Advances in Stratigraphy and Geochronology

Virtual Seminar Series of the Stratigraphy and Chronology Commission (SACCOM) of INQUA

Thursdays at 9 am USA EST, 2 pm London, 3 pm Paris, and 10 pm Beijing time.

The fifth talk of the weekly series is on May 27, given by:

Professor Thomas Higham (University of Oxford, England)
“Improving chronology building of the Middle to Upper Palaeolithic of Eurasia”

Professor Tom Higham is the Director of the Oxford Radiocarbon Accelerator Unit at the University of Oxford. His research interests revolve around archaeological dating using AMS, radiocarbon dating of bone, the chronology of the Middle and Upper Palaeolithic of Europe, reservoir effects in 14C, the application of Bayesian calibration methods to archaeological dating, dating novel sample types and sample pretreatment chemistry. He is a Fellow of Keble College, Oxford and an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand.

Abstract: In this lecture I will discuss new approaches to understanding when and how Homo sapiens expanded out of Africa and met Neanderthals, Denisovans, and others, in the wide expanses of Eurasia. Radiocarbon dating is the most regularly applied chronometric method but its effectiveness has been affected by the challenge of removing contaminants that tend to produce younger ages for samples dating >30,000 BP. Only by improving the chemical pretreatment of samples such as bone and charcoal can reliable dates be obtained.

For more details of the full seminar series please go to the SACCOM webpage at: https://www.inqua.org/commissions/saccom/ifg. Please see the Zoom link below.

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Advances in Stratigraphy and Geochronology
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Overseen by Lewis Owen on behalf of SACCOR