

Generous funding for this conference was provided by the School of Arts and Humanities, University of Cambridge

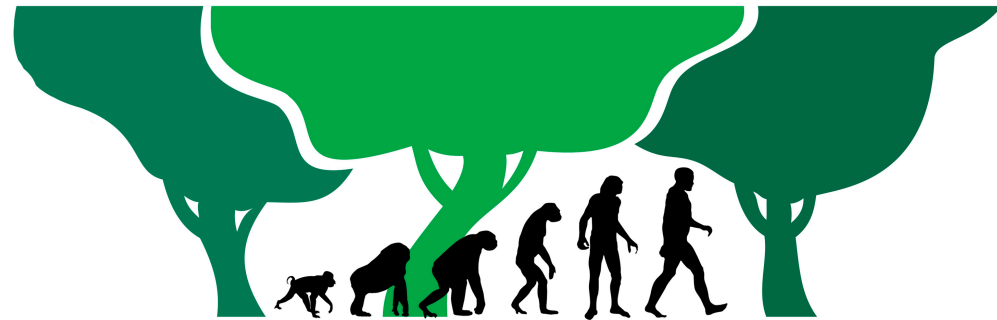
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RELOCATING HUMAN ORIGINS



What if Adam lived in the forest?

5 JULY 2013



**UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE**

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ABOUT

Conventional scientific wisdom holds that modern humans evolved in the East African savannah. But what if the cradle of human evolution was actually the Central African forest, as hinted by new Y-chromosome results? How might this change our understanding of human evolution? Does the forest still influence who we are today? The Relocating Human Origins conference explores the implications of a forest origin for human population genetics, disease ecology, social systems, and cultural evolution. The conference will take place in Cambridge on Friday 5th July and present a number of invited and submitted talks culminating in a panel discussion in the afternoon.

The Relocating Human Origins Conference is hosted by the Biological Anthropology Division of the Department of Archaeology & Anthropology, University of Cambridge. The inspiration for 'what if Adam lived in the forest' is drawn from recent analyses of Y-chromosome data. Mendez *et al.* (2013) published their results in an *American Journal of Genetics* article, 'An African American paternal lineage adds an extremely ancient root to the human Y-chromosome phylogenetic tree'.

PROGRAMME

8.30 – 9.00	Registration & Coffee
9.00 – 9.15	Opening speech
9.15 – 10.00	Tom Currie – Cultural Evolution: Opportunities and challenges for investigating a rainforest origin of modern Homo sapiens
10.00 – 10.45	Corey Fincher – Behavioral immunity and the parasite-driven-wedge model of the genesis of cultures and species
10.45 – 11.15	Coffee break
11.15 – 12.00	Mark Thomas – An African American paternal lineage adds an extremely ancient root to the human Y chromosome phylogenetic tree: What difference does it make?
12.00 – 12.45	Peter Walsh – Pathogen rain, spatial structure and the evolution of human genetic and cultural diversity
12.45 – 14.00	Lunch break
14.00 – 15.30	Panel discussion A – “Spatialising” research on genetic diversity. Panelists: Laurent Excoffier, Mark Thomas, Aylwyn Scally, Anders Eriksson, Joseph Lachance
15.30 – 16.00	Coffee break
16.00 – 17.30	Panel discussion B – “Spatialising” research on cultural diversity. Panelists: William Banks, Pete Richerson, Peter Walsh, Tom Currie, Corey Fincher
17.30 – 17.45	Closing speech
17.45	Barbecue

