
University of Pennsylvania
Institute for Environmental Studies



presents

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Modern Human Expansions Across Changing Landscapes

Modern human populations began rapidly expanding out of Africa and into the rest of the world between 60-70,000 years ago. The exact conditions under which this expansion began are not well understood, but some have speculated that a major volcanic eruption in Indonesia around 75,000 ybp may have played a role in it. Regardless of the stimulus for this expansion, by 30,000 ybp, human groups had expanded into most of the Old World. The onset of the last glacial maximum, which peaked at 18,000 ybp, significantly reshaped the distribution of human populations in the Old World during this time, and also led to several major population re-expansions across Eurasia once the major ice sheets receded. The first human groups began colonizing the Americas during the LGM, as well. The Holocene was marked by the final push of human groups into unoccupied regions, in this case, the remote Pacific, and their occupation of more extreme and challenging environments, such as the Arctic (cold) and the Himalayas (high altitude). It was also during this time that humans began significantly reshaping their environments through the domestication of plants and animals. This presentation summarizes these events, as viewed through the lens of molecular genetics, and briefly considers the implications of climatic change for contemporary human populations.

Date: February 8, 2006

Time: NOON - 1:30 pm

Place: Carolyn Hoff Lynch Auditorium

On the Penn campus: Chemistry Building
34 & Spruce Sts. (enter on 34 St)

NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED

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NO FOOD OR DRINK PERMITTED IN THE AUDITORIUM
