



CARTA Public Symposium  
Behaviorally Modern Humans: The Origin of Us • May 10, 2013  
**SPEAKER BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES**



**Rick Potts** is a Paleoanthropologist, Director of the Smithsonian Institution's Human Origins Program, Curator of Anthropology at the National Museum of Natural History, and Curator of the Smithsonian's Hall of Human Origins. His current research investigates earth's environmental dynamics and the processes leading to novel adaptations. His ideas about the significance of environmental instability in human evolution have stimulated wide attention and new research in the earth sciences, paleontology, and experimental and computational biology. Bridging across many research disciplines, Potts's field projects are located in the East African Rift and in southern and northern China. He is author of the book *What Does It Mean To Be Human?*



**Chris Stringer** is Professor, Merit Researcher, and Research Leader in Human Origins at the Natural History Museum London and is a Fellow of the Royal Society. His early research was on the relationship of Neanderthals and early modern humans in Europe, but through his work on the Recent African Origin model for modern human origins, he now collaborates with archaeologists, dating specialists, and geneticists in attempting to reconstruct the evolution of modern humans globally. He has published over 200 scientific papers, and his recent books include *Homo britannicus* (2006), *The Complete World of Human Evolution* (2011, with Peter Andrews), and *Lone Survivors* (2012).



**Alison S. Brooks** is Professor of Anthropology at George Washington University and a member of the Smithsonian Institution's Human Origins Program. Her research in multiple African countries, China, and the Near East focuses on understanding both early cultural diversification within Africa and the cognitive transformations leading to new forms of social, economic, dietary, technological and symbolic behavior underlying the expansion of our species throughout the world over the last 60,000 years. She is co-editor of *The Encyclopedia of Human Evolution and Prehistory*, and her published papers include "The revolution that wasn't: a new interpretation of the origin of modern human behavior." (*Journal of Human Evolution*, 2000)



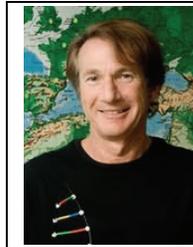
**Sally McBrearty** is Professor and Head of the Department of Anthropology at the University of Connecticut, Storrs. She has directed archaeological field projects for more than 30 years in East Africa, where she focuses upon the Middle Pleistocene and the origin of *Homo sapiens*. She is particularly interested in the behavior of early humans, their environmental setting, and how behavior and environment interact with geologic processes to produce the fossil and archaeological records. She was elected a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 2007.



**Lyn Wadley** is Honorary Professor of Archaeology in the School of Geography, Archaeology and Environmental Studies, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa. She taught archaeology there until her retirement. Her specialty is the African Stone Age and she directed excavations at Rose Cottage Cave and Sibudu for 25 years. She studies the cognition of people who lived in the Middle Stone Age. Her research includes heat treatment experiments and hafting of stone tools with compound adhesives made from natural products like ochre and plant gum. Such replications enable interpretations of the cognitive abilities of people using Middle Stone Age technology.



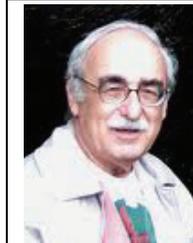
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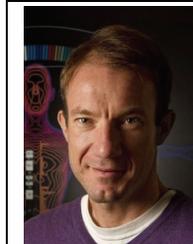
**Michael Hammer** is Associate Professor and Research Scientist (Arizona Research Laboratories) at the University of Arizona with joint appointments in Anthropology, Ecology, and Evolutionary Biology. Dr. Hammer is a population geneticist who studies patterns of genetic variation in modern-day populations to gain insights into the evolutionary origins of *Homo sapiens*. His laboratory is currently constructing a novel re-sequencing database of loci throughout the genome to understand better the evolutionary processes that shape human variation and to test models of human origins.



**Christopher Ehret** is Distinguished Research Professor of History at UCLA. In his work over the past four decades, he has especially sought to develop and expand the tools and techniques for reconstructing the ancient human past from the evidence of language and for correlating the evidence of language with other types of evidence. One long-running theme in his research has been the origins and early history of agriculture in Africa. Recently, he has embarked on new research into the longue durée histories of African kinship systems, and he has engaged in collaborative work with geneticists and biological anthropologists to correlate their findings with those of linguistics and archaeology.



**Ofer Bar-Yosef** is the George G. and Janet G.B. MacCurdy Professor of Prehistoric Archaeology in the Department of Anthropology at Harvard University. He has excavated Palaeolithic and Neolithic caves and open-air sites in Israel, Sinai (Egypt), Turkey, Czech Republic, Republic of Georgia, and China. His main interests and the subjects of his publications incorporate the evidence for early human dispersals into Eurasia, the demise of the Neanderthals, first archaic and modern humans in Asia, late Ice Age foragers, and the emergence of the earliest agricultural systems in the Near East (western Asia) and China where he is still involved in field work.



**Richard "Ed" Green** is Assistant Professor of Biomolecular Engineering at UC Santa Cruz. After receiving his Ph.D. from the UC Berkeley (2005), he joined Svante Pääbo's group at the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Biology as an NSF Postdoctoral fellow in Bioinformatics. There, he helped form and lead the Neanderthal Genome Sequencing Consortium that sequenced the genome of our closest extinct relative. The resulting paper won the Newcomb Cleveland Prize for the best paper in the journal *Science* for 2010. He is a Kavli Scholar, a Searle Scholar, and a Sloan Research Fellow. His current research program is generally involved in using genomics to answer fundamental biological questions.



**Iain Davidson** is Emeritus Professor of Archaeology and Paleoanthropology at the University of New England, Australia. His research has included work on the Spanish Upper Palaeolithic, archaeology and ethnography of Northwest Queensland, Australian rock art, the colonization of Sahul, language origins, cognitive evolution, and projects with multiple Aboriginal groups in Australia. Publications include numerous books, chapters, and journal articles. He is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Humanities, Visiting Chair of Australian Studies at Harvard University (2008-9), and 2010 recipient of the Rhys Jones Medal of the Australian Archaeological Association.