

DySoC Webinar Series on Human Origins and Cultural Evolution

Questions from ***An extended origin: Climate, populations and palimpsests in the evolution of Homo sapiens***, with **Marta Lahr** (Archaeology and Anthropology, University of Cambridge, UK)

February 9, 2021

1. Is there any evidence of some migration *into* Africa?
2. (a) What is that framed picture, mounted on the wall behind you in your study there. And, (b) is it now outdated/superseded, due to your exciting new research you have just presented?
3. Are there any precedents for such energetic excellence in other life forms before hominin? Are there any similarities in the evolution of such energetic excellence?
4. I have always been fascinated about hunter gatherers. How far are we in terms of researching them and what do you await from geneticists?
5. Is there any evidence of genocide practiced by *Homo sapiens* against Neanderthals and other hominins?
6. Does the presently available data answer the question whether hominins/climate have a role in the turnover or faunal dynamics of Africa?
7. How do you think the mega-drought periods of contraction and fragmentation affected populations reintegrating with each other? Would this have pushed and improved social/collaborative capabilities of *sapiens*?
8. What is that new paper from China you mentioned that we are waiting on?
9. How does the Jebel Irhoud mandible compare morphologically with the one from Zhirendong (=Zhiren Cave) in Guangxi, southern China?
10. Is there evidence of occurrence of epidemics?
11. Is there evidence for similar population fragmentation and diversification in other large mammals (or other animals in general) during this period that parallels the hominin evidence you presented?
12. Thank you for the very interesting talk! Do you think the Jebel Irhoud and Florisbad fossils would be better interpreted as late forms of archaic humans (*H. heidelbergensis*?) instead of early *H. sapiens* (contra pan-African proponents), since the crucial trait of cranial globularity is lacking?