

Major transitions in human evolution

Thursday 22 – Friday 23 October 2015

Organised in partnership with the British Academy by Professor Robert Foley FBA, Professor Chris Stringer FRS, Dr Marta Mirazón Lahr and Professor Lawrence Martin



BRITISH
ACADEMY

for the humanities and social sciences

THE
ROYAL
SOCIETY

DAY 1			
SESSION 1: The origins of <i>Homo</i> – morphology, adaptation and technology Chair: H��l��ne Roche		SESSION 2: The evolution of the early human phenotype Chair: Bernard Wood	
09:00	Welcome by the Royal Society and Robert Foley		
09:05	Lawrence B. Martin Chronology of hominin discoveries in the Turkana Basin and their impact on understanding human evolution	13:30	Kevin Uno Palaeovegetation from plant wax biomarkers in terrestrial and marine sediments
09:25	Mikael Fortelius Environments and mammalian communities in the East African Plio-Pleistocene: an ecometric analysis of the fossil mammal record of the Turkana Basin	13.55	William Jungers The evolution of body size and shape in the human career
09.50	Meave Leakey <i>Kenyanthropus</i> and hominin diversity in the middle Pliocene	14:20	Christopher Dean Measures of maturation in early fossil hominins
10.15	Discussion	14.45	Discussion
10:40	Coffee	15:10	Tea
11:10	William Kimbel <i>Australopithecus</i> and the transition to early <i>Homo</i>	15:40	Susan Ant��n Does morphological variation in <i>Homo erectus</i> signal the origins of developmental plasticity?
11:35	Sonia Harmand An earlier origin for stone tool making: implications for cognitive evolution and the transition to <i>Homo</i>	16:05	Ignacio de la Torre The evolution of more complex technology: current perspectives on the origins of the Acheulean
12:00	Discussion	16:30	Discussion
12:30	LUNCH	17:00	Poster session

DAY 2			
SESSION 3: The evolution of modern humans Chair: Mark Thomas		SESSION 4: Tempo and mode in the evolution of humans Chair: Clive Gamble FBA	
09:00	Chris Stringer FRS The origin of <i>Homo sapiens</i>	13:30	Peter de Menocal Reconciling terrestrial and marine records of African climate change
09:25	Marta Mirazón Lahr The shaping of human diversity: filters, boundaries and transitions	13:55	Mark Collard Changing perspectives on the evolution of hominin culture
09:50	Eske Willerslev Ancient human genomics: new approaches to human dispersals and population history	14:20	Robert Foley FBA Tempo and mode in human evolution: the problem of transitions
10:15	Discussion	14:45	Discussion
10:40	Coffee	15:10	Tea
11:10	Christian Tryon The Middle-Later Stone Age transition in East Africa	15:35	Richard Leakey FRS Closing remarks
11:35	Curtis Marean Surround, defend, and advance: how the transition to foraging for dense and predictable resources changed the course of human evolution	16:10	Discussion
12:00	Discussion		
12:30	LUNCH	17:00	British Academy drinks reception

Draft programme – subject to change – correct as of 1 October 2015