



NEANDERTHAL: THE CONFERENCE

CALPE '26 PROGRAMME

2nd – 5th September 2026

Wednesday 2nd September

09:00 Official Opening

09:15 Alex Menez^{1,2}

¹The Gibraltar National Museum, Gibraltar

²University 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^{1,2,3}, Stewart Finlayson^{1,2,3}, Richard Jennings², Joaquín Rodríguez Vidal¹, Clive Finlayson^{1,2,3}

¹The Gibraltar National Museum, Gibraltar

²Liverpool John Moores University, UK

³University 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 Human Evolution

16:00 Tea

16:20 Discussion

18:30 International Premier Film Screening (by invitation only; limited spaces)

The Last Traces of the Neanderthal

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^{1,2}, M. Hajdinjak³, K. Di Modica², S. Pirson^{4,5}, T. Devière⁶, T. Higham⁷, G. Guérin⁸, P. Semal⁹, I. De Groote¹, M. Toussaint¹

¹Department of Archaeology, ArcheOs - Research Laboratory for Biological Anthropology, Ghent University, Belgium

²Scladina Cave Archaeological Centre, Espace muséal d'Andenne, Belgium

³Department of Evolutionary Genetics, Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Germany

⁴Direction scientifique et technique, Agence wallonne du Patrimoine, Belgium

⁵Department of Geology and European Archaeometry Centre, University of Liège, Belgium

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

⁷Human Evolution and Archaeological Sciences (HEAS), University of Vienna, Austria

⁸Univ Rennes, CNRS, Géosciences Rennes, France

⁹Scientific 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^{1,2}, Kévin Di Modica³, Stéphane Pirson^{4,5,6}, Isabelle De Groote¹, Grégory Abrams^{1,2}

¹ArcheOs, Department of Archaeology, Ghent University, Belgium

²Research Foundation-Flanders (FWO), Belgium

³Scladina Cave Archaeological Centre, Espace Muséal d'Andenne, Belgium

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⁵European Archaeometry Centre, Liège University, Belgium

⁶Department 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 and the Ancient Environmental DNA Analysis Consortium

Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Germany

Beyond bones and teeth: new sources of ancient DNA for studying Neanderthals, Denisovans and modern humans

16:00 Tea

16:20 Grégory Abrams^{1,2,3}, Patrick Auguste⁴, Stéphane Pirson^{5,6}, Isabelle De Groote^{2,7}, Éva Halbrucker⁸, Kévin Di Modica³, Camille Pironneau², Tristan Dedrie^{1,2}, Carlo Meloro⁷, Valentin Fischer⁹, Hervé Bocherens^{10,11}, Yves Vanbrabant¹², Fabrice Bray¹³

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⁴CNRS, Univ. Lille UMR 8198 - Evo-Eco-Paléo, France

⁵Direction scientifique et technique, Agence wallonne du Patrimoine, Belgium

⁶Department of Geology (RU Geology) and European Archaeometry Centre (RU Art, Archaeology, Heritage), University of Liège, Belgium

⁷Research Centre in Evolutionary Anthropology and Palaeoecology, School of Biological & Environmental Sciences, Liverpool John Moores University, UK

⁸Prehistory Research Group, Department of Archaeology, Ghent University, Belgium

⁹Evolution & Diversity Dynamics Lab, RU Geology, University of Liège, Belgium

¹⁰Department of Geosciences, Biogeology, University of Tübingen, Germany

¹¹Senckenberg Centre for Human Evolution and Palaeoenvironment, Germany

¹²Geological Survey of Belgium, Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, Belgium

¹³UAR 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

16:40 Jordi Rosell^{1,2}, Maite Arilla^{1,2}, Ruth Blasco^{1,2}, Gabriel Cifuentes^{1,2}, Daniel Vivar-Ríos^{1,2}, Rubén Llorente^{1,2}, Arnaud Barat^{1,2}, Andreu Sansó^{3,4}

¹Àrea de Prehistòria, Universitat Rovira i Virgili (URV), Spain

²IPHES, Institut Català de Paleoecologia Humana i Evolució Social, Spain

³Departament d'Economia Aplicada, Universitat de Les Illes Balears, Spain

⁴Models 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

17:00 Gabriel Cifuentes^{1,2}, Daniel Vivar-Ríos^{1,2}, Rubén Llorente^{1,2}, Arnaud Barat^{1,2}, Andreu Sansó^{3,4}, Maite Arilla^{1,2}, Ruth Blasco^{1,2}, Jordi Rosell^{1,2}

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³Departament d'Economia Aplicada, Universitat de Les Illes Balears, Spain

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

17:20 Discussion

Friday 4th 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** John Hawks
University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA
Living with Neanderthals: Biographies of Lost People Through Sites and Skeletons
- 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** Juha J. Saarinen
University of Helsinki, Finland
Mammal ecometrics and Neanderthals – reconstructing the broadening niche of Middle Pleistocene humans from large mammal communities
- 15:00** Ian Tattersall
American Museum of Natural History, USA
Neanderthals: still evolving in the human mind
- 16:00** Tea
- 16:20** José Antonio Solano-García¹, Arturo de Lombera², Alejandro Prieto de Dios³, Juha Saarinen⁴, Hervé Bocherens⁵, Manuel Munuera⁶, Gabriela Amorós⁷, Mario Gutiérrez⁸, Natalia Egüez⁹, Antonio García-Alix¹⁰, Christian Sánchez-Bandera¹¹, Alexia Serrano-Ramos¹², Darío Herranz-Rodrigo¹, Elisabeth Ortiz-García¹, Juan José González-Quñones¹², Eva Montilla¹³, César Viseras¹⁰, Mathieu Duval¹⁴, José Carrión⁷, Carolina Mallol¹⁵, Juan Manuel Jiménez-Arenas¹
- ¹Departamento de Prehistoria y Arqueología, Universidad de Granada, Spain
²Departamento de Historia, Universidad de Oviedo, Spain
³Grupo de Investigación SPEGEOCHERT StG-ERC, Universitat de Barcelona, Spain
⁴Department of geosciences and geography, University of Helsinki, Finland
⁵Department of Geosciences, University of Tübingen, Germany
⁶Departamento de Ingeniería Agronómica, Universidad Politécnica de Cartagena, Murcia
⁷Departamento de Biología Vegetal, Universidad de Murcia, Spain
⁸Departamento de Patrimonio Histórico, Universidad de Jaén, Spain
⁹Instituto de Productos Naturales y Agrobiología, CSIC, Spain
¹⁰Departamento de Estratigrafía y Paleontología, Universidad de Granada, Spain
¹¹Institut Català de Paleoecologia Humana i Evolució Social, Spain
¹²Departamento de Expresión Gráfica en la Arquitectura, Universidad de Granada, Spain
¹³Museo Primeros Pobladores de Europa 'Josep Gibert', Orce, Granada, Spain
¹⁴Centro Nacional de Investigación sobre la Evolución Humana, Spain
¹⁵Departamento 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 4th 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 5th 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 Gibraltar Middle Palaeolithic

12:40 Discussion

13:00 Lunch

14:00 Stewart Finlayson¹⁻³, Clive Finlayson¹⁻³

¹The Gibraltar National Museum, Gibraltar

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³University 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 Finlayson¹⁻³

¹The Gibraltar National Museum, Gibraltar

²Liverpool John Moores University, UK

³University of Gibraltar, Gibraltar

Drops in the ocean: forays into the worlds of Neanderthals

17:20 Discussion