



# Human Dispersals in the Late Pleistocene Interdisciplinary Approaches Towards Understanding the Worldwide Expansion of *Homo sapiens*

Organised by Michael Petraglia

Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History

November 8-10, 2016

*Homo sapiens* emerged in Africa approximately 200,000 years ago. The story of our species' subsequent dispersal out of Africa and expansion across the globe remains an enduring and contentious topic in human evolutionary studies. Much debate revolves around the timing, number and routes of major human dispersals out of Africa.

New research in archaeology, genetics and palaeoenvironmental studies is changing our understanding of these processes of early human expansion and migration. Increasing information is being gathered about environmental change in key terrestrial settings across northern and eastern Africa and Eurasia. Fossil, genetic and archaeological research is demonstrating the complicated nature of Out of Africa expansions, inter-species interactions, and human survivorship in changing environments.

The aim of this conference is to examine new information on the relationship between environmental variability, demographic change, and human adaptations, and to explore how these multidisciplinary datasets can be better integrated to more effectively investigate, model and understand early human dispersals.

The new Department of Archaeology at the Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History in Jena, Germany is dedicated to examining our species' past over the long term and from a multidisciplinary perspective. To celebrate the opening of our Department, we plan to bring together a diverse community of international researchers to discuss, debate and explore our species' evolutionary history.

**Format:** *Our goal is to have as much discussion and interaction as possible. Please keep talks to a maximum 20 minutes, allowing at least 10 minutes for questions and discussion after each presentation. We will closely monitor the timings in the interests of discussion!*

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IN THE LATE PLEISTOCENE  
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**Monday, 7 November**

Speakers arrive, informal gatherings at hotel.

**DAY 1**

**Tuesday, 8 November**

08:00-9:00

Registration

09:00-09:05

*Welcome*

Nicole Boivin (Max Planck, Jena)

09:05-09:30

*Introduction. "Out of Africa": single or multiple dispersals?*

Michael Petraglia (Max Planck, Jena)

09:30-09:50

Svante Pääbo (Max Planck, Leipzig)

*Genetic interactions between modern and archaic humans*

10:00 Coffee/Tea

**Late Pleistocene Origins**

Chair: Russell Gray (Max Planck, Jena)

10:30-10:50

Alison Brooks (George Washington University, USA)

*Dispersals and reversals: the Eastern Africa evidence from the Late Pleistocene*

11:00-11:20

Andrew Cohen (University of Arizona, USA)

*Comparative Mid-Late Pleistocene environmental records from Africa, Eastern Europe and Western Asia covering the last 400ka and their implications for human dispersal*

11:30-11:50

John Hawks (University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA)

*Late Pleistocene African population diversity and its relevance for modern human dispersals*

12:00-12:20

Shannon McPherron (Max Planck, Leipzig)

*The age of the Homo sapiens fossils from Jebel Irhoud (Morocco) and the origins of the Middle Stone Age*

12:30-13:00

*Discussion*

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13:00 **Catered Lunch at Institute**

**Background to Dispersals**

Chair: Johannes Krause (Max Planck, Jena)

14:00-14:20

Nicole Boivin (Max Planck, Jena) and Ceri Shipton (University of Cambridge, UK)

*Panga ya Saidi: Insights from a new archaeological and palaeoecological cave sequence from the coastal forest of Kenya*

14:30-14:50

Achim Brauer (University of Potsdam, Germany)

*Rapid climate and environment changes of the last glacial-interglacial cycle recorded in lake sediments*

15:00-15:20

Philipp Gunz (Max Planck, Leipzig)

*Evolution and development of the modern human face and brain*

15:30 Coffee/Tea

16:00-16:20

Rainer Grün (Griffith University, Australia)

*Microanalytical approaches for dating human fossils*

16:30-16:50

Nick Drake (King's College, London, UK)

*Late Pleistocene environment and hominin dispersals in North Africa*

17:00-17:30

*Discussion*

18:00 Reception at Phyletische Museum, Jena  
Dinner in Jena

**DAY 2**

**Wednesday, 9 November**

**Staging Dispersals**

Chair: Susan Trumbore (Max Planck, Jena)

09:00-09:20

Jürgen Richter (University of Cologne, Germany)

*"The Archaeology of Migrations": The challenging case of Homo sapiens*

09:30-09:50

Eleanor Scerri (University of Oxford, UK)

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*Inferring Late Pleistocene hominin demography in the Green Sahara*

10:00-10:20

Dominik Fleitmann (University of Reading, UK)

*Timing and Nature of Pleistocene pluvial periods in Southern Arabia*

10:30 Coffee/Tea

11:00-11:20

Huw Groucutt (University of Oxford, UK)

*An Arabian perspective on the dispersal of Homo sapiens out of Africa*

11:30-11:50

Jed Kaplan (University of Lausanne, Switzerland)

*Numerical modeling of hunter-gatherer population, dispersal, and influence on the environment in the Late Pleistocene*

12:00-12:20

Katerina Harvati (University of Tübingen, Germany)

*Early modern human dispersals: testing hypotheses using modern human skeletal variation*

12:30-13:00

*Discussion*

13:00 **Catered Lunch at Institute**

**Eurasian Dispersals**

Chair: Nicholas Conard (University of Tübingen, Germany)

13:45-14:05

Katerina Douka (University of Oxford, UK)

*Dating human dispersals and extinctions across Eurasia using advanced chronometric approaches*

14:15-14:35

Andrea Manica (University of Cambridge, UK)

*The role of climate in shaping human demography and migration during out-of-Africa expansion*

14:45-15:05

Mikhail Shunkov (Russian Academy of Sciences, Russia)

*Recent discoveries at Denisova Cave and dispersal of the genus Homo in Asia*

15:15 Coffee/Tea

15:45-16:05

Gao Xing (Chinese Academy of Sciences, China)

*Human dispersal and adaptation in the Late Pleistocene in North China*

16:15-16:35

Andrey Krivoschapkin (Novosibirsk State University, Russia)

*Middle to Upper Paleolithic transition in western Central Asia and dispersal of modern humans*

16:45-17:15

*Discussion*

17:15 Bus to Museum für Ur- und Frühgeschichte Thüringens (Weimar)  
Dinner in Weimar

**DAY 3**

**Thursday, 10 November**

**Improving the Story of Dispersal**

Chair: Patrick Roberts (Max Planck, Jena)

09:00-09:20

Stephan Schiffels (Max Planck, Jena)

*Studying fine-scale human separation and demographic history from modern and ancient genome sequences*

09:30-09:50

Thomas Higham (University of Oxford, UK)

*Identifying human fossil remains from Pleistocene Eurasia using collagen fingerprinting*

10:00 Coffee/Tea

**Filling Up the Earth**

10:30-10:50

Nicholas Conard (University of Tübingen, Germany)

*The last Neanderthals and the spread of modern humans into the Upper Danube drainage*

11:00-11:20

Johannes Krause (Max Planck, Jena)

*Ice age history of Europe: Genome wide studies of early modern humans*

11:30-11:50

Sabine Gaudzinski-Windheuser and Olaf Jöris (MONREPOS, Germany)

*Society and dispersal – the geographic expansion of Late Glacial societies*

12:00-12:20

Yousuke Kaifu (National Museum of Nature and Science, Japan)

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*How Palaeolithic people crossed the ocean to the Japanese Islands > 30,000 years ago: An experimental approach*

12:30-13:00

*Discussion*

13:00 **Catered Lunch at Institute**

**Filling Up the Earth (cont'd)**

Chair: Eleanor Scerri (University of Oxford, UK)

14:00-14:20

Mark Stoneking (Max Planck, Leipzig)

*Genetic perspectives on the colonisation of Sahul*

14:30-14:50

Sue O'Connor, Julien Louys and Shimona Kealy  
(Australian National University, Australia)

*Modern human colonisation of Wallacea: results from Alor, Pantar and Kisar Islands*

15:00-15:20

Julien Louys (Australian National University, Australia)

*The long road to the green south: the Pleistocene Sumatran record and hominin dispersals in Southeast Asia*

15:40-16:00

Patrick Roberts (Max Planck, Jena)

*Human occupation of rainforests in the Late Pleistocene*

16:10 Coffee/Tea

16:40-17:40

*i) Discussion*

*ii) Future Prospects*

Guests Depart (Stay an extra night depending on travel restrictions)

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