



INSTITUTE OF HUMAN ORIGINS

Becoming Human: 30 Years of Research and Discovery



chris stringer

Natural History Museum London

origins of modern humans

REVISED DATE

**Thursday
February 2
5:30 pm
Coor Hall 170**

Human evolution can be divided into two main phases: a prehuman phase in Africa prior to two million years ago where walking upright had evolved but many other characteristics were still essentially ape-like, and a human phase with an increase in both brain size and behavioral complexity and an expansion from Africa. Evidence points strongly to Africa as the major center for the genetic, physical, and behavioral origins of both ancient and modern humans, but new discoveries are prompting a rethink of some aspects of our evolutionary origins, including the likelihood of interbreeding between archaic humans (for example the Neanderthals) and modern humans.

Chris Stringer has worked at the Natural History Museum London since 1973 and is now Research Leader in Human Origins and a Fellow of the Royal Society. His early research was on the relationship of Neanderthals and early modern humans in Europe, but through his work on the “Out of Africa” theory of modern human origins, he now collaborates with archaeologists, dating specialists, and geneticists in attempting to reconstruct the evolution of modern humans globally. He has excavated at sites in Britain and abroad and is currently leading the Ancient Human Occupation of Britain project in its third phase funded by the Leverhulme Trust. He has published over 200 scientific papers, and his recent books include *The Complete World of Human Evolution* (2005, with Peter Andrews), the award-winning *Homo britannicus* (2006), and most recently, *The Origin of Our Species* (June 2011).

This event is free and open to the public. Parking is available on ASU Tempe campus. For more information contact **480.727.6580** or visit iho.asu.edu/30thlectures.