

Arizona State University Institute of Human Origins

The Impact of “Lucy” on Human Origins Science

International Symposium
A Lucy 50 Event



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AR The Anatomical Record

9:00 am to 5:30 pm

Saturday, April 6, 2024

Walton Center for Planetary Health

ASU Institute of
Human Origins
Arizona State University

A research center of The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences



iho.asu.edu

9:00 am Welcome and Introduction

Yohannes Haile-Selassie, Director, Institute of Human Origins, Arizona State University

Session chair: Yohannes Haile-Selassie

9:05 am Before Lucy: The state of knowledge on human origins

Donald Johanson, Founding Director, Institute of Human Origins, Arizona State University

9:25 am The discovery and initial interpretation of 'Lucy' as a tipping-point in paleoanthropology

Ian Tattersall, Curator Emeritus, American Museum of Natural History

9:45 am Lucy's children and human origins

Zeray Alemseged, University of Chicago

10:05 am Break

Session chair: Chris Campisano

10:20 am What was Lucy's impact on our understanding of other australopith relatives?

Bernard Wood, George Washington University

10:40 am The Savanna "Hypothesis": Tracing an enigmatic idea through time

Kaye Reed, Institute of Human Origins, Arizona State University

11:00 am What was Lucy's impact on our understanding of bipedality, diet, and encephalization?

Carol Ward, University of Missouri

11:20 am Lucy and evolution of hand dexterity and tool use

Tracy Kivell, Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology

11:40 am How the paleo diet worked for Lucy – and led to us

Jessica Thompson, Yale University

12:00 pm How did Lucy become a fossil? Investigating the life, death, and preservation of a famous hominin

Anna K. Behrensmeyer, Smithsonian Institution

12:20 pm Lunch

Session chair: Denise Su

1:45 pm Lucy's legacy and the past and future of primate research

Melissa Emery Thompson, University of New Mexico

2:05 pm Naming Lucy: Taxonomic reasoning in paleoanthropology

Andra Meneganzin, Kaatholieke Universiteit Leuven

2:25 pm Lucy's contribution: Understanding the sequence of steps leading to human uniqueness

Kim Hill, Institute of Human Origins, Arizona State University

2:45 pm Lucy, African heritage, and 'Paleodoms'

Job Kibii, National Museums of Kenya, Nairobi

3:05 pm The first paleo-rock star: Is Lucy still an influencer?

Ann Gibbons, Science Magazine

3:25 pm Break

Session chair: Curtis Marean

3:40 pm Fifty years since Lucy's discovery: Advances in scientific knowledge on human origins and the development of African paleosciences

Yohannes Haile-Selassie, Director, Institute of Human Origins, Arizona State University

4:00 pm Panel Discussions

Christopher Campisano, IHO Research Scientist, ASU Institute of Human Origins

Ann Gibbons, Science Magazine

Yohannes Haile-Selassie, Director, ASU Institute of Human Origins

Curtis Marean, IHO Research Scientist, ASU Institute of Human Origins

Kathryn Ranhorn, IHO Research Scientist, ASU Institute of Human Origins

Denise Su, IHO Research Scientist, ASU Institute of Human Origins

4:40 pm Question and Answer Period

Moderated by Denise Su

Email questions all day to iho@asu.edu

5:00 pm Concluding Remarks

Donald Johanson, Founding Director, Institute of Human Origins, Arizona State University

5:30 pm Session Ends