
Turkish2	Turkish	4
	Turkish_Adana	4
	Turkish_Aydin	7
	Turkish_Balikesir	6
	Turkish_Istanbul	6
	Turkish_Kayseri	8
Iranian2	Iranian	8
	Iranian_Lor	10
	Iranian_Mazandarani	10
	Iranian_Persian	9
	Turkish_Adana	1
	Turkish_Istanbul	1
TurkishJew	Turkish_Jew	8
Turkish1	Turkish_Trabzon	9
	Abkhasian	9
	Adygei	16
	Balkar	10
	Georgian_Megrels	10



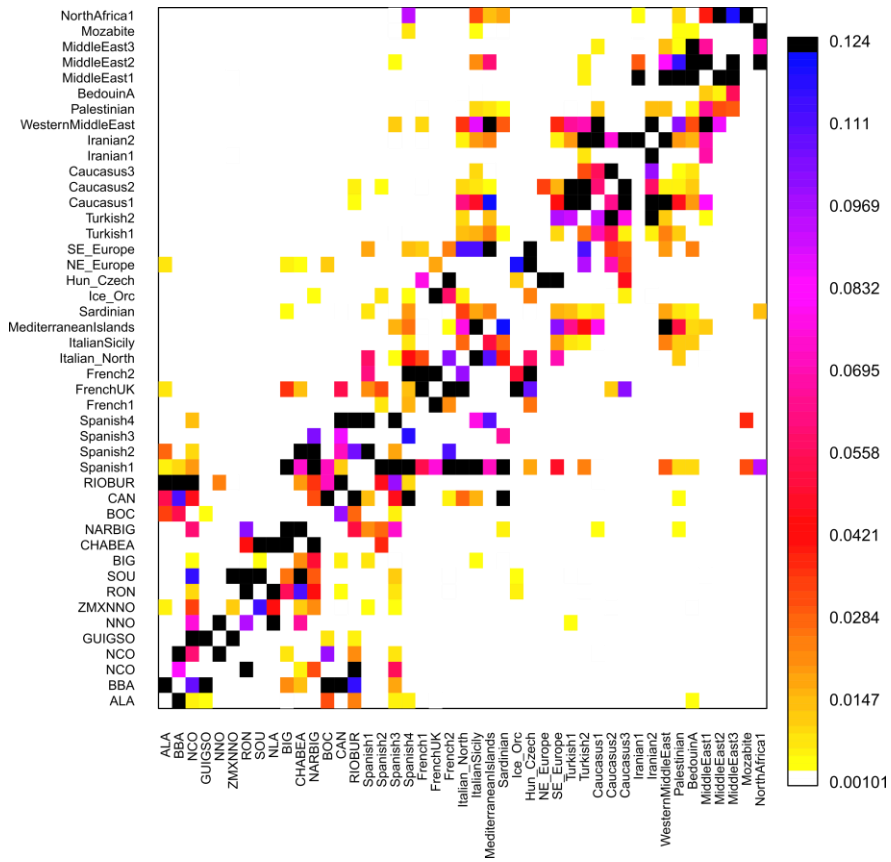
Caucasus2	Nogai	9
	North_Ossetian	10
	Chechen	9
	Kumyk	8
	Lezgin	9
MiddleEastJew	Georgian_Jew	2
	Iranian_Jew	9
	Iraqi_Jew	6
MiddleEast1	BedouinA	9
	Iranian_Bandari	2
	Jordanian	8
	Lebanese	2
	Palestinian	5
	Saudi	2
	Syrian	5
Yemen	3	
MiddleEast2	BedouinA	8
	Egyptian_Comas	11
	Egyptian_Metspalu	6
	Yemen	1
BedouinA	BedouinA	7
MiddleEast3	BedouinA	1
	BedouinB	19
	Saudi	5
Druze	Druze	36
Iranian1	Iranian_Bandari	6
	Iranian_Persian	1
Palestinian	Palestinian	30
NorthAfrica1	Algerian	5
	Egyptian_Metspalu	1
	Libyan	5
	Moroccan	10
	Tunisian	8
Yemen	2	
YemenJew	Yemenite_Jew	8
NorthAfricaJew	Libyan_Jew	9
	Moroccan_Jew	6
	Tunisian_Jew	7
Mozabite	Mozabite	21



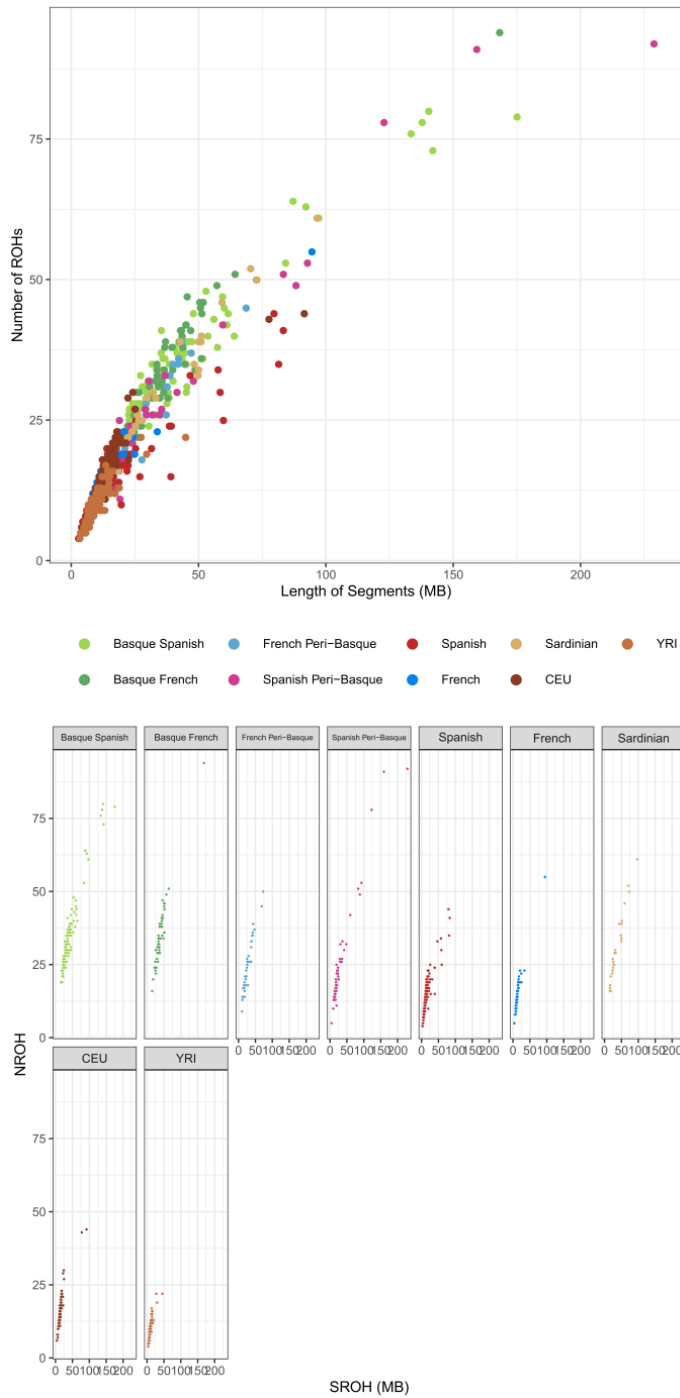
**Figure S1. ADMIXTURE results from K=2 to K=12, including all the modern samples from the dataset. The lowest cross-validation error in the analysis was K=7.**



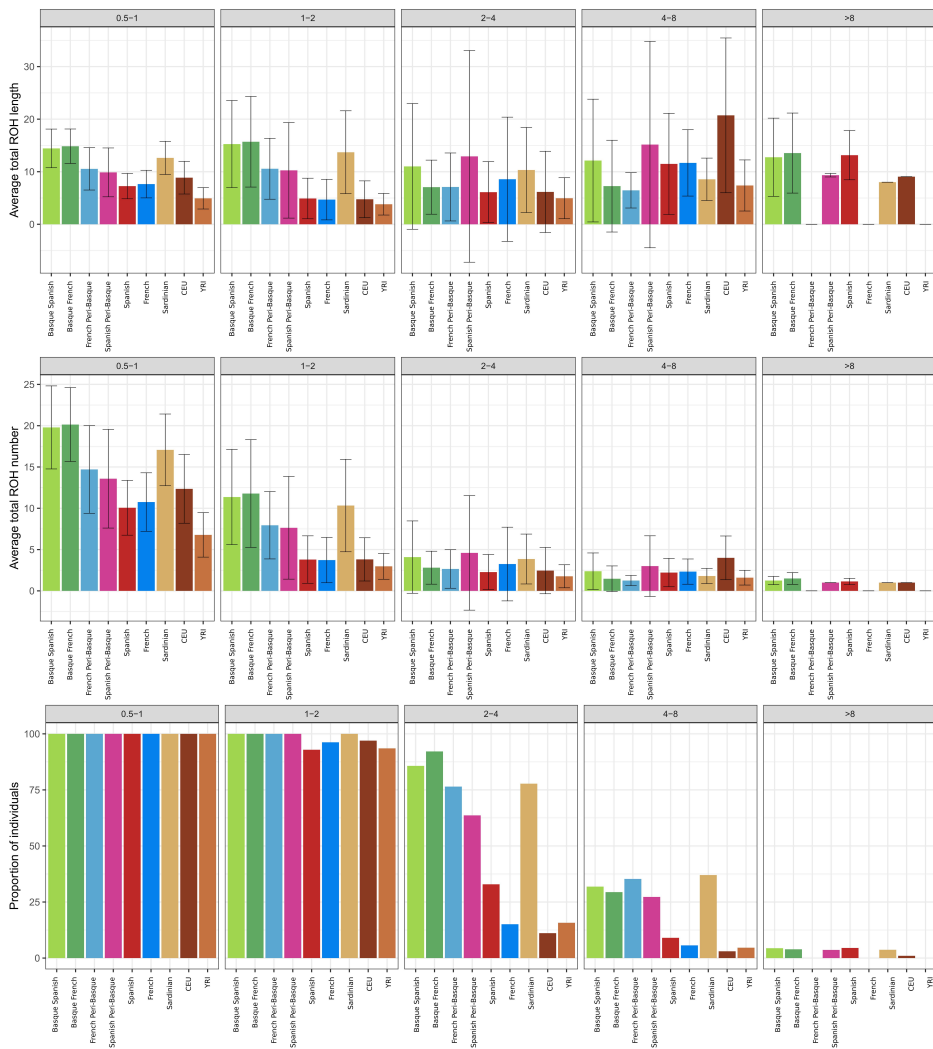
**Figure S2. Trees inferred from the different levels of ChromoPainter and fineSTRUCTURE analyses:** (A) the whole dataset, (B) Iberian Peninsula and France, plus (C) the Franco-Cantabrian region separately. Our target samples are distributed in similar clusters in the three analyses. The Franco-Cantabrian clusters are highlighted with colors: Basques in green, Western Peri-Basques (Spanish) in pink and Eastern Peri-Basques (French and NAR) in blue.



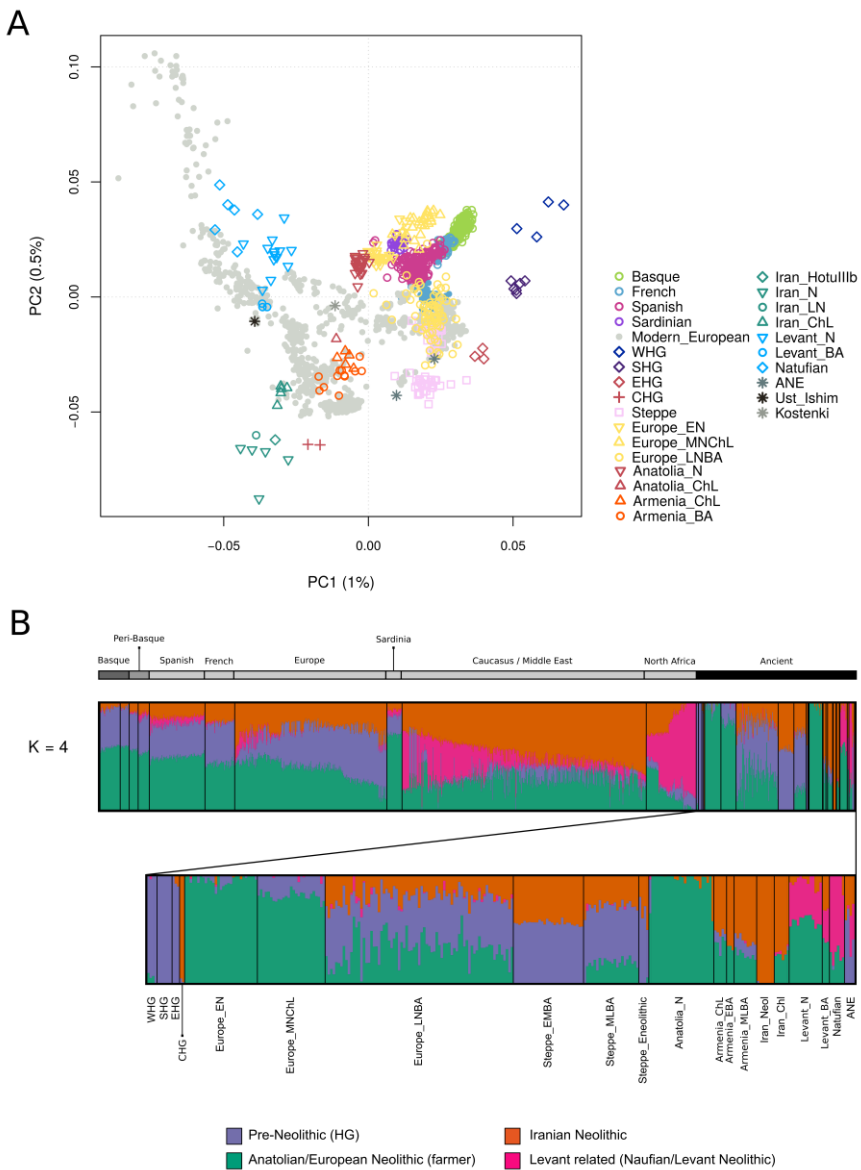
**Figure S3. Heatmap showing the inferred ancestry proportions with GLOBETROTTER between the clusters defined from the fineSTRUCTURE tree. The color scale is fitted for the quantile 5 and 95. Donors and recipients are represented by rows and columns, respectively.**



**Figure S4. Runs of homozyosity plots: NROH vs SROH.** Comparison between the total length and number of runs of homozygosity for each individual sample.



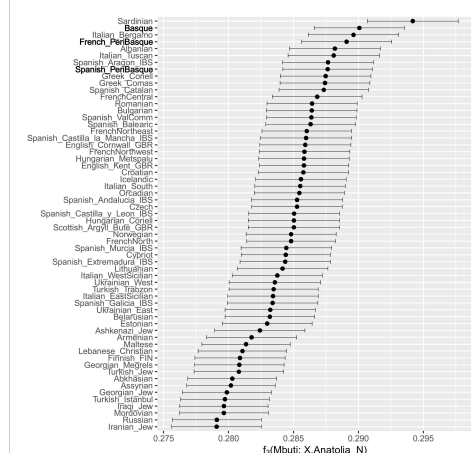
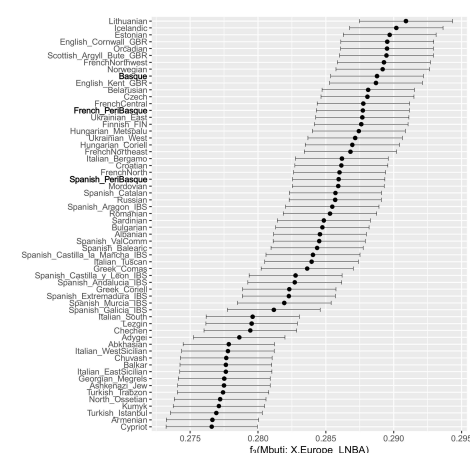
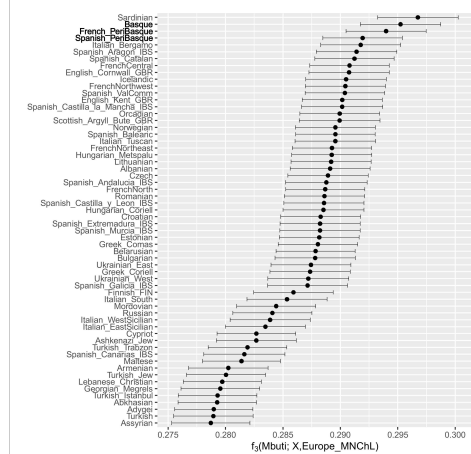
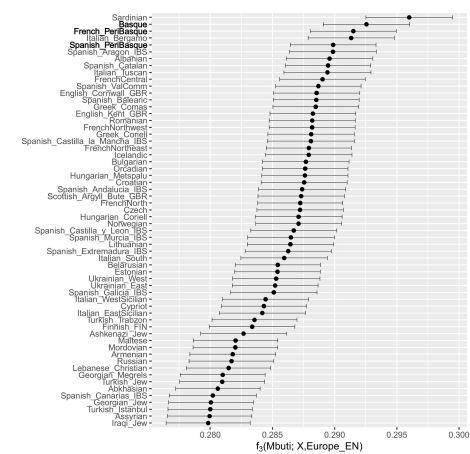
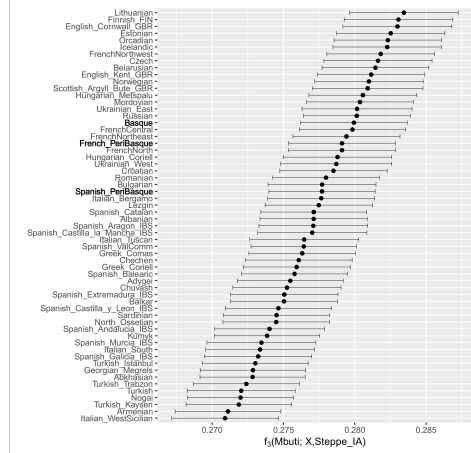
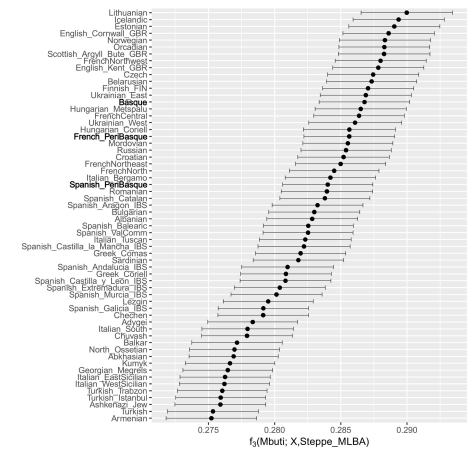
**Figure S5. Runs of homozygosity plots: ROH length categories.** Average of the total length and number of runs of homozygosity for different length categories. The proportion of the total samples for the different groups represented in each category is also shown in the last figure.

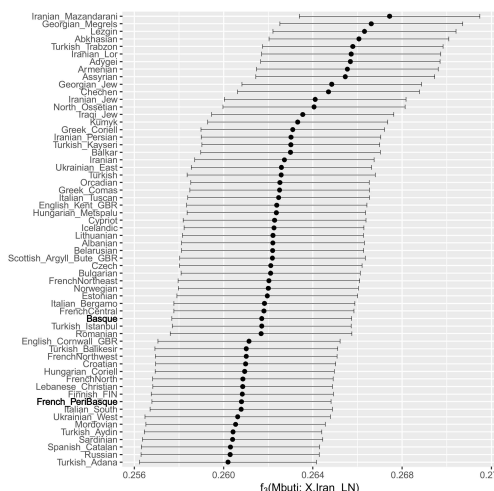
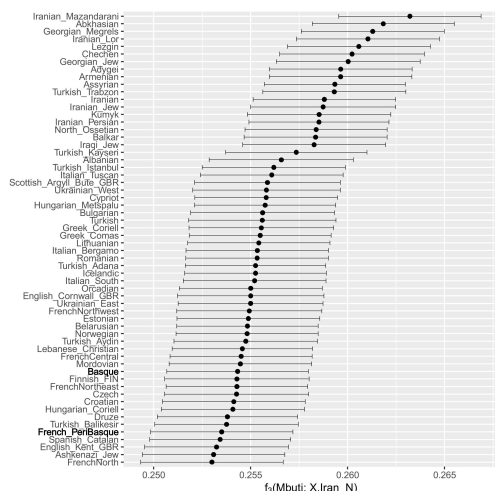
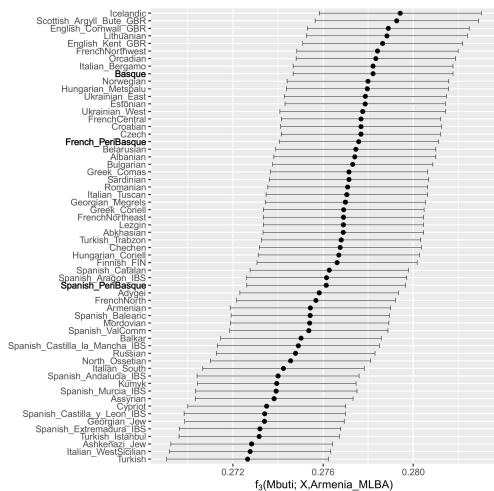
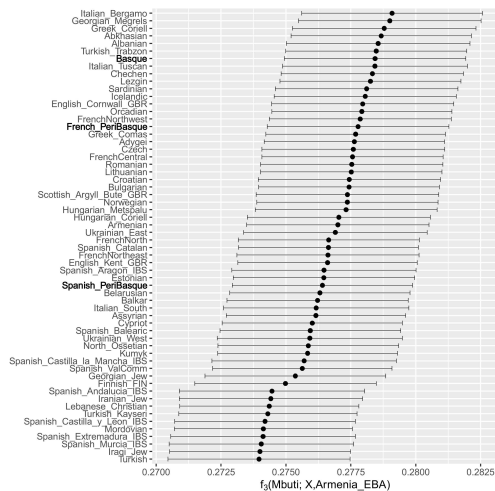
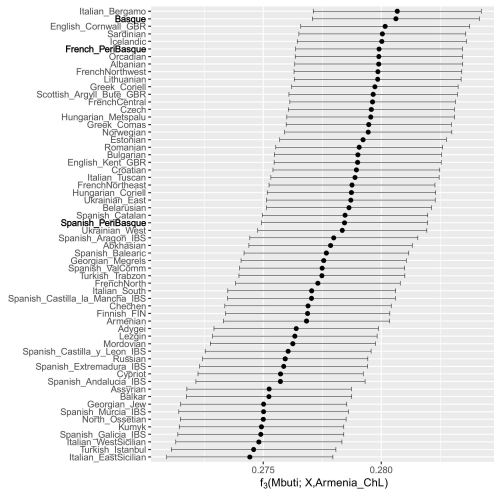
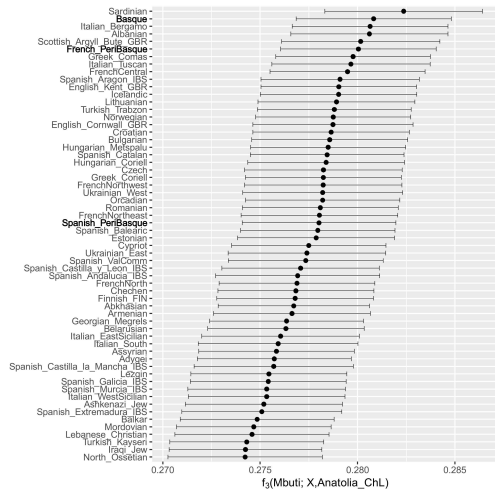


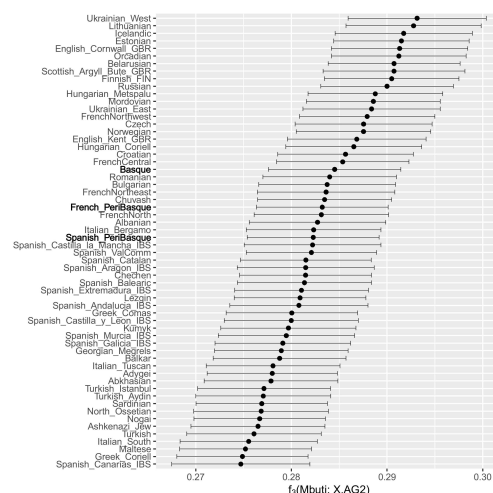
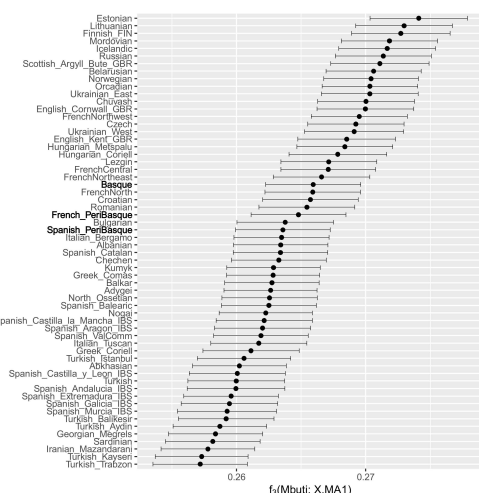
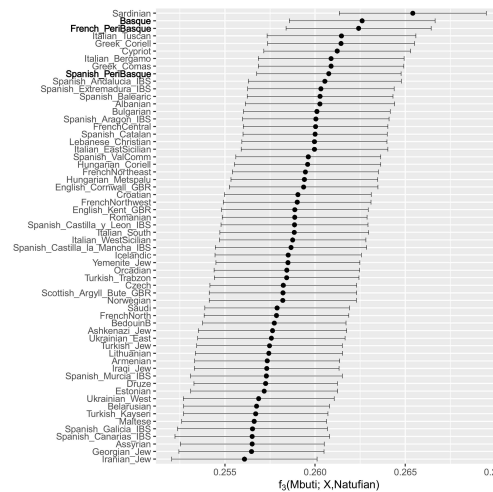
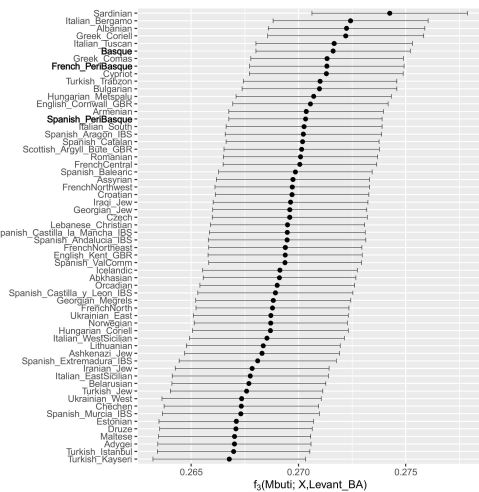
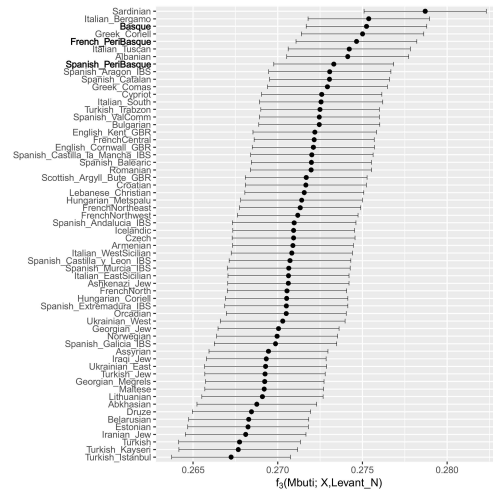
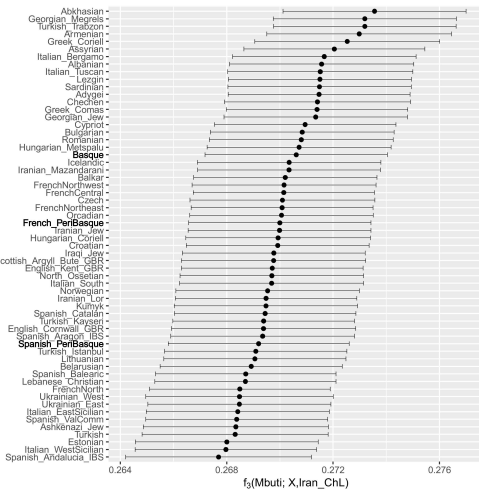
**Figure S6. Franco-Cantabrians in the ancient context.** (A) Principal component analysis projecting ancient samples. (B) Unsupervised admixture analysis including ancient samples. Both K=6 and K=7 showed the lowest cross validation errors with similar values.

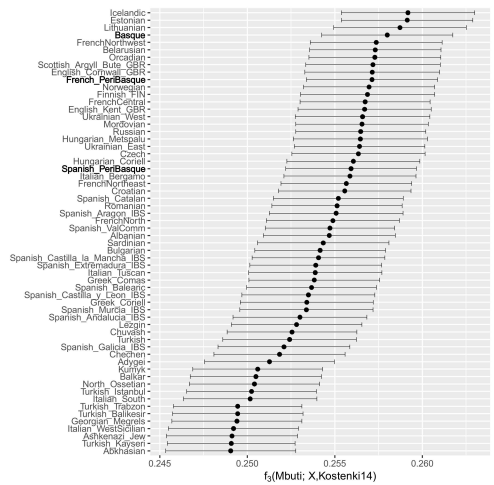
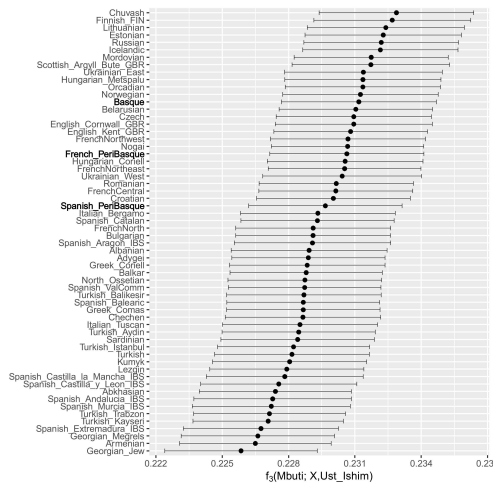








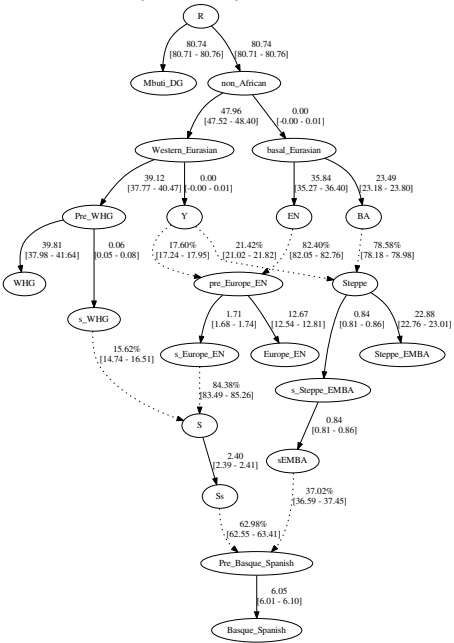




**Figure S7. Outgroup  $f_3$ -statistics results.** The analysis was performed in the form  $f_3(\text{Mbuti}; \text{Ancient}, \text{Modern})$ . For each ancient group, the shared drift was calculated with every modern populations. The larger values of  $f_3$  evidence a higher shared drift in these pairs of populations.

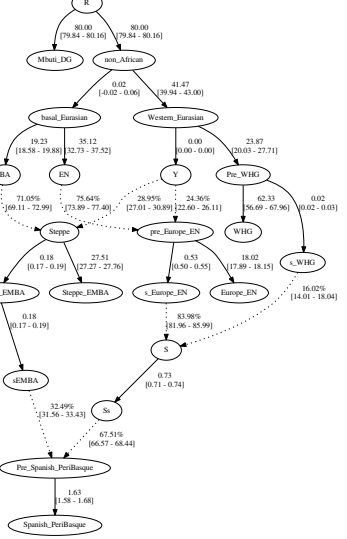
Basque_Spanish	Eur	Bas	Ste	Bas	0.001069	0.001110	-0.000042	0.000247	-0.168
Basque_Spanish	Eur	Bas	Ste	Bas	-0.001068	0.001110	-0.000042	0.000247	-0.172
Basque_Spanish	Eur	Bas	Ste	Bas	-0.001068	0.001110	-0.000042	0.000247	-0.170
Basque_Spanish	Eur	Bas	Ste	Bas	-0.001068	0.001110	-0.000042	0.000247	-0.172
Basque_Spanish	Eur	Bas	Ste	Bas	-0.001068	0.001110	-0.000042	0.000247	-0.169
Basque_Spanish	Eur	Bas	Ste	Bas	-0.001069	0.001110	-0.000041	0.000247	-0.206
Basque_Spanish	Eur	Bas	Ste	Bas	-0.001067	0.001110	-0.000041	0.000247	-0.419
Basque_Spanish	Eur	Bas	Ste	Bas	-0.001067	0.001110	-0.000043	0.000247	-0.174
Basque_Spanish	Eur	Bas	Ste	Bas	-0.001069	0.001110	-0.000041	0.000247	-0.168
Basque_Spanish	Eur	Bas	Ste	Bas	-0.001067	0.001110	-0.000044	0.000247	-0.176
Basque_Spanish	Eur	Bas	Ste	Bas	-0.001067	0.001110	-0.000043	0.000247	-0.175

[95% confidence intervals] - 100 different seeds



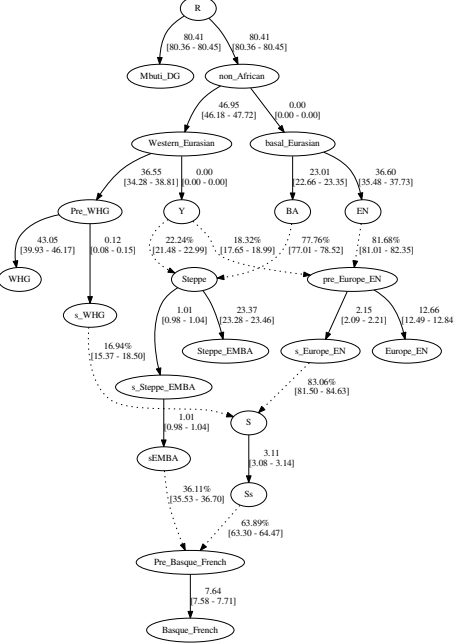
Spanish_Peribasque	WHG	Ste	Eur	Spa	-0.000475	-0.000292	0.000183	0.000439	0.416
Spanish_Peribasque	Eur	Spa	Ste	Spa	-0.000465	-0.000386	-0.000021	0.000233	-0.009
Spanish_Peribasque	Eur	Spa	Ste	Spa	-0.004263	-0.004386	-0.000123	0.000233	-0.327
Spanish_Peribasque	Eur	Spa	Ste	Spa	-0.004264	-0.004386	-0.000122	0.000233	-0.323
Spanish_Peribasque	Eur	Spa	Ste	Spa	-0.004366	-0.004386	-0.000021	0.000233	-0.088
Spanish_Peribasque	WHG	Ste	Eur	Spa	-0.000475	-0.000292	0.000182	0.000439	0.415
Spanish_Peribasque	WHG	Ste	Eur	Spa	-0.000474	-0.000292	0.000182	0.000439	0.414
Spanish_Peribasque	WHG	Ste	Eur	Spa	-0.004365	-0.004386	-0.000021	0.000233	-0.091
Spanish_Peribasque	WHG	Ste	Eur	Spa	-0.004365	-0.004386	-0.000021	0.000233	-0.090
Spanish_Peribasque	WHG	Ste	Eur	Spa	-0.000472	-0.000292	0.000180	0.000439	0.409
Spanish_Peribasque	WHG	Ste	Eur	Spa	-0.000476	-0.000292	0.000184	0.000439	0.419
Spanish_Peribasque	WHG	Ste	Eur	Spa	-0.003338	-0.004386	-0.001048	0.000233	-0.487
Spanish_Peribasque	WHG	Ste	Eur	Spa	-0.000465	-0.000292	0.000184	0.000439	0.418
Spanish_Peribasque	WHG	Ste	Eur	Spa	-0.000467	-0.000292	0.000174	0.000439	0.397
Spanish_Peribasque	WHG	Ste	Eur	Spa	-0.000479	-0.000292	0.000186	0.000439	0.417
Spanish_Peribasque	WHG	Ste	Eur	Spa	-0.000479	-0.000292	0.000183	0.000439	0.417
Spanish_Peribasque	WHG	Ste	Eur	Spa	-0.004262	-0.004386	-0.000116	0.000233	-0.497
Spanish_Peribasque	WHG	Ste	Eur	Spa	-0.000471	-0.000292	0.000179	0.000439	0.408
Spanish_Peribasque	WHG	Ste	Eur	Spa	-0.000476	-0.000292	0.000183	0.000439	0.417
Spanish_Peribasque	WHG	Ste	Eur	Spa	-0.000474	-0.000292	0.000182	0.000439	0.415
Spanish_Peribasque	WHG	Ste	Eur	Spa	-0.000473	-0.000292	0.000181	0.000439	0.412
Spanish_Peribasque	WHG	Ste	Eur	Spa	-0.000474	-0.000292	0.000181	0.000439	0.412
Spanish_Peribasque	WHG	Ste	Eur	Spa	-0.000476	-0.000292	0.000184	0.000439	0.418
Spanish_Peribasque	WHG	Ste	Eur	Spa	-0.000479	-0.000386	-0.000108	0.000233	-0.661
Spanish_Peribasque	WHG	Ste	Eur	Spa	-0.004364	-0.004386	-0.000022	0.000233	-0.094

[95% confidence intervals] - 100 different seeds



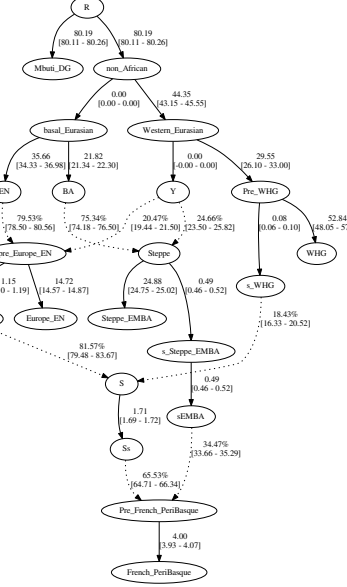
Basque_French	Eur	Bas	Ste	Bas	0.001256	0.001217	-0.000039	0.000301	-0.130
Basque_French	Eur	Bas	Ste	Bas	0.001373	0.001217	-0.000156	0.000301	-0.519
Basque_French	Eur	Bas	Ste	Bas	0.001301	0.001217	-0.000175	0.000301	-0.580
Basque_French	Eur	Bas	Ste	Bas	0.001317	0.001217	-0.000100	0.000301	-0.332
Basque_French	Eur	Bas	Ste	Bas	0.001255	0.001217	-0.000038	0.000301	-0.127
Basque_French	Eur	Bas	Ste	Bas	0.001332	0.001217	-0.000116	0.000301	-0.384
Basque_French	Eur	Bas	Ste	Bas	0.001256	0.001217	-0.000039	0.000301	-0.129
Basque_French	Eur	Bas	Ste	Bas	0.001316	0.001217	-0.000116	0.000301	-0.331
Basque_French	Eur	Bas	Ste	Bas	0.001317	0.001217	-0.000100	0.000301	-0.333
Basque_French	Eur	Bas	Ste	Bas	0.001257	0.001217	-0.000040	0.000301	-0.134
Basque_French	Eur	Bas	Ste	Bas	0.001258	0.001217	-0.000041	0.000301	-0.136

[95% confidence intervals] - 100 different seeds



French_Peribasque	Eur	Fre	Ste	Fre	-0.002495	-0.002527	-0.000032	0.000261	-0.125
French_Peribasque	Eur	Fre	Ste	Fre	-0.002495	-0.002527	-0.000032	0.000261	-0.124
French_Peribasque	Eur	Fre	Ste	Fre	-0.002432	-0.002527	-0.000095	0.000261	-0.364
French_Peribasque	Eur	Fre	Ste	Fre	-0.002432	-0.002527	-0.000095	0.000261	-0.367
French_Peribasque	Eur	Fre	Ste	Fre	-0.002495	-0.002527	-0.000032	0.000261	-0.123
French_Peribasque	Eur	Fre	Ste	Fre	-0.002432	-0.002527	-0.000095	0.000261	-0.366
French_Peribasque	Eur	Fre	Ste	Fre	-0.002495	-0.002527	-0.000032	0.000261	-0.125
French_Peribasque	Eur	Fre	Ste	Fre	-0.002429	-0.002527	-0.000098	0.000261	-0.377
French_Peribasque	Eur	Fre	Ste	Fre	-0.002414	-0.002527	-0.000114	0.000261	-0.435
French_Peribasque	Eur	Fre	Ste	Fre	-0.002432	-0.002527	-0.000096	0.000261	-0.366
French_Peribasque	Eur	Fre	Ste	Fre	-0.002429	-0.002527	-0.000099	0.000261	-0.379
French_Peribasque	Eur	Fre	Ste	Fre	-0.002436	-0.002527	-0.000091	0.000261	-0.350
French_Peribasque	Eur	Fre	Ste	Fre	-0.002429	-0.002527	-0.000098	0.000261	-0.377
French_Peribasque	Eur	Fre	Ste	Fre	-0.002414	-0.002527	-0.000114	0.000261	-0.435
French_Peribasque	Eur	Fre	Ste	Fre	-0.002432	-0.002527	-0.000096	0.000261	-0.366
French_Peribasque	Eur	Fre	Ste	Fre	-0.002429	-0.002527	-0.000107	0.000261	-0.410
French_Peribasque	Eur	Fre	Ste	Fre	-0.002487	-0.002527	-0.000040	0.000261	-0.153
French_Peribasque	Eur	Fre	Ste	Fre	-0.002433	-0.002527	-0.000095	0.000261	-0.363
French_Peribasque	Eur	Fre	Ste	Fre	-0.002422	-0.002527	-0.000105	0.000261	-0.405
French_Peribasque	Eur	Fre	Ste	Fre	-0.002433	-0.002527	-0.000094	0.000261	-0.361
French_Peribasque	Eur	Fre	Ste	Fre	-0.002429	-0.002527	-0.000098	0.000261	-0.376
French_Peribasque	Eur	Fre	Ste	Fre	-0.002443	-0.002527	-0.000084	0.000261	-0.322

[95% confidence intervals] - 100 different seeds





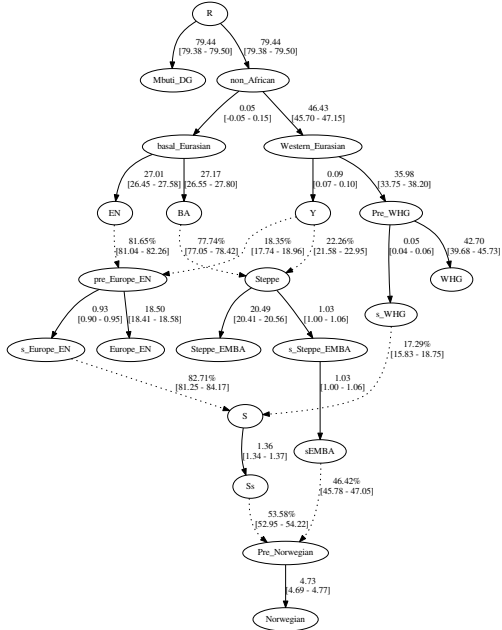






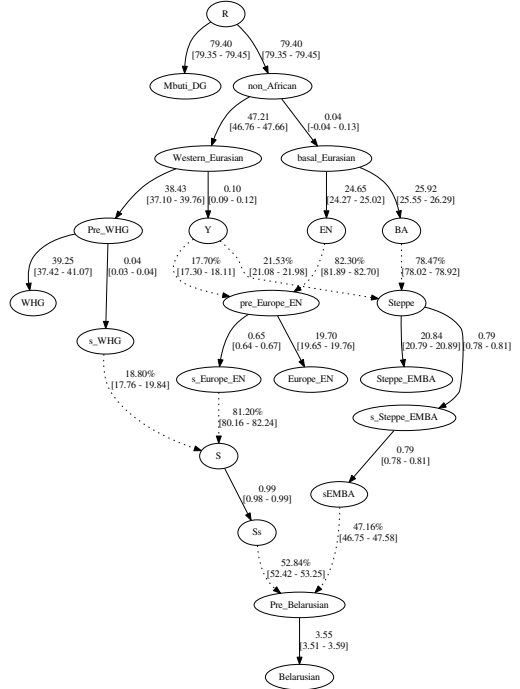
Norwegian	Eur	Nor	Ste	Nor	-0.002196	-0.002231	-0.000035	0.000339	-0.104
Norwegian	WHG	Eur	Ste	Nor	0.002968	0.003132	0.000164	0.000551	0.299
Norwegian	WHG	Eur	Ste	Nor	0.002969	0.003132	0.000165	0.000551	0.297
Norwegian	Eur	Nor	Ste	Nor	-0.002196	-0.002231	-0.000035	0.000339	-0.105
Norwegian	Eur	Nor	Ste	Nor	-0.002125	-0.002231	-0.000106	0.000339	-0.112
Norwegian	Eur	Nor	Ste	Nor	-0.002193	-0.002231	-0.000038	0.000339	-0.113
Norwegian	Eur	Nor	Ste	Nor	-0.002129	-0.002231	-0.000102	0.000339	-0.102
Norwegian	Eur	Nor	Ste	Nor	-0.002195	-0.002231	-0.000036	0.000339	-0.106
Norwegian	Eur	Nor	Ste	Nor	-0.002196	-0.002231	-0.000035	0.000339	-0.103
Norwegian	WHG	Eur	Ste	Nor	0.002968	0.003132	0.000164	0.000551	0.299
Norwegian	WHG	Eur	Ste	Nor	0.002968	0.003132	0.000164	0.000551	0.298
Norwegian	Eur	Nor	Ste	Nor	-0.002155	-0.002231	-0.000076	0.000339	-0.225

[95% confidence intervals] - 100 different seeds



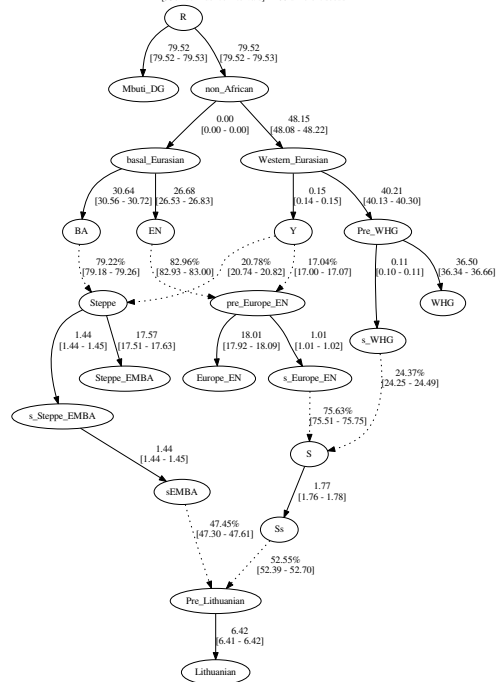
Belarusian	Eur	Bel	Ste	Bel	-0.003083	-0.003115	-0.000032	0.000333	-0.097
Belarusian	Eur	Bel	Ste	Bel	-0.003087	-0.003115	-0.000038	0.000333	-0.174
Belarusian	Eur	Bel	Ste	Bel	-0.003082	-0.003115	-0.000032	0.000333	-0.097
Belarusian	Eur	Bel	Ste	Bel	-0.003081	-0.003115	-0.000034	0.000333	-0.103
Belarusian	Eur	Bel	Ste	Bel	-0.003082	-0.003115	-0.000033	0.000333	-0.100
Belarusian	Eur	Bel	Ste	Bel	-0.003023	-0.003115	-0.000092	0.000333	-0.277
Belarusian	Eur	Bel	Ste	Bel	-0.002995	-0.003115	-0.000120	0.000333	-0.361

[95% confidence intervals] - 100 different seeds



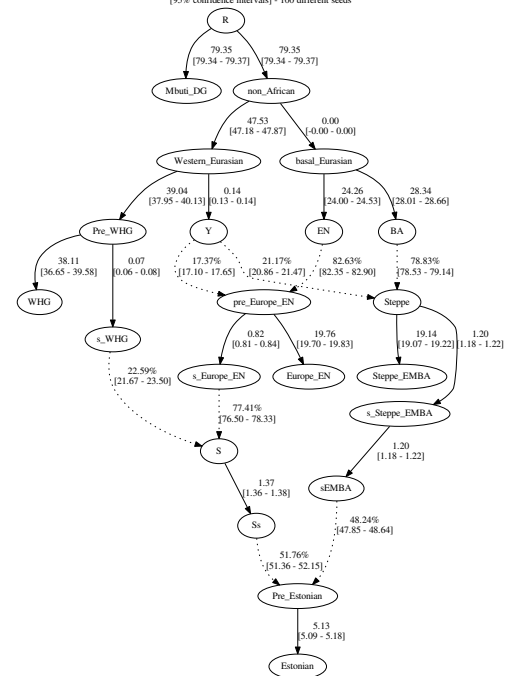
Lithuanian	Eur	Lit	Ste	Lit	-0.000293	-0.000336	-0.000043	0.000357	-0.119
Lithuanian	Eur	Lit	Ste	Lit	-0.000293	-0.000336	-0.000042	0.000357	-0.119
Lithuanian	Eur	Lit	Ste	Lit	-0.000279	-0.000336	-0.000057	0.000357	-0.159
Lithuanian	Eur	Lit	Ste	Lit	-0.000293	-0.000336	-0.000043	0.000357	-0.121
Lithuanian	Eur	Lit	Ste	Lit	-0.000293	-0.000336	-0.000042	0.000357	-0.118
Lithuanian	Eur	Lit	Ste	Lit	-0.000293	-0.000336	-0.000043	0.000357	-0.120
Lithuanian	Eur	Lit	Ste	Lit	-0.000292	-0.000336	-0.000044	0.000357	-0.123
Lithuanian	Eur	Lit	Ste	Lit	-0.000291	-0.000336	-0.000044	0.000357	-0.124

[95% confidence intervals] - 100 different seeds



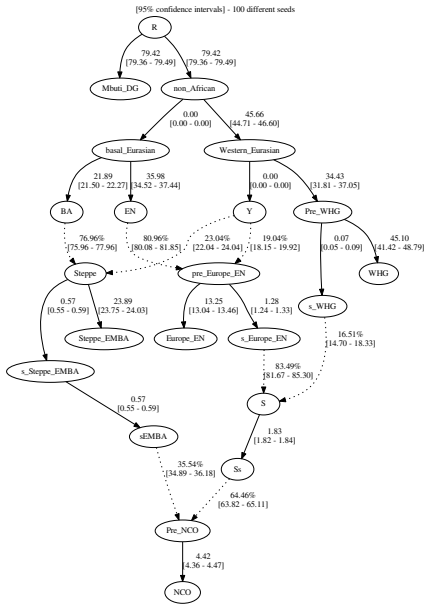
Estonian	Eur	Est	Ste	Est	-0.001216	-0.001253	-0.000037	0.000357	-0.104
Estonian	Eur	Est	Ste	Est	-0.001218	-0.001253	-0.000035	0.000357	-0.098
Estonian	Eur	Est	Ste	Est	-0.001218	-0.001253	-0.000035	0.000357	-0.099
Estonian	Eur	Est	Ste	Est	-0.001133	-0.001253	-0.000020	0.000357	-0.337
Estonian	Eur	Est	Ste	Est	-0.001213	-0.001253	-0.000040	0.000357	-0.112
Estonian	Eur	Est	Ste	Est	-0.001217	-0.001253	-0.000036	0.000357	-0.099
Estonian	Eur	Est	Ste	Est	-0.001217	-0.001253	-0.000036	0.000357	-0.100
Estonian	Eur	Est	Ste	Est	-0.001161	-0.001253	-0.000092	0.000357	-0.257
Estonian	Eur	Est	Ste	Est	-0.001217	-0.001253	-0.000035	0.000357	-0.099

[95% confidence intervals] - 100 different seeds

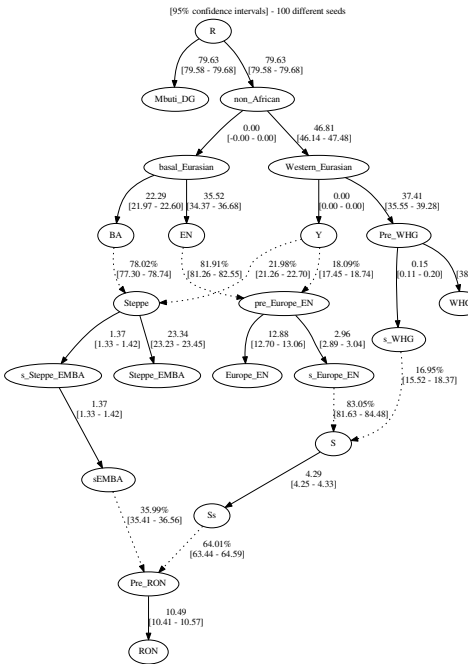




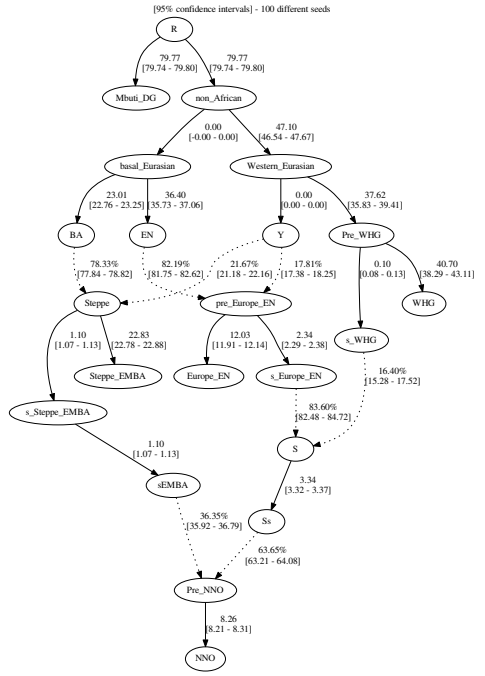
NCO	Eur	NCO	Ste	NCO	-0.002312	-0.002368	-0.000036	0.000348	-0.104
NCO	Eur	NCO	Ste	NCO	-0.002266	-0.002368	-0.000036	0.000348	-0.581
NCO	Eur	NCO	Ste	NCO	-0.002429	-0.002368	-0.000038	0.000348	-0.111
NCO	Eur	NCO	Ste	NCO	-0.002432	-0.002368	-0.000036	0.000348	-0.103
NCO	Eur	NCO	Ste	NCO	-0.002431	-0.002368	-0.000037	0.000348	-0.107
NCO	Eur	NCO	Ste	NCO	-0.002373	-0.002368	-0.000095	0.000348	-0.274
NCO	Eur	NCO	Ste	NCO	-0.002430	-0.002368	-0.000038	0.000348	-0.108
NCO	Eur	NCO	Ste	NCO	-0.002357	-0.002368	-0.000011	0.000348	-0.319
NCO	Eur	NCO	Ste	NCO	-0.002431	-0.002368	-0.000036	0.000348	-0.105
NCO	Eur	NCO	Ste	NCO	-0.002345	-0.002368	-0.000122	0.000348	-0.352
NCO	Eur	NCO	Ste	NCO	-0.002366	-0.002368	-0.000125	0.000348	-0.358
NCO	Eur	NCO	Ste	NCO	-0.002367	-0.002368	-0.000101	0.000348	-0.290
NCO	Eur	NCO	Ste	NCO	-0.002371	-0.002368	-0.000097	0.000348	-0.290
NCO	Eur	NCO	Ste	NCO	-0.002370	-0.002368	-0.000098	0.000348	-0.281
NCO	Eur	NCO	Ste	NCO	-0.002362	-0.002368	-0.000106	0.000348	-0.290
NCO	Eur	NCO	Ste	NCO	-0.002369	-0.002368	-0.000099	0.000348	-0.284
NCO	Eur	NCO	Ste	NCO	-0.002424	-0.002368	-0.000106	0.000348	-0.105
NCO	Eur	NCO	Ste	NCO	-0.002431	-0.002368	-0.000037	0.000348	-0.106
NCO	Eur	NCO	Ste	NCO	-0.002296	-0.002368	-0.000172	0.000348	-0.493
NCO	Eur	NCO	Ste	NCO	-0.002341	-0.002368	-0.000127	0.000348	-0.364



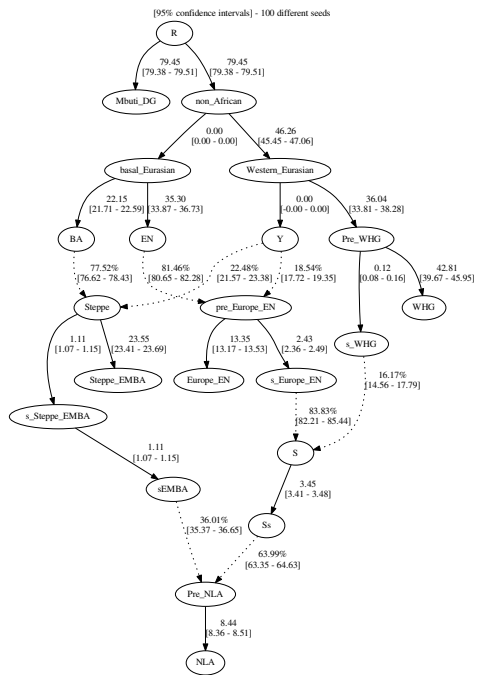
RON	Eur	RON	Ste	RON	0.005183	0.005147	-0.000037	0.000388	-0.095
RON	Eur	RON	Ste	RON	0.005183	0.005147	-0.000037	0.000388	-0.094
RON	Eur	RON	Ste	RON	0.005186	0.005147	-0.000040	0.000388	-0.102
RON	Eur	RON	Ste	RON	0.005185	0.005147	-0.000039	0.000388	-0.099
RON	Eur	RON	Ste	RON	0.005184	0.005147	-0.000038	0.000388	-0.097
RON	WHG	Eur	Ste	RON	0.006436	0.006955	0.000159	0.006639	0.249
RON	Eur	RON	Ste	RON	0.005335	0.005147	-0.000209	0.000388	-0.538
RON	Eur	RON	Ste	RON	0.005184	0.005147	-0.000037	0.000388	-0.096
RON	Eur	RON	Ste	RON	0.005344	0.005147	-0.000198	0.000388	-0.510
RON	Eur	RON	Ste	RON	0.005267	0.005147	-0.000120	0.000388	-0.310
RON	WHG	Eur	Ste	RON	-0.002377	-0.002296	0.000081	0.000855	0.138
RON	Eur	RON	Ste	RON	0.005184	0.005147	-0.000037	0.000388	-0.095



NNO	Eur	NNO	Ste	NNO	0.001886	0.001846	-0.000041	0.000333	-0.122
NNO	Eur	NNO	Ste	NNO	0.001946	0.001846	-0.000041	0.000333	-0.302
NNO	Eur	NNO	Ste	NNO	0.001887	0.001846	-0.000041	0.000333	-0.124
NNO	Eur	NNO	Ste	NNO	0.001886	0.001846	-0.000040	0.000333	-0.121
NNO	Eur	NNO	Ste	NNO	0.001887	0.001846	-0.000042	0.000333	-0.125
NNO	Eur	NNO	Ste	NNO	0.001887	0.001846	-0.000041	0.000333	-0.123
NNO	Eur	NNO	Ste	NNO	0.001886	0.001846	-0.000040	0.000333	-0.120
NNO	Eur	NNO	Ste	NNO	0.001948	0.001846	-0.000103	0.000333	-0.308
NNO	Eur	NNO	Ste	NNO	0.001946	0.001846	-0.000100	0.000333	-0.301
NNO	Eur	NNO	Ste	NNO	0.001956	0.001846	-0.000110	0.000333	-0.330
NNO	Eur	NNO	Ste	NNO	0.001942	0.001846	-0.000096	0.000333	-0.289

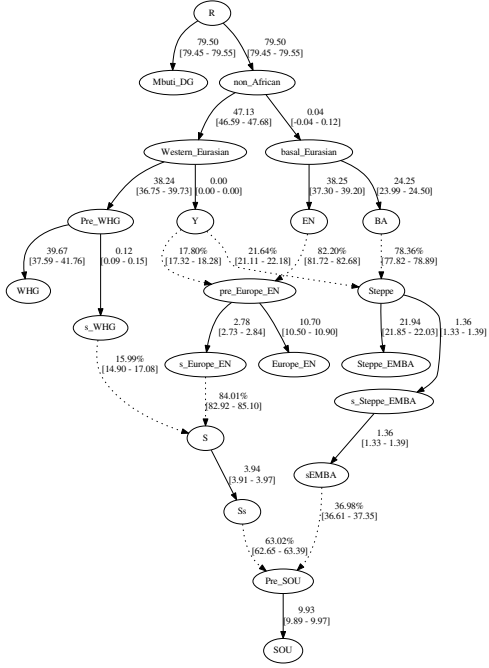


NLA	Eur	NLA	Ste	NLA	0.002672	0.002636	-0.000036	0.000425	-0.084
NLA	Eur	NLA	Ste	NLA	0.002961	0.002636	-0.000125	0.000425	-0.764
NLA	WHG	Eur	Ste	NLA	0.007013	0.007178	0.000165	0.000635	0.260
NLA	Eur	NLA	Ste	NLA	0.002754	0.002636	-0.000118	0.000425	-0.278
NLA	WHG	Eur	Ste	NLA	0.007014	0.007178	0.000164	0.000635	0.288
NLA	Eur	NLA	Ste	NLA	0.002672	0.002636	-0.000036	0.000425	-0.085
NLA	Eur	NLA	Ste	NLA	0.002671	0.002636	-0.000035	0.000425	-0.083
NLA	Eur	NLA	Ste	NLA	0.002689	0.002636	-0.000052	0.000425	-0.123
NLA	Eur	NLA	Ste	NLA	0.002672	0.002636	-0.000035	0.000425	-0.084
NLA	WHG	Eur	Ste	NLA	0.007014	0.007178	0.000164	0.000635	0.259
NLA	Eur	NLA	Ste	NLA	0.002642	0.002636	-0.000036	0.000425	-0.085



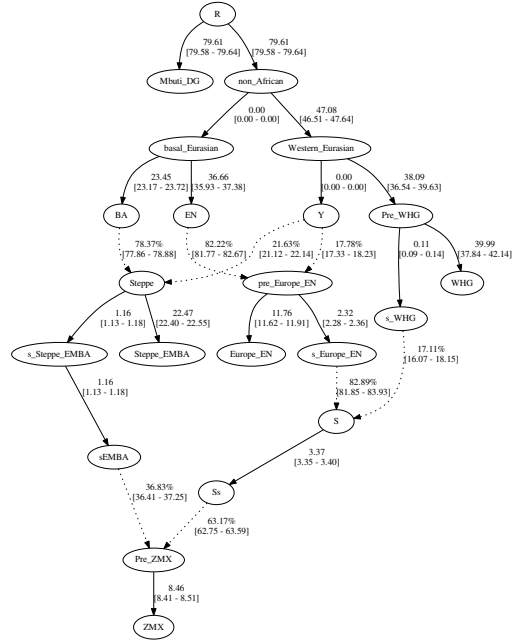
SOU	Ear	SOU	Ste	SOU	0.003436	0.003391	-0.000045	0.000411	-0.108
SOU	Ear	SOU	Ste	SOU	0.003436	0.003391	-0.000044	0.000411	-0.108
SOU	Ear	SOU	Ste	SOU	0.003436	0.003391	-0.000045	0.000411	-0.109
SOU	Ear	SOU	Ste	SOU	0.003436	0.003391	-0.000045	0.000411	-0.110
SOU	Ear	SOU	Ste	SOU	0.003544	0.003391	-0.000152	0.000411	-0.371
SOU	Ear	SOU	Ste	SOU	0.003549	0.003391	-0.000158	0.000411	-0.384
SOU	WHG	Ear	Ste	SOU	-0.001643	-0.001542	0.000101	0.000560	0.180
SOU	WHG	Ear	Ste	SOU	0.007659	0.007830	0.000171	0.000632	0.270
SOU	Ear	SOU	Ste	SOU	0.003466	0.003391	-0.000075	0.000411	-0.182
SOU	Ear	SOU	Ste	SOU	0.003588	0.003391	-0.000116	0.000411	-0.284

[95% confidence intervals] - 100 different seeds



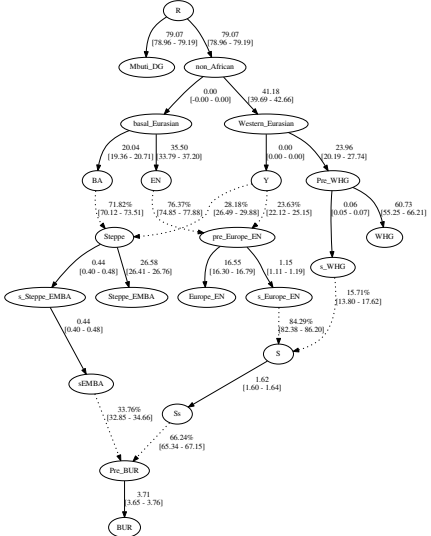
ZMX	Ear	ZMX	Ste	ZMX	0.002301	0.001969	-0.000042	0.000387	-0.108
ZMX	Ear	ZMX	Ste	ZMX	0.002101	0.001969	-0.000132	0.000387	-0.341
ZMX	Ear	ZMX	Ste	ZMX	0.002012	0.001969	-0.000043	0.000387	-0.110
ZMX	Ear	ZMX	Ste	ZMX	0.002011	0.001969	-0.000042	0.000387	-0.109
ZMX	Ear	ZMX	Ste	ZMX	0.002012	0.001969	-0.000043	0.000387	-0.112
ZMX	Ear	ZMX	Ste	ZMX	0.002010	0.001969	-0.000041	0.000387	-0.107
ZMX	Ear	ZMX	Ste	ZMX	0.002074	0.001969	-0.000045	0.000387	-0.272
ZMX	Ear	ZMX	Ste	ZMX	0.002068	0.001969	-0.000099	0.000387	-0.256
ZMX	Ear	ZMX	Ste	ZMX	-0.000211	0.001969	-0.000042	0.000387	-0.107
ZMX	Ear	ZMX	Ste	ZMX	0.002079	0.001969	-0.000110	0.000387	-0.284
ZMX	Ear	ZMX	Ste	ZMX	0.002072	0.001969	-0.000103	0.000387	-0.267
ZMX	WHG	Ear	Ste	ZMX	-0.002216	-0.002231	0.000086	0.000552	0.155
ZMX	Ear	ZMX	Ste	ZMX	0.002013	0.001969	-0.000044	0.000387	-0.113

[95% confidence intervals] - 100 different seeds



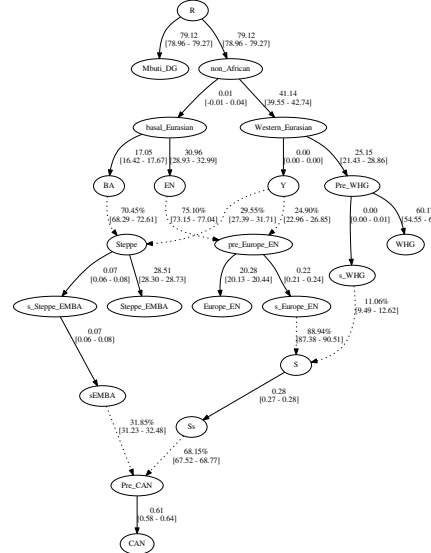
BUR	WHG	Ste	Ear	BUR	-0.000259	-0.000077	0.000182	0.000506	0.360
BUR	WHG	Ste	Ear	BUR	-0.000259	-0.000077	0.000181	0.000506	0.358
BUR	Ear	BUR	Ste	BUR	-0.000199	-0.000221	-0.000023	0.000133	-0.070
BUR	Ear	BUR	Ste	BUR	-0.000260	-0.000077	0.000181	0.000506	0.361
BUR	WHG	Ste	Ear	BUR	-0.000257	-0.000077	0.000180	0.000506	0.355
BUR	Ear	BUR	Ste	BUR	-0.000259	-0.000077	0.000182	0.000506	0.360
BUR	WHG	Ste	Ear	BUR	-0.000259	-0.000077	0.000181	0.000506	0.359
BUR	WHG	Ste	Ear	BUR	-0.000260	-0.000077	0.000182	0.000506	0.361
BUR	WHG	Ste	Ear	BUR	-0.000259	-0.000077	0.000181	0.000506	0.358
BUR	WHG	Ste	Ear	BUR	-0.000252	-0.000077	0.000181	0.000506	0.354
BUR	WHG	Ste	Ear	BUR	-0.000199	-0.000221	-0.000023	0.000133	-0.068
BUR	Ear	BUR	Ste	BUR	-0.000197	-0.000221	-0.000023	0.000133	-0.073
BUR	WHG	Ste	Ear	BUR	-0.000261	-0.000077	0.000181	0.000506	0.363
BUR	WHG	Ste	Ear	BUR	-0.000260	-0.000077	0.000182	0.000506	0.361
BUR	WHG	Ste	Ear	BUR	-0.000259	-0.000077	0.000181	0.000506	0.359
BUR	WHG	Ste	Ear	BUR	-0.000259	-0.000077	0.000181	0.000506	0.358
BUR	WHG	Ste	Ear	BUR	-0.000252	-0.000077	0.000181	0.000506	0.354
BUR	WHG	Ste	Ear	BUR	-0.000258	-0.000077	0.000180	0.000506	0.355
BUR	WHG	Ste	Ear	BUR	-0.000255	-0.000077	0.000181	0.000506	0.371
BUR	WHG	Ste	Ear	BUR	-0.000199	-0.000221	-0.000023	0.000133	-0.084
BUR	WHG	Ste	Ear	BUR	-0.000256	-0.000077	0.000181	0.000506	0.352
BUR	WHG	Ste	Ear	BUR	-0.000197	-0.000221	-0.000023	0.000133	-0.070
BUR	Ear	BUR	Ste	BUR	-0.000196	-0.000221	-0.000023	0.000133	-0.161
BUR	WHG	Ste	Ear	BUR	-0.000263	-0.000077	0.000182	0.000506	0.367
BUR	WHG	Ste	Ear	BUR	-0.000258	-0.000077	0.000181	0.000506	0.357
BUR	WHG	Ste	Ear	BUR	-0.000258	-0.000077	0.000181	0.000506	0.358
BUR	WHG	Ste	Ear	BUR	-0.000196	-0.000221	-0.000023	0.000133	-0.074

[95% confidence intervals] - 100 different seeds



CAN	Ear	Ste	Ear	CAN	0.0773487	0.0773487	0.000030	0.000664	0.045
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CAN	WHG	Ste	Ear	CAN	-0.000025	0.000219	0.000245	0.000497	0.492
CAN	Ear	Ste	Ear	CAN	0.0773486	0.0773487	0.000030	0.000664	0.045
CAN	WHG	Ste	Ear	CAN	-0.000025	0.000219	0.000245	0.000497	0.492
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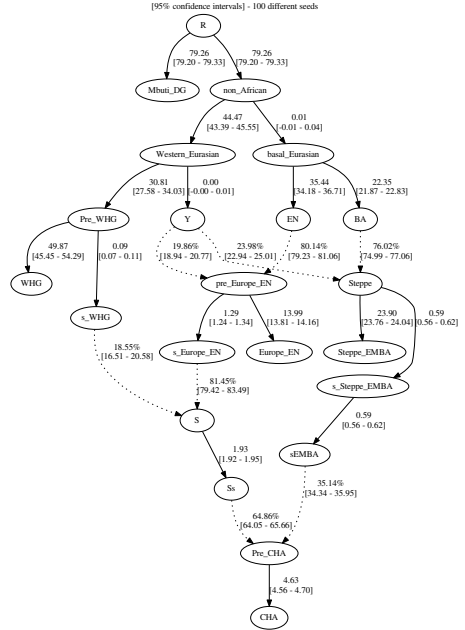
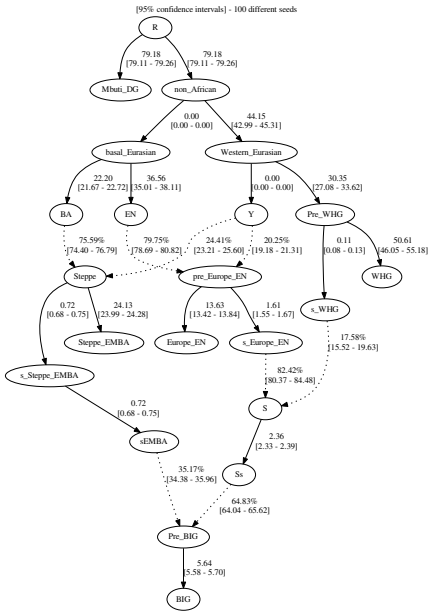
[95% confidence intervals] - 100 different seeds



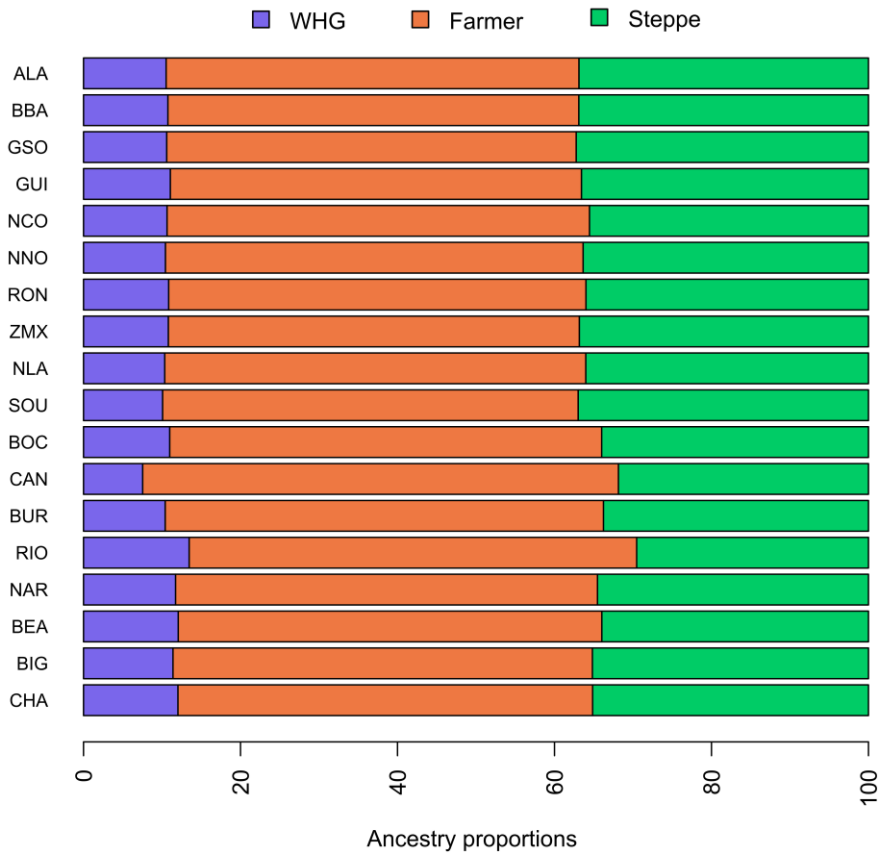


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BIG	WHG	Eur	Ste	BIG	0.007706	0.007878	0.000172	0.000611	0.281	0.000346	-0.276
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BIG	Eur	BIG	Ste	BIG	-0.000677	-0.000712	-0.000035	0.000352	-0.100	0.000346	-0.100
BIG	Eur	BIG	Ste	BIG	-0.000607	-0.000712	-0.000105	0.000352	-0.299	0.000346	-0.100
BIG	Eur	BIG	Ste	BIG	-0.000679	-0.000712	-0.000034	0.000352	-0.096	0.000346	-0.100
BIG	WHG	Eur	Ste	BIG	0.007705	0.007878	0.000173	0.000611	0.283	0.000346	-0.274
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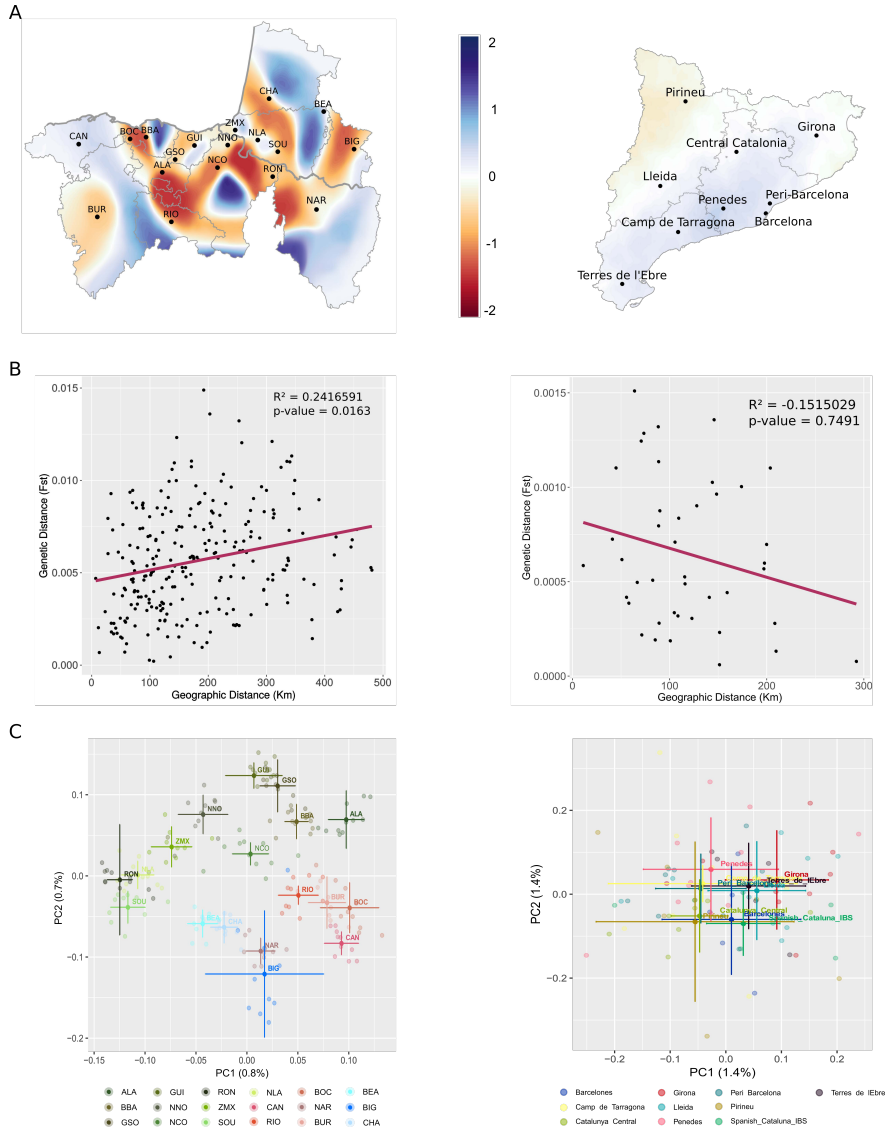
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CHA	Eur	CHA	Ste	CHA	-0.001896	-0.001930	-0.000034	0.000346	-0.099	0.000346	-0.100



**Figure S8. qpGraph models and inferred WHG, Europe\_EN and Steppe\_EMBA mixture proportions for each modern target groups. 100 permutations were performed in each case and the 95 % confidence intervals were calculated. The outlier f4-statistics with the worst Z-scores are indicated in the header of each graph. All of them were statistically significant with Z-scores between 3 and -3.**



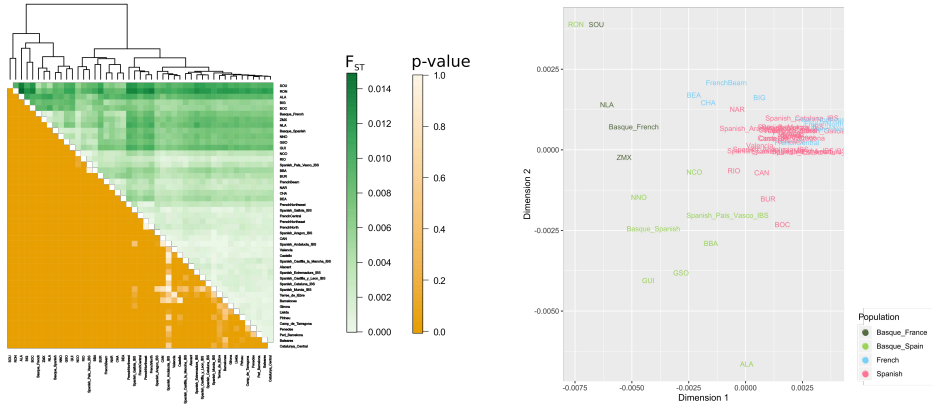
**Figure S9. Admixture proportions of HG, farmer and Steppe modeled in Franco-Cantabrian groups with qpGraph.**



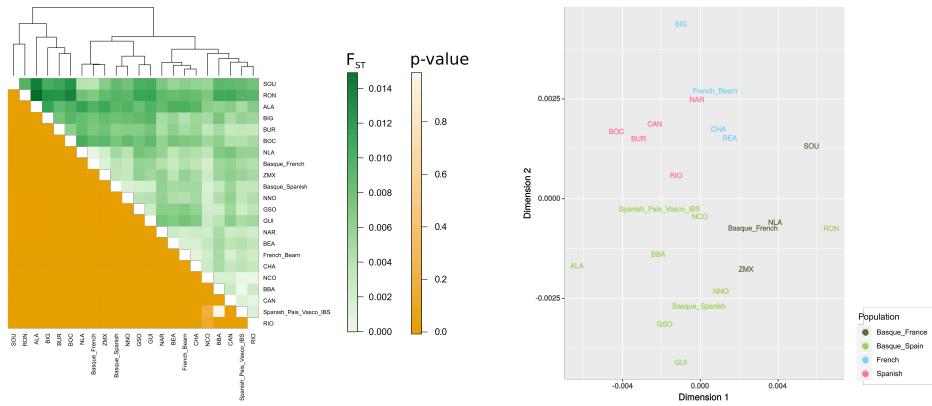
**Figure S10. Comparing the Franco-Cantabrian region with Catalonia, as reference population of similar size and high-resolution sampling.** In the left, the analysis in the Franco-Cantabrian region. In the right, the analysis in Catalonia. (A) EEMS analysis result. The posterior mean migration rates on the log10 scale are represented in the map. Values  $>0$  indicate corridors, whereas  $<0$  evince barriers. (B) The correlation between the pairwise genetic ( $F_{ST}$ ) and geographic (Km) distances, together with the Mantel test result. (C) Principal component analyses.



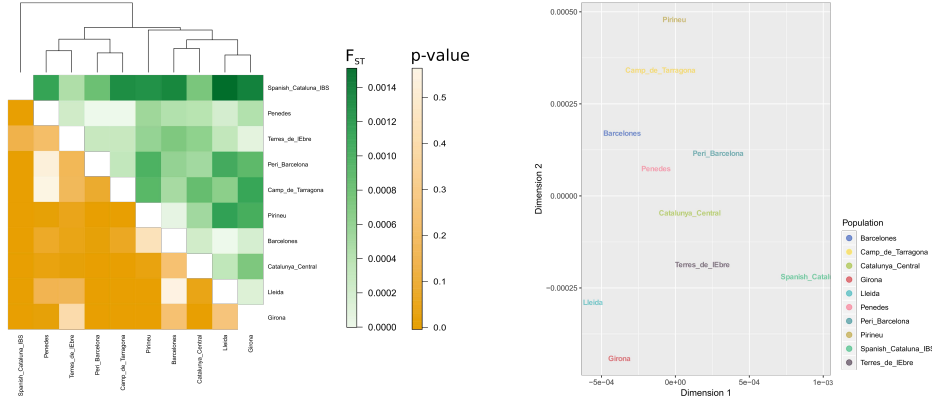
A. Iberian Peninsula and France



B. Franco-Cantabrian region

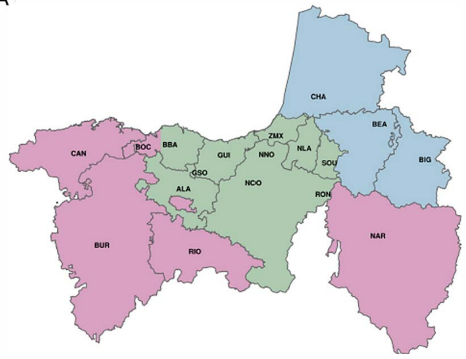


C. Catalonia



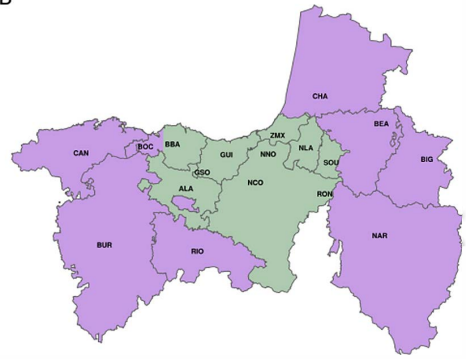
**Figure S11. Pairwise genetic distance analyses at different levels in the dataset:** (A) the Iberian Peninsula and France, (B) the Franco-Cantabrian region and (C) Catalonia. In the left, the heatmaps and dendrograms based on the pairwise  $F_{ST}$  values (above the diagonal), and related p-values (below the diagonal). In the right, multidimensional scaling analyses performed with these genetic distances.

A



	Explained variance	P-value
Variation between groups	0.141	0.002
Variation between populations within group	0.536	0.001
Variation within populations	99.323	0.001

B



	Explained variance	P-value
Variation between groups	0.128	0.001
Variation between populations within group	0.555	0.001
Variation within populations	99.317	0.001

C



	Explained variance	P-value
Variation between populations	0.366	0.001
Variation within populations	99.634	-

D



	Explained variance	P-value
Variation between population	0.402	0.001
Variation within populations	99.598	-

E

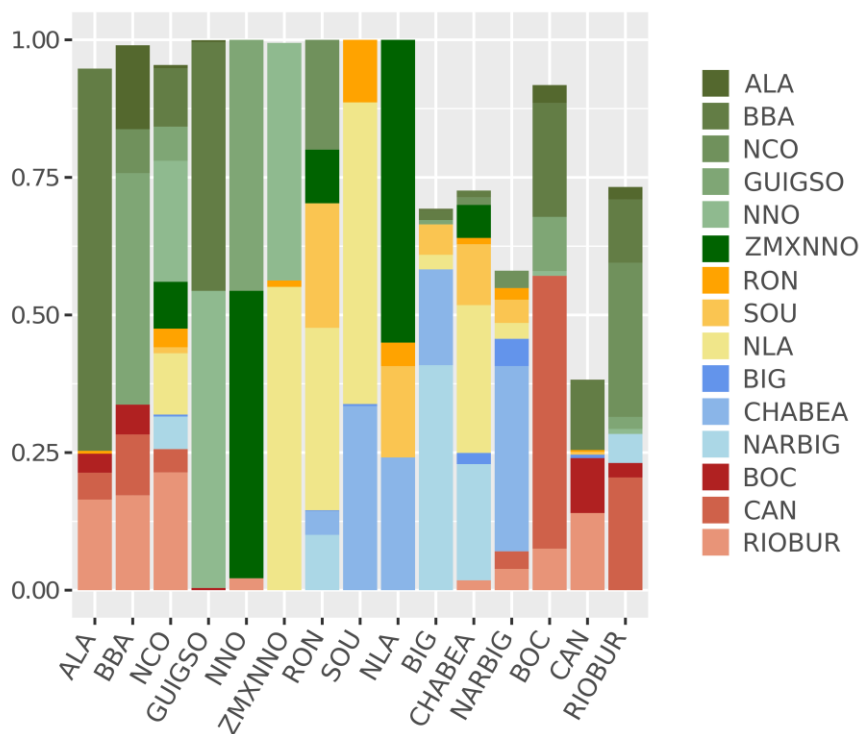


	Explained variance	P-value
Variation between populations	0.641	0.001
Variation within populations	99.359	-

**Figure S12. AMOVA analyses in the Franco-Cantabrian region.** Different hypotheses were tested: (A) Three differentiated major groups for Spanish Peri-Basques, French Peri-Basque and Basques. Variation explained in the different levels is statistically significant, evidencing heterogeneity in the region. (B) Two major groups for Basques and non-Basques in order to see if the variation explained between groups descended. The results are also significant, with higher variation explained within groups due to the fact of considering Spanish and French Peri-Basques together. This shows evidences of heterogeneity in the Peri-Basques groups. Then, in order to see which major group explained more variation within, separately AMOVA tests were performed for: (C) Spanish Peri-Basques, (D) French Peri-Basques and (E) Basques. The higher value is observed in Basques.



**Figure S13. AMOVA analysis in Catalonia.** The analysis was performed in two strata as performed in the Franco-Cantabrian region: provinces and regions within provinces.



**Figure S14. Inferred proportions of shared ancestry among the Franco-Cantabrian groups.** This plot is in continuity with the main figure 3D. Here, we dissect the internal proportions of haplotype sharing in the Franco-Cantabrian region.



## 4. DISCUSSION

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Population genetics' studies including Basque samples tend to be burdened by preconceived assumptions about their differentiation, heterogeneity and origins, which have not been completely solved in previous studies, as it was reflected in chapter 1.6. Given the interest of Basques, not only in population genetics, but also in other fields as linguistics or anthropology, it is necessary to assess the main questions that have been related to them during the last decades.

The first challenge of any population genetics approach is the definition of the body of the study, the population (Kreager et al. 2015). In the present thesis I have defined our populations based on their geographical origins and I have added other variables such as the language spoken by the volunteers. The definition used in this thesis for “Basques”, as described in chapter 3.2., includes those samples coming from geographical areas where Euskara was spoken in historical times. This definition overcomes administrative or political classifications, although some overlap exists. Therefore, the term “Basque” used in this thesis should be taken within the frame of the population genetics field, and cannot be directly extrapolated to any political or administrative classification.

In this chapter, I will discuss about the different results I have achieved during my thesis to elucidate the different controversies of Basques, by improving the methodology and the sampling.

## 4.1. The Rhesus system in Basques from a new perspective

The analysis of the Rh system in Basques had been usually studied by classical serologic methods and the basic description of the antigens detected (Van Der Heide, Magnée, and Van Loghem 1951; Chalmers, Ikin, and Mourant 1949; Manzano et al. 2002). This procedure presents a limited accuracy, and sometimes could lead to false positive or negative results (Flegel 2011). By genotyping the variants associated with the main phenotypes, those limitations are overcome and more precise and reliable results are obtained (Westhoff 2007). Furthermore, the genetic landscape of the system in Basques had never been studied before at sequence level, that together with the subsequent demographic analyses performed, could elucidate specific patterns in the population to better understand the causes of the high frequencies of Rh-negative (Perry et al. 2012). It is complicated to study the system through the gene sequence, due to the high identity between both *RHD* and *RHCE* genes. Indeed, when considering the Rh-negative and Rh-positive phenotypes in the analysis, it becomes impossible to accurately identify the alleles since the Rh-negative comes from the homozygous deletion of the *RHD* gene (Avent and Reid 2000; Wagner and Flegel 2000; Perry et al. 2012). However, the flanking regions can mirror their genetic history and give information of the processes that could have acted along the system.

Through serologic analysis the frequencies of Rh variants have been widely studied worldwide. The Rh-negative phenotype has been

reported worldwide to be lower in Asian groups, followed by the indigenous population from America and the Pacific Area, and Africans. In Europe, the reported frequencies have been detected to be higher, especially in Basques, outstanding with frequencies close to 50% (Daniels 2013; Chalmers, Ikin, and Mourant 1949). However, no remarkable singular patterns of allele, haplotype, or sequence diversity have been detected from the genotyping and sequencing analyses. The Rh-negative frequencies reported with the DNA sequences, though still higher in Basques and within the previously reported range, are not as extreme as usually shown by serologic methods (Flores-Bello et al. 2018). This result contrasts with the clear specific genetic differentiation observed in Basques with the genome-wide analysis (Flores-Bello et al., in preparation). This evokes the importance of using a proper genome-wide representation when studying demographic patterns, in order to describe the general picture of the genome and not just the history of a specific marker.

It is complicated to contextualize the origins of the higher frequency of the Rh-negative in Basques. Besides not observing specific patterns in the results, the information about the function of the *RH* genes is extremely scant, which does not allow to suggest hypotheses related to the adaptive value of the genes. The frequency of Rh variants has been suggested to be subject to a frequency-dependent equilibrium in favor of the most frequent variant (Vogel and Motulsky 1997; Flegr 2016; Cavalli-Sforza 1988). It has been proposed to have originated during the LGM due to a bottleneck

and subsequent inbreeding when the Franco-Cantabrian region acted as glacial refuge (Anstee 2010). However, this is just a hypothesis with no direct evidences. In the LGM or not, signals of an old isolation are evinced based on the ROHs analyses, but farmer and steppe components are also detected in Basques (Flores-Bello et al., in preparation). Thus, if a demographic process had been the cause of the high frequency of Rh-negative, it should probably have been after admixing with Neolithic and Bronze Age incomers. Nonetheless, a plausible balancing selective pressure under the system cannot be completely discarded to explain the diverse frequencies of the Rh-negative and Rh-positive (Flatz and Brinkmann 1977).

## **4.2. The genome-wide analysis of Basques**

Basques have been scarcely studied from a genome-wide perspective, usually with a weak representation of the Basque area, considering the population as a whole, and without a proper ethnolinguistic background of the samples.

Taking into account the exhaustive sampling of the region presented in this thesis, a fine-scale result has been achieved showing a complete context of the historical Basque-related area. A clear genetic differentiation of all the Basque groups is confirmed, and the so-called Peri-Basques can be explained as peri-isolated intermediates, between Basques and the external Spanish and French samples. In addition, the controversy about internal

heterogeneity has been solved, detecting for the first time a very clear pattern of differentiation among the groups within the Franco-Cantabrian region correlated with the geography (Flores-Bello et al., in preparation). This correlation is based on the higher gene flow among the closest groups, but it does not seem to be related to physical barriers, not even the Pyrenees range. This reflects a shared history of the whole region, and together with the historical distribution of the Euskara. In fact, the areas where the Euskara has been considerably reduced are the ones where some proportions of gene flow with external non-Franco-Cantabrian groups are detected. This result reflects the parallel evolution of languages and genes as first proposed by Cavalli-Sforza (Cavalli-Sforza 1997). In view of the results, it can be suggested the important role of the Euskara as a cultural barrier in the genetic differentiation of Basque people, in spite of the contact with different incomers such as the Romans. Nevertheless, it is difficult to suggest if the Euskara dialects are the cause or the consequence of the substructure related to the contact between the closest geographic groups. Although five dialects are usually differentiated, their classification and distribution are solid and still debated among the scholars (Abaitua 2018). However, they agree in a remarkable linguistic difference between the west and the east, but not along the central area. Nonetheless, genetic heterogeneity is also observed among Basque groups in this area. If dialects and genetics are correlated, the high internal genetic substructure found in the present results seems not to be compatible with a recent origin, i.e. during Middle Ages, of the dialects, since this would have implied an extreme and rapid differentiation of the

Basque groups in the last few centuries. In fact, a pre-Roman genetic structure have been already suggested based on uniparental markers (Martínez-Cruz et al. 2012). Therefore, a plausible scenario could be suggested, where the geographic distribution is the cause of the genetic and linguistic distances among groups along the history.

It is noteworthy to remark the strong specific genetic profile, associated with geography, observed in the Franco-Cantabrian region, and more specifically in Basques. Haplotype-based results are more accurate to detect fine internal patterns of structure within the populations than methods based on allele frequencies. However, the results have been very clear even detecting the internal substructure in the allele frequency analyses. Furthermore, haplotype-based methods have allowed to precisely reconstruct, without pre-established geographic labels, the same groups classified according to the geographic region they belong. Haplotype-based methods have also allowed to measure the proportions of shared ancestry among the reconstructed groups, to give a genetic support to the observed substructure in the region, beyond the limitations of the ADMIXTURE analyses that are more dependent on the number of SNPs and samples.

Including ancient samples in the analyses enables to describe modern populations in a historical context. Basques have been recently suggested to present a Bronze Age / Iron Age genetic profile within an Iberian ancient context (Olalde et al. 2019). In this

thesis, similar results have been achieved, but framing the analysis in a wide Western European scenario. Basques have been placed among the general European proportions when formally modeling with the three ancient components par excellence: pre-Neolithic hunter-gatherer, Neolithic farmer, and Bronze Age steppe herder groups. Furthermore, shared ancestry has not been detected with modern proxies that could represent the post-Bronze Age admixture events that affected the external populations. These results suggest that Basques could be actually explained as the result of admixture between those three ancient components. This fact puts an end to the previous assumptions of the origin of Basques as a pre-Neolithic isolated group followed by low contact with the incoming migrants in the Iberian Peninsula in the following periods. Thus, it can be suggested that the process of genetic differentiation of Basques from the external populations may have taken place at least from the Bronze Age onwards (Flores-Bello et al., in preparation) .

### **4.3. Future studies**

In spite of overcoming most of the limitations burdened in the previous works to finally elucidate the controversies of Basques, some caveats that have been faced during the development of the thesis should be taken into account.

Given the scant information about the function of the *RH* genes, specially the ones related to the Rhesus system, further genetic and functional studies are crucial to clarify their role in the organism.

Subsequently, this would enable to better understand their evolutive processes and the distribution of their variants in the populations.

Haplotypes combine sets of SNPs that are in linkage disequilibrium allowing to obtain a higher resolution than with independent SNPs. Moreover, they are less affected by the fixation of derived alleles through drift. Then, the haplotype-based methods used in this thesis (Hellenthal et al. 2014; Lawson et al. 2012) are more reliable to study populations that have gone through bottlenecks or founder effects. The characterization of the ancestry genetic profiles is often performed on admixed populations that can be properly explained from external sources. Nonetheless, analyzing isolated populations, as is the case of Basques, turns delicate and sensitive to artifacts if an appropriate representation of the population is not considered. This caveat is mainly due to the lack of external proxies that share haplotypes with them.

Isolates are often used as representatives of a region or a historical period in the analyses. In the same way that Sardinians have been used as a Neolithic proxy when studying modern populations, Basques have been usually considered as a pre-Neolithic group. However, this is not supported by the present results in this thesis, that connect Basques to the Bronze Age's genetic profile in Southwestern Europe. Furthermore, they have been widely used without taking into consideration their internal heterogeneity. The observed substructure within Basques highlights the importance of considering the geographic area where the samples come from.



The public genetic databases are increasingly abundant, encompassing a large number of samples and geographic areas worldwide for different genetic data, especially genome-wide array and whole-genome data. However, most of them present the limitation of offering scant geolocation information, providing the coordinates of the samples as an average value for populations instead of individually. This is important for those methods whose resolution relies on a refined geographic distribution of the samples, such as isolation by distance analyses. Moreover, most databases do not include ethnolinguistic information of the populations analysed. There are many geographical regions where several different languages coexist. Given the relevance of this information to contextualize the genetic results, as in the case of the Basques, it would be highly informative to have this information available.

Population datasets usually define wide-scale groups to depict a general demographic context. In these conditions, the intrinsic genetic traits at population level get masked. The high resolution at a fine-scale scenario that it is achieved in my thesis bring to light the importance of considering a suitable representation of the population context studied. I encourage the increase of genetics studies considering a higher density of samples at micro-geographical level in order to enable the detection of new genetic populations outliers.

Ancient DNA is an essential resource to explore the demographic history of modern populations. Providing more ancient data from the Basque area would help to deeper elucidate their demographic history, that is characterized by their genetic differentiation and internal heterogeneity. However, it is fundamental to be aware about its limitations. Due to the fragile conservation of the ancient remains, it is more complicated to obtain good quality DNA material from this type of samples. Thus, the number of samples and the coverage become a limiting factor when using ancient DNA data. As mentioned above, haplotype-based methods allow to obtain finer results with high resolution. Therefore, it would be convenient to include ancient samples in these haplotype-based analyses. Nevertheless, a phasing process is mandatory to start the analyses. Many of the ancient samples do not present enough quality to achieve a good coverage to be reliably phased. Furthermore, when running some of these haplotype-based methods such as ChromoPainter, it is recommended to include a considerable number of samples in order to represent properly the group they belong. It is also crucial to have a balanced sample size of the groups to avoid over/underrepresentation of groups. Obtaining enough samples to represent a whole ancient group is usually complicated, making difficult to apply this kind of methods with this data. Moreover, human populations become more homogeneous as they get close to the present. The recurrent admixture events during history, and the increasing connections between them, make the specificity of the genetic components be diluted. Thus, modeling modern populations with more recent

ancient samples than the Iron Age, is more complicated since they are more admixed and share more genetic components.

History, linguistics, archaeology and medicine have been essential to give support and contextualize the genetic results of my thesis. Thus, I would like conclude highlighting the importance of improving the multidisciplinary communication when studying the evolution and demographic history of populations.



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## 6.APPENDIX

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## **6.1. Patterns of genetic structure and adaptive positive selection in the Lithuanian population from high-density SNP data**

Urniakyte A, Flores-Bello A, Mondal M, Molyte A, Comas D, Calafell F, et al. [Patterns of genetic structure and adaptive positive selection in the Lithuanian population from high-density SNP data](#). Sci Rep. 2019 Dec 1;9(1). DOI: 10.1038/s41598-019-45746-3