The Lapedo Child

20 YEARS

afterwards

December 15 and 16, 2018
- International Conference

O Menino do Lapedo

20 ANOS

depois

15 e 16 de dezembro 2018
- Conferência Internacional
The notion that the Lagar Velho child’s mosaic of anatomic features showed that Neandertal/modern human contact had resulted in extensive admixture and, eventually, disappearance-through-assimilation of the Neandertal phenotype, is now twenty years old. At the time, these propositions were the object of intense debate, but subsequent discoveries, namely of the Oase fossils of Romania, and the advent of nuclear genomics, have now settled the issue. The fundamental implication of these developments in Physical Anthropology and Paleogenetics was that no distinction at species level existed between the two sides of these biological interactions, with all the corresponding implications for the associated issues of putative difference in language skills, cognitive ability, culture, or technology — as indeed intimated by the archeological evidence accumulated in parallel. Yet, even though the “interbreeding debate” is now essentially a thing of the past, academic resistance to the acceptance of the Neandertals’ sapient-ness remains almost as strong as ever — cf. the reactions of many scholars to the recent news that they had been the world’s first cave artists and the people among which we find the earliest evidence for body painting and personal ornamentation. I will present these results, will discuss the arguments upon which objections to them have been raised, and conclude with a reflection on whether — just like those that followed the discovery of the Lagar Velho child — current Neandertal debates may well inform us a lot more about the present than they do about the past.
in broader ethological phenomena. Drawing on research into the corpse disposal activities of several animal taxa, I hope to show that Palaeolithic burials share a very deep evolutionary inheritance. Although the term 'burial' is appropriate for the three-stage physical process (dig a hole; put the corpse in it; cover it up) I suggest that for the underlying reasons for it suggest that ‘Neoclaustralisation’ may be a more appropriate term, and suggest that the Lapedo Child is an exemplar of cultural elaboration of this deep rooted behaviour.

Keywords: Burial; Thanatology; Gravettian; Magdalenian
Palavras-chave: Tanatologia; Gravetense; Madalenense

Debate 12:30 - 13:00
Lunch (free) | Almoço (livre) 13:00 - 14:15
14:30 - 17:30
4. Eugénia Cunha (14:30-15:00)
INMLCF, IP; Centre for Functional Ecology, Department of Life Sciences, University of Coimbra, Portugal

Title: Twenty years of postgraduate teaching in Human Evolution
Título: Vinte anos de ensino graduado em Evolução Humana

Abstract
Twenty years past the launching of the Master’s degree aimed at the training and dissemination of Human Evolution & Biology at the University of Coimbra, it is now time for a retrospective. It is pertinent to make an evaluation regarding the curricular progress of the course, shaped by novel data generated by ground-breaking research, thus promoting an escalating impact and interest in Human Evolution in our society. A critical analysis of the course will be carried out including the highlighting of successful cases – e.g. thesis and papers with the highest impact – as well as least positive aspects. Forecasts of the future evolution of this Master’s degree will also be discussed.

Keywords: Human evolution; Training; Social impact
Palavras-chave: Evolução humana; Educação; Impacto social
Title: The genetic history of Ice Age Europe
Título: A história genética da Idade do gelo na Europa

Abstract
The application of high throughput DNA sequencing technologies to ancient human skeletal remains has revolutionized the study of human mobility patterns and population dynamics through time. Recent years have witnessed a shift from studying short mitochondrial DNA fragments to entire ancient human genomes, enabling the identification of genetic changes in modern human populations from the Pleistocene to historical time periods around the globe. The direct comparison of ancient and modern genetic data, in combination with temporal transects in various regions of the world, allows to identify genetic turnovers, test for genetic continuity or for local extinctions of human populations. Despite the great progress and thousands of ancient human genomes published, little is currently known about the genetic history of Ice Age Europeans. So far only a few dozen individuals from Late Pleistocene Europe have been successfully analyzed. Here the genome-wide data currently available for Pleistocene European hunter gatherers will be reviewed. The data suggests that over the last 40,000 years, the proportion of Neanderthal DNA decreased from 3–6% to around 2%, consistent with natural selection against Neanderthal variants in modern humans. It will be shown that the earliest modern humans in Europe did not contribute substantially to present-day Europeans, all individuals between ~37,000 and ~14,000 years ago descended from a single founder population which forms part of the ancestry of present-day Europeans. A ~35,000-year-old individual from northwest Europe represents an early branch of this founder population which was then displaced across a broad region, before reappearing in southwest Europe during the last ice age ~19,000 years ago. During the major warming period after ~14,000 years ago, a new genetic component related to present-day Near Easterners appears in Europe. These results document how population turnover and migration have been recurring themes of European pre-history but also highlight the need for additional genomic data from Pleistocene hunter gatherers.

Keywords: Human history; Pleistocene hunter gatherers; Ancient DNA; Human mobility
Palavras-chave: História humana; Caçadores-recolectores do Pleistoceno; ADN antigo; Mobilidade humana

Coffee break | Pausa para café (15:30-16:00)