

The background is a vibrant, stylized illustration. It features a central figure of a person with a brown silhouette, holding a green globe with a world map. The person's head is replaced by a large, pink, spiky plant. The background is filled with various shades of green and pink, suggesting a lush, tropical environment with large leaves and plants.

PANTROPICA

AN INVESTIGATION OF
GEOGRAPHICAL AND
TEMPORAL DIVERSITY
IN HUMAN 'RAINFOREST
PREHISTORIES'

WORKSHOP
OCTOBER 3-6, 2016

ORGANISED BY
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Pantropica: an investigation of geographical and temporal diversity in human ‘rainforest prehistories’

Organised by Patrick Roberts

Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History

October 3-6, 2016

From the Late Pleistocene onwards our species expanded into the full diversity of the world's environments. One of these, tropical rainforests, has traditionally been seen as a barrier to long-term human occupation and human migration. Over the last two decades, however, archaeological and anthropological research has increasingly demonstrated that the tropical rainforests of the Africa, Asia, and the Americas have been persistent ‘hotspots’ of human subsistence and activity, ranging from complex rainforest hunting and foraging strategies by early humans during the Late Pleistocene to some of the earliest evidence for human agricultural experimentation and the development of complex societies.

The newly-formed Department of Archaeology, in the Max Planck Institute of the Science of Human History, Jena, Germany, is interested in the examination of the longevity and diversity of human relationships with various global environments, including tropical rainforests. To celebrate the opening of this department we seek to bring together an interdisciplinary group, with varied temporal and geographical areas of expertise, in order to discuss the current state of archaeological research in tropical rainforests and the methodological and theoretical pre-requisites for more detailed understandings of ‘rainforest prehistories’.

This meeting will provide important impetus for the generation of international perspectives and collaboration in the study of human adaptations to rainforest ecologies, ranging from complex rainforest hunting and foraging strategies by early humans during the Late Pleistocene to some of the earliest evidence for human agricultural experimentation and the development of complex societies. It is hoped that this workshop will be the first of a series of conferences that explore the diversity of methods and temporal and geographical perspectives that can be taken in the study of our species’, and its ancestors’, occupation and use of rainforest environments.

Format: Our goal is to have as much discussion and interaction as possible. Please keep talks to **an absolute maximum 20 minutes**, allowing **10 minutes** for questions and discussion after each presentation. There will then be an extra ‘general’ discussion of one hour at the end of each section of the day.

SCHEDULE

Monday 3rd October – Germany Unity Day (holiday). Speakers arrive at hotel.

MEETING DAY 1

Tuesday 4th October –

8.00-9.00 am – Registration

9.00-9.05 am – Introduction – ‘The Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History, Jena’ – Johannes Krause (Max Planck, Jena)

9.05-9.10 am – Introduction – ‘The Department of Archaeology at the Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History – Nicole Boivin (Max Planck, Jena)

9.10-9.30 am – ‘Pantropica: an investigation of geographical and temporal diversity in human ‘rainforest prehistories’ – Patrick Roberts (Max Planck, Jena)

9.30-10.00 am – Coffee

Late Pleistocene rainforest occupation

Chair: Michael Petraglia (Max Planck, Jena)

10.00-10.20 am – ‘Primate, hominin, and human life histories in tropical forest contexts’ – Gabrielle Macho (University of Oxford).

10.30-10.40 am - ‘Stone Age Hunter-gatherers in rainforests: a perspective from the Congo-basin’ – Els Cornelissen (Royal Museum for Central Africa)

11.00-11.20 am – ‘The temporal and geographical diversity of human adaptations to the rainforests of Southeast Asia’ – Christopher Hunt (Liverpool John Moores University).

11.30-12.30 am - Discussion

12.30am-1.30 pm – Lunch at Institute

Chair: Patrick Roberts (Max Planck, Jena)

1.30-1.50 pm – ‘Evidence for the occupation of the interior rainforest of Kalimantan’ – Vida Kusumartono (Australian National University).

2.00-2.20 pm – ‘Early and persistent use of the montane rainforests of New Guinea’ – Anne Ford (University of Otago)

2.30-3.00 pm – Coffee

3.00-3.20 pm – ‘Early human rainforest use and adaptations in South Asia (Sri Lanka)’ – Oshan Wedage (Department of Archaeology, Government of Sri Lanka)/Patrick Roberts (Max Planck Jena).

3.30-3.50 pm – ‘Human adaptations to the Chinese tropics’ (Yunnan Institute of Cultural Relics and Archeology) – Ji Xueping

4.00-5.00 pm – Discussion

7.00 pm – Dinner in Jena

MEETING DAY 2

Wednesday 5th October –

Holocene rainforest occupation, domestication and social complexity

Chair: Nicole Boivin (Max Planck, Jena)

9.00-9.20 am – ‘The future of archaeology in the rainforests of Melanesia’ – Dylan Gaffney (University of Otago).

9.30-9.50 am – ‘Farming in the tropics of West and Central Africa’ – Barbara Eichhorn (Goethe University)

10.00-10.30 am – Coffee

10.30-10.50 am – ‘A history of human landscape impacts and domestication in Amazonia’ – Tiago Hermenegildo (University of Cambridge).

11.00-11.20 am – ‘Landscaping, Landscape Legacies, and Landesque Capital in Pre-Columbian Amazonia’ – Manuel Arroyo-Kalin (University College London)

11.30am-12.30 pm – Discussion

12.30-1.30 pm – Lunch at Institute

Chair: Manuel Arroyo-Kalin (University College London)

1.30-1.50 am – ‘Stable isotope analysis as a means of directly testing human rainforest resource reliance’ – Patrick Roberts (Max Planck, Jena)

2.00-2.20 pm – ‘Social life in rainforests: geoarchaeology, site formation and the construction of human space – David Friesem (University of Cambridge)’

2.30-3.00 pm – Coffee

3.00-3.20 pm – ‘The emergence of Maya urbanism in the Mesoamerican tropics’ – Anabel Ford (MesoAmerican Research Center, University of California, Santa Barbara)

3.30-3.50 – ‘The application of LiDar to the mapping of human landscape use and modification in tropical rainforest settings’ – Chris Fisher (Colorado State University)

4.00-4.20 pm – ‘Medieval cities in the tropical forests of Cambodia’ – Damian Evans (École française d'Extrême-Orient (EFEO))

4.30-5.30 pm – Discussion

7.00 pm – Dinner in Jena.

MEETING DAY 3

Thursday 6th October –

Methodological variation and innovation – Part 1

Chair: Johannes Krause (Max Planck, Jena)

9.00-9.20 am – ‘Game-changers in ancient DNA research’ – Cosimo Posth (Max Planck Jena)

9.30-9.50 am – ‘Ecological genomics of human rainforest hunter-gatherers’ – George Perry (Penn State University Department of Biology)

10.00-10.30 am – Coffee

10.30-10.50 am – ‘Of forests, lithics, molecular palaeontology, and false positives: Cleanrooms to study microbotanical residues from Olduvai Gorge, Tanzania’ – Julio Mercader (University of Calgary)

11.00-11.20 am – ‘Biogeochemical approaches to tropical forest studies: past and present’ – Carlos Sierra (Max Planck-BGC, Jena)

11.30am-12.30pm – Discussion

12.30-1.30 pm – Lunch at Institute.

Methodological variation and innovation – Part 2

Chair: Simon Greenhill (Max Planck, Jena)

1.30-1.50 pm – ‘Using linguistics to look at human tropical rainforest adaptations in Africa’ – Harald Hammarström (Humboldt University, Berlin/ Max Planck, Nijmegen) – ***Skype talk***

2.00-2.20 pm – ‘Linguistic prehistories in the tropics: Amazonia within a worldwide perspective’ – Paul Heggarty (Max Planck, Jena)

2.30-2.50 pm – ‘Ethnoarchaeology and experimental archaeology as a tool for investigating past human rainforest adaptations’ – Hermine Xhauflair (University of Cambridge)

3.00-3.30 pm – Coffee

3.30-3.50 pm – ‘Contemporary human uses of forested lands in the neotropics: risks and benefits’ – Matthew Larsen (Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Panama)

4.00-4.20 pm – ‘Bringing Archaeology into the present: rainforest archaeology and heritage conservation’ – Nuria Sanz (UNESCO)

4.30 pm – Discussion

5.00 pm – Final Discussion

- i) Future directions
- ii) The continuation of ‘Pantropica’?

Evening of Thursday October 6th / morning of Friday October 7th – guests leave.