

## SPEAKER BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

### Anthropogeny: The Perspective from Africa

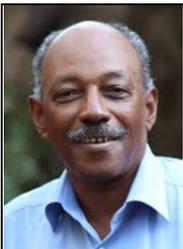
Friday, May 31, 2019



**Job Kibii** is a Senior Research Scientist and Head of Palaeontology and Palaeoanthropology at the National Museums of Kenya. He was the first indigenous African to obtain a PhD in Archaeology and Palaeoanthropology from the University of the Witwatersrand (South Africa). He has directed research in sites such as Malapa, Gondolin, Pangani, and Kimengich. Kibii was a member of the discovery team behind *Australopithecus sediba* and has discovered hominid specimens belonging to *Australopithecus africanus* and *Australopithecus sediba*. His research interest includes using taphonomy to understand depositional events in cave systems and the behavior of early hominins by examining their postcranial morphology.



**Andossa Likius** is one of the first two paleontologists from Chad. He is currently the Chancellor of the University of Moundou (Chad). Likius is an active member of the French-Chadian international research program leading to the discovery of the earliest hominins in Chad, Central Africa. His research expertise extends to several groups of large African ungulates that are key elements of the ecosystems in which the first representatives of humankind lived. He is also interested in the issue of Quality Assurance. He occupied, respectively, the positions of Vice-Chancellor at the University of N' Djaména (2012-2017), Sarh University (2012) and Director of Paleontology Department (2009-2012).



**Yonas Beyene** earned his PhD from the National Natural History Museum (MNHN), Paris, in 1991 in Quaternary: Geology, Human Paleontology and Prehistory, specializing in Prehistory. He is the Director of the Konso Paleontological Research project and project archaeologist for the Middle Awash and Chorora Paleontological projects. He discovered and published the world's earliest Acheulean technology and its evolution between 1.75 and 0.8 million years before present. He has published extensively.



**Lyn Wadley** is a Professor based in the Evolutionary Studies Institute at the University of the Witwatersrand (South Africa) where she specializes in Middle Stone Age cognitive archaeology. She is an A1-rated National Research Foundation researcher and recipient of some of South Africa's top research awards. In 2014 and 2015, she was on the Thomson-Reuters High Citation list that records the top 1% of researchers globally. Her research into cognitive archaeology provides theory and methods for demonstrating that some Stone Age technologies can be proxies for complex brain power. She has excavated three important Middle Stone Age archaeological sites: Rose Cottage Cave in the eastern Free State and Sibudu and Border Caves in KwaZulu-Natal.



**Himla Soodyall** is Professor of Human Genetics at the University of the Witwatersrand (South Africa). Her research focusses on using molecular genetic tools to reconstruct the evolutionary history and affinities of sub-Saharan African populations. She is currently the Executive Officer of the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf). She has been the recipient of numerous awards and accolades, including the Order of Mapungubwe (Bronze Medal), by President Mbeki in 2005.

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**Berhane Asfaw** is the manager of the Rift Valley Research Service and a co-director of the Middle Awash Research Project. He has spent over thirty years working on the earliest hominids in Africa's Great Rift Valley. His teams are credited with discovering fossils that provide strong evidence for Africa as the cradle of humanity. The fossils range up to 6 million years ago and include the most complete, earliest modern humans at 160 thousand years old. Asfaw served as the Director of the National Museum of Ethiopia and member of the Center for Research and Conservation of Cultural Heritage in Ethiopia. After his undergraduate education in Addis Ababa in Geology, he received a fellowship from the Leakey Foundation to pursue a PhD at the UC Berkeley.



**Sarah Wurz** is Associate Professor at both the School of Geography, Archaeology and Environmental Studies, University of the Witwatersrand (South Africa) and the Centre of Excellence on Early Sapiens Behavior at the University of Bergen (Norway). She is the director for excavations and research at Klasies River, a key site for understanding the origins of modern humans. Her research on the Middle Stone Age and the Klasies River sequence led to new insights into the complexity of lithic technological and related behaviors. Her background and expertise, which includes musicology, provide the multidisciplinary context from which she investigates past behavior and cognition.



**Abdoulaye Camara** conducts research in prehistoric archeology and teaches cultural heritage at the Fundamental Institute of Black Africa at the Cheikh Anta Diop University of Dakar (Senegal). In June 2018, he received the award of the XVIII World Congress of the International Union of the Prehistoric and Protohistoric Sciences for his work in Falémé Valley (Eastern Senegal). Camara's archaeological excavations at Sénoudébou, Sansandé, Djita, Guedekou, led to discovering the oldest Paleolithic sites (12,000 to 300,000 years ago) and to specify the geo-chrono-stratigraphic context of the Quaternary in the region. He also does ethnoarchaeological research in the Saloum Delta (Senegal) and teaches at the Senghor University of Alexandria, Egypt.



**Judith Sealy** is a Research Professor in the Department of Archaeology at the University of Cape Town (South Africa), where she specializes in stable isotope analyses of archaeological remains to reconstruct ancient diets and environments. Analyses of human remains provide information on spatial and chronological variation in peoples' diets, contributing to our understanding of economy and social organization. Studies of animal remains enable us to track environmental and climatic changes, and possible links with developments in human societies. This work combines archaeology with aspects of forensic and environmental science to address questions in human evolutionary ecology.

### Upcoming CARTA Symposia

Friday, October 11, 2019

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Winter 2020

**Exploring the Origins of Today's Humans**

Spring 2020

**The Evolution of Human Physical Activity**

Fall 2020

**Altered State of the Human Mind: Implications for Anthropogeny**

For more information or to register: <https://carta.anthropogeny.org>