Institute of Human Origins

Groundbreaking Institute of Human Origins research and discovery have brought us to the beginning of a tantalizing new chapter in the quest for our origins. Through research in Arizona State University labs and at field sites around the world, our team has led the way in creating new knowledge about our place in the world and how we came to occupy it — collaborative research that promises to reveal how our species transcended its position as a prominent species on a millions-of-years-old African landscape to become the preeminent species on the planet today.

The Institute of Human Origins is a model for a strong public/private partnership between ASU and the IHO Research Council that is key to our success and a critical aspect of our long-term vision. The IHO Research Council comprises individuals from business, education and scientific communities who are passionate about our mission to understand how we “became human.” The Research Council provides support for institute operations, research and outreach, and through its broad network, provides an outlet for our diverse public programs. The Research Council is led by the Executive Board, which plays a vital role in strategic planning, development and financial oversight.

IHO Research Council membership entitles members to a suite of benefits, including:

• Exclusive invitations to events where institute scientists discuss their latest finds
• Early access to international trips led by institute scientists to off-the-tourist-path fossil and archaeological sites
• Participation in twice-annual IHO Research Council weekends, which bring council members together with our scientists and students in small, informal social gatherings

We invite you to share in this extraordinary journey

For more information on joining the search for human origins with the IHO Research Council, contact:

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480-727-6580

icho.asu.edu

Field sites

1997–2017

- Bolivia
- China
- Ethiopia
- Fiji Islands
- India
- Italy
- Kenya
- Malawi
- Mongolia
- Morocco
- Paraguay
- Peru
- Philippines
- South Africa
- Tanzania
- Uganda
- Venezuela
EXCELLENCE + RESEARCH = IMPACT

Our high-achieving scientists work across an array of perspectives on key questions representing more than six million years of human evolutionary history.

We have a long-term commitment to strategically important field sites and cutting-edge analysis supported by public and private funding.

Our strategic vision reaches across traditional disciplinary boundaries to create novel approaches to the solution of pressing and newly emerging scientific questions.

We are training the next generation of human origins scientists

26 PhD graduates affiliated with IHO scientists (1997–2017)

65 percent of PhD graduates are women

National and international excellence

1 National Academy of Sciences Fellow
1 Andrew Carnegie Fellow
4 Fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science
1 Past Program Director for the National Science Foundation’s Biological Anthropology Program


$17 million National Science Foundation Paleolakebed Drilling Project IHO joins an international team in Kenya and Ethiopia (2012)

$2.5 million National Science Foundation Human Origins: Moving in New Directions Pinnacle Point research team awarded largest ever NSF grant for anthropology (2017)

$8 million Philanthropy

$6 million National Science Foundation

$2 million Arizona State University

2005–2017

Changing the paradigm of human origins research


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Genetic inquiry DNA research opening new paths to ancient human origins and the genetic bases of primate behavior

High-profile discovery Searching for our origins, from “Lucy” to the earliest evidence of our own genus, Homo

Human uniqueness Exploring the emergence of uniquely human attributes and understanding our species development and its indelible impact on the planet

Emergence of modern humans in Africa Discoveries that reveal how the earliest modern humans evolved before and after the great diaspora out of Africa

Human adaptation to a changeable planet Excavating deep earth cores to examine how global climate affects human evolution

What nonhuman primates tell us about how our ancient ancestors developed cooperative behaviors

Making the science of anthropology accessible for middle-school to early high-school students

askananthropologist.asu.edu

Webby-award winning website for older learners and the general public

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