



All welcome

Leckhampton House, off Grange Road

8.15PM

Out of Africa: the Origin and Spread of Humanity

TUESDAY

Michael Petraglia

27 JUNE 2006

(Leverhulme Centre for Human Evolutionary Studies)

27 June

Our hominid ancestors arose in Africa and eventually spread to other parts of Eurasia. Our team has been investigating the earliest movements of our ancestors through the Arabian peninsula and on into the Indian subcontinent. Current research indicates that the cognitive abilities of our early ancestors were sometimes quite sophisticated, though certain behaviours appear to be relatively conservative. Our team is studying what happened to these archaic ancestors once our own species, *Homo sapiens*, arrived in these regions. New archaeological discoveries in India have shown that hominids may have been impacted by the Toba volcanic super-eruption of 74,000 years ago. Many sophisticated behaviours appear after the Toba super-eruption, suggesting that this volcanic catastrophe had a profound effect on the course of human evolution.

Crosstalk

The Crosstalk society is organised by and for postdocs, students, visiting scholars, fellows, and anyone interested in a wide range of topics beyond their own academic discipline.

A 'crosstalk' tries to convey the fascinating aspects of a subject related to the speaker's work, in terms understandable to nonexperts yet on a high level. The talks are usually accompanied and followed by lively discussions and questions. We meet in Leckhampton House (Corpus Christi College). Those who can come earlier may join us for the informal Leckhampton dinner at 7 pm (booking required).

Further information

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<http://www.corpus.cam.ac.uk/crosstalk/>