



# NEANDERTHAL: THE CONFERENCE

## CALPE '26 PROGRAMME

2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> September 2026

### Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September

**09:00** Official Opening

**09:15** Alex Menez<sup>1,2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>The Gibraltar National Museum, Gibraltar

<sup>2</sup>University of Gibraltar, Gibraltar

**Dorothy Garrod and The Devil's Tower Skull**

**10:15** Coffee

**10:35** Jose Maria Fernandez Palacios

Universidad de La Laguna, Spain

**Islands as refugia. The case of the Macaronesian laurel forest**

**11:35** Geraldine Finlayson<sup>1,2,3</sup>, Stewart Finlayson<sup>1,2,3</sup>, Richard Jennings<sup>2</sup>, Joaquín Rodríguez Vidal<sup>1</sup>, Clive Finlayson<sup>1,2,3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>The Gibraltar National Museum, Gibraltar

<sup>2</sup>Liverpool John Moores University, UK

<sup>3</sup>University of Gibraltar, Gibraltar

**Mainland Macaronesia? Thoughts on the Gibraltar and other Atlantic Neanderthal coastal refugia**

**12:35** John Murray

University of Galway, Ireland

**There is another: William King and the naming of the Neanderthals**

**13:00** Lunch

**14:00** Carlos Neto de Carvalho

Naturtejo UNESCO Global Geopark, Portugal

**Tracks, Tides, and Time: Six Million Years of Hominid Footprints and Shoreline Use**

**15:00** Geoff Bailey

University of York, UK

**World History from the Margins: Coastal Archaeology, Drowned Landscapes and their Relevance to Human Evolution**

**16:00** Tea

**16:20** Discussion

**18:30** International Premier Film Screening

***The Last Traces of the Neanderthal***

## Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September

**09:00** John Shea

Stony Brook University, USA

**O brave New World: What insights does the Contact Period in the Americas offer about Later Pleistocene human dispersals into Europe?**

**10:00** Coffee

**10:20** Mina Weinstein-Evron

University of Haifa, Israel

***Homo sapiens* and others in Middle Palaeolithic Mount Carmel**

**11:20** Tom Higham

University of Vienna, Austria

**Improved chronometric methods and their impact on dating the disappearance of Neanderthals**

**12:20** G. Abrams<sup>1,2</sup>, M. Hajdinjak<sup>3</sup>, K. Di Modica<sup>2</sup>, S. Pirson<sup>4,5</sup>, T. Devière<sup>6</sup>, T. Higham<sup>7</sup>, G. Guérin<sup>8</sup>, P. Semal<sup>9</sup>, I. De Groote<sup>1</sup>, M. Toussaint<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>3</sup>Department of Evolutionary Genetics, Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Germany

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<sup>5</sup>Department of Geology and European Archaeometry Centre, University of Liège, Belgium

<sup>6</sup>European Centre for Research and Education in Environmental Geosciences (CEREGE), Aix-Marseille University, CNRS, IRD, INRAE, France

<sup>7</sup>Human Evolution and Archaeological Sciences (HEAS), University of Vienna, Austria

<sup>8</sup>Univ Rennes, CNRS, Géosciences Rennes, France

<sup>9</sup>Scientific Heritage Service, Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, Belgium

**Post MIS4 Neanderthals in Belgium: coexistence or succession of different maternal lineages?**

**12:40** Tristan Dedrie<sup>1,2</sup>, Kévin Di Modica<sup>3</sup>, Stéphane Pirson<sup>4,5,6</sup>, Isabelle De Groote<sup>1</sup>, Grégory Abrams<sup>1,2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>ArcheOs, Department of Archaeology, Ghent University, Belgium

<sup>2</sup>Research Foundation-Flanders (FWO), Belgium

<sup>3</sup>Scladina Cave Archaeological Centre, Espace Muséal d'Andenne, Belgium

<sup>4</sup>Direction Scientifique et Technique, Agence Wallonne du Patrimoine, Belgium

<sup>5</sup>European Archaeometry Centre, Liège University, Belgium

<sup>6</sup>Department of Geology, Liège University, Belgium

**Human Presence and Faunal Dynamics during the Late Saalian at Scladina Cave (prov. Namur, BE)**

**13:00** Lunch

**14:00** Katerina Douka

University of Vienna, Austria

**Biomolecular approaches to understanding Neanderthals and Denisovans**

**15:00** Matthias Meyer

Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Germany

**Investigating Neanderthal evolutionary history through DNA analysis**

**16:00** Tea

**16:20** John Hawks

University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA

**Living with Neanderthals: Biographies of Lost People Through Sites and Skeletons**

**17:20** Grégory Abrams<sup>1,2,3</sup>, Patrick Auguste<sup>4</sup>, Stéphane Pirson<sup>5,6</sup>, Isabelle De Grootte<sup>2,7</sup>, Éva Halbrucker<sup>8</sup>, Kévin Di Modica<sup>3</sup>, Camille Pironneau<sup>2</sup>, Tristan Dedrie<sup>1,2</sup>, Carlo Meloro<sup>7</sup>, Valentin Fischer<sup>9</sup>, Hervé Bocherens<sup>10,11</sup>, Yves Vanbrabant<sup>12</sup>, Fabrice Bray<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>10</sup>Department of Geosciences, Biogeology, University of Tübingen, Germany

<sup>11</sup>Senckenberg Centre for Human Evolution and Palaeoenvironment, Germany

<sup>12</sup>Geological Survey of Belgium, Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, Belgium

<sup>13</sup>UAR 3290 - MSAP - Miniaturisation pour la Synthèse, l'Analyse et la Protéomique, CNRS, University of Lille, France

### **Earliest Evidence of Multifunctional Bone Tool Production by Neanderthals Using Cave Lion Remains**

**17:40** Jordi Rosell<sup>1,2</sup>, Maite Arilla<sup>1,2</sup>, Ruth Blasco<sup>1,2</sup>, Gabriel Cifuentes<sup>1,2</sup>, Daniel Vivar-Ríos<sup>1,2</sup>, Rubén Llorente<sup>1,2</sup>, Arnaud Barat<sup>1,2</sup>, Andreu Sansó<sup>3,4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Àrea de Prehistòria, Universitat Rovira i Virgili (URV), Spain

<sup>2</sup>IPHES, Institut Català de Paleoecologia Humana i Evolució Social, Spain

<sup>3</sup>Departament d'Economia Aplicada, Universitat de Les Illes Balears, Spain

<sup>4</sup>Models for Information Processing and Fuzzy Information (MOTIBO) Research Group, Health Research Institute of the Balearic Islands, Idisba, Spain

### **Who Is Behind the Chaos? Wild Carnivore Neotaphonomy and Middle Palaeolithic Settlement Duration**

**18:00** Gabriel Cifuentes<sup>1,2</sup>, Daniel Vivar-Ríos<sup>1,2</sup>, Rubén Llorente<sup>1,2</sup>, Arnaud Barat<sup>1,2</sup>, Andreu Sansó<sup>3,4</sup>, Maite Arilla<sup>1,2</sup>, Ruth Blasco<sup>1,2</sup>, Jordi Rosell<sup>1,2</sup>

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### **The Order Within Chaos: Wild Carnivore Neo-taphonomy to Disentangle Complex Archaeological Assemblages at Teixonerres Cave (Barcelona, Spain)**

**18:20** Discussion

## Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September

- 09:00** Rob Foley  
University of Cambridge, UK  
**Species, speciation and macroevolution in hominin evolution**
- 10:00** Coffee
- 10:20** Christoph Zollikofer, Marcia Ponce de Leon  
University of Zurich, Switzerland  
**Neanderthals from head to toe**
- 11:20** Marta Mirazón Lahr  
University of Cambridge, UK  
**Forty years on: changing perspectives on recent human evolution**
- 12:20** Miki Ben-Dor, Ran Barkai  
Department of Archaeology, Tel Aviv University, Israel  
**Neanderthal Extinction as a Consequence of the Late Quaternary Megafaunal Extinction: A Bioenergetic Hypothesis**
- 12:40** Discussion
- 13:00** Lunch
- 14:00** Ian Tattersall  
American Museum of Natural History, USA  
**Neanderthals: still evolving in the human mind**
- 15:00** Milford Wolpoff, Rachel Caspari  
University of Michigan and Central Michigan University, USA  
**Candelabras, Noah's Ark and Neandertals: Personal Perspectives on the Evolution of a Discipline**
- 16:00** Tea
- 16:20** José Antonio Solano-García<sup>1</sup>, Arturo de Lombera<sup>2</sup>, Alejandro Prieto de Dios<sup>3</sup>, Juha Saarinen<sup>4</sup>, Hervé Bocherens<sup>5</sup>, Manuel Munuera<sup>6</sup>, Gabriela Amorós<sup>7</sup>, Mario Gutiérrez<sup>8</sup>, Natalia Egüez<sup>9</sup>, Antonio García-Alix<sup>10</sup>, Christian Sánchez-Bandera<sup>11</sup>, Alexia Serrano-Ramos<sup>12</sup>, Darío Herranz-Rodrigo<sup>1</sup>, Elisabeth Ortiz-García<sup>1</sup>, Juan José González-Quiñones<sup>12</sup>, Eva Montilla<sup>13</sup>, César Viseras<sup>10</sup>, Mathieu Duval<sup>14</sup>, José Carrión<sup>7</sup>, Carolina Mallol<sup>15</sup>, Juan Manuel Jiménez-Arenas<sup>1</sup>
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<sup>4</sup>Department of geosciences and geography, University of Helsinki, Finland  
<sup>5</sup>Department of Geosciences, University of Tübingen, Germany  
<sup>6</sup>Departamento de Ingeniería Agronómica, Universidad Politécnica de Cartagena, Murcia  
<sup>7</sup>Departamento de Biología Vegetal, Universidad de Murcia, Spain  
<sup>8</sup>Departamento de Patrimonio Histórico, Universidad de Jaén, Spain  
<sup>9</sup>Instituto de Productos Naturales y Agrobiología, CSIC, Spain  
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<sup>11</sup>Institut Català de Paleoecologia Humana i Evolució Social, Spain  
<sup>12</sup>Departamento de Expresión Gráfica en la Arquitectura, Universidad de Granada, Spain  
<sup>13</sup>Museo Primeros Pobladores de Europa 'Josep Gibert', Orce, Granada, Spain  
<sup>14</sup>Centro Nacional de Investigación sobre la Evolución Humana, Spain  
<sup>15</sup>Departamento de Geografía e Historia, Universidad de La Laguna, Spain
- Old landscapes, new lenses: revisiting the Middle Pleistocene archaeological site of Solana del Zamborino (Fonelas, Geopark of Granada, Spain)**

## Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September

**16:40** Peter Sahlins

University of California, USA

**The “Hominization” of Neanderthals: What’s Driving the Story?**

**17:00** Chris Stringer

The Natural History Museum, UK

**Still “In Search of the Neanderthals”**

**18:00** Discussion



## Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> September

**09:00** Ludovic Slimak

CNRS, Centre for Anthropobiology and Genomics of Toulouse, Université de Toulouse, France

### **What Neanderthals Reveal About Us**

**10:00** Coffee

**10:20** Joao Zilhao

University of Lisbon, Portugal

### **The Neanderthal debate two centuries after Engis: one step forward, two steps backward**

**11:20** Francesco d'Errico

University of Bordeaux, France

### **The culturalisation of the body in human evolution and the origin of fashion**

**12:20** Linda Amos

Christian Albrechts University of Kiel, Germany

### **Neanderthal Bird Exploitation at Devil's Tower Rock Shelter: Integrating a Legacy Assemblage into the Gibraltarian Middle Palaeolithic**

**12:40** Discussion

**13:00** Lunch

**14:00** Stewart Finlayson<sup>1-3</sup>, Clive Finlayson<sup>1-3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>The Gibraltar National Museum, Gibraltar

<sup>2</sup>Liverpool John Moores University, UK

<sup>3</sup>University of Gibraltar, Gibraltar

### **Neanderthals and birds**

**15:00** April Nowell

University of Victoria, Canada

### **Paleolithic Children Come of Age**

**16:00** Tea

**16:20** Clive Finlayson<sup>1-3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>The Gibraltar National Museum, Gibraltar

<sup>2</sup>Liverpool John Moores University, UK

<sup>3</sup>University of Gibraltar, Gibraltar

### **The Neanderthal Niche**

**17:20** Discussion