



An African Structured Metapopulation Model for Human Origins

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Models of human origins in Africa have traditionally been represented by trees, in which branches represent homogenous units, often interpreted as a single, small source population in one region of the continent. However, ever richer palaeanthropological, genomic and palaeoecological data indicates that the whole of Africa should be considered if we are to understand human origins in a more realistic framework. The African structured metapopulation model (SAM) transcends traditional tree-like models and uniquely captures dynamic connections and disconnections between geographically subdivided populations as a consequence of climate changes across the continent. The insights gained from a SAM model highlight key future directions, including requirements to understand opportunities for population contact and separation, and data from underrepresented regions of Africa.

Eleanor Scerri received her PhD in Archaeological Science in 2013 from the University of Southampton. She subsequently worked at the Universities of Bordeaux with a Fyssen Fellowship, and the University of Oxford with a British Academy Postdoctoral Fellowship, before receiving a Marie Skłodowska Curie Fellowship at the Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History. In 2019, she was awarded a Lise Meitner Research Group - the Pan African Evolution Research Group - with a W2 Professorship at the same institution.



The new Earth Surface Dynamics seminar series aims to bring together the broad range of researchers on Telegrafenberg looking at Earth surface processes (e.g., hydrology, geochemistry, geobiology, geochemical/carbon cycling, geomorphology) once a month. The aim for these talks is to be broad and accessible and deal with big, global topics, so that non-experts and specialists alike can find them enlightening.

Main lecture room, Haus H
Telegrafenberg, 14473 Potsdam