



Crossroads: Multi-disciplinary investigations of South Asia's past

15 December 2017

Hosted by the Department of Archaeology

Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History, Jena, Germany

Organised by Ayushi Nayak

South Asia has long been the site of incredible environmental, cultural, genetic, and linguistic diversity. Moreover, owing to its geographical location, it serves as a “crossroads” between Europe, Africa and East, West and Southeast Asia. With this workshop, we aim to bring together different specialists working in the region to share results and facilitate an interdisciplinary approach to uncovering the past. Attendees will draw on linguistic, genetic, bio-molecular and macroscopic lines of evidence to elucidate changes in diet, demography, and ecology across major cultural transitions in the region. Furthermore, we hope to identify key areas of further research and forge new partnerships.

NB: Talks will be 15 minutes with a 10-minute period for questions.

Schedule

08.30-09.00 Registration

09.00-09.15 Nicole Boivin: Welcome and Aims of the Workshop

Session 1: Major prehistoric processes

09.20-09.35 Patrick Roberts (MPI-SHH) 'Stable isotope approaches to Late Pleistocene human adaptations in South Asia'

09.45-10.00 Michael Petraglia (MPI-SHH) 'Out of Africa dispersals'

10.10-10.25 Dorian Fuller (UCL) 'The linguistic and archaeobotanical picture for the Holocene'

10.35-10.50 Paul Heggarty (MPI-SHH) 'Language prehistory in South Asia: Insights into migrations, demography, subsistence and culture'

11.00-11.20 Coffee Break

Session 2: Subsistence

11.20-11.35 Charlene Murphy (UCL) 'South Asian pulse domestication: Applying new imaging technologies'

11.45-12.00 Pankaj Goyal (DCPGRI) 'Preliminary insights into the animal-based subsistence economy at the Harappan settlement of Rakhigarhi'

12.10-12.25 Jessica Hendy (MPI-SHH) 'Proteomics analysis and it's potential for South Asia'

12.35-13.00 Discussion Session 1

13.00-14.00 Catered lunch at the Institute

Session 3: South Asian cultures and populations

- 14.00-14.15 Niraj Rai (BSIP) 'Genetic makeup of South Asian populations'
- 14.25-14.40 Rabindra Mohanty (DCPGRI) 'The emergence and expansion of Megalithic groups'
- 14.50-15.05 Veena Mushrif-Tripathy (DCPGRI) 'South Asian populations from an osteological perspective'
- 15.15-15.30 Christina Warinner (MPI-SHH) 'aDNA results from Nepal'

15.40-16.00 Coffee Break

Session 4: Connections and change

- 16.00-16.15 Ayushi Nayak (MPI-SHH) 'Isotopic and proteomic approaches to conceptualising cultural change in South Asia'
- 16.25-16.40 Massimo Vidale (UNIPD) 'New data on the Swat protohistoric graveyards'
- 16.50-17.05 Luca Olivieri (ISMEO) 'The early urban settlement at Barikot, Swat (1st Millennium BCE)'

17.15-18.00 Discussion Session 2

18.30 Dinner at Saigon