



SCHOOL FOR ADVANCED RESEARCH

2015–2016 MEMBERSHIP LECTURE SERIES

SAR *Humanity's Evolutionary Path – Fact & Fantasy*

ALL LECTURES ARE HELD at the New Mexico History Museum Auditorium from **6:30 to 7:30 p.m.** Please use the Washington Avenue entrance. Ticket sales begin at 5:30. **Free for SAR members. \$10 for nonmembers.** No advance reservations.

LECTURE SERIES SPONSORED BY:



Betty & Luke Vortman
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SEPTEMBER 10, 2015



Chris Boehm, University of Southern California
Hunter-Gatherer Morals

When it comes to determining the moral life of late Pleistocene foragers, scientists have little to go on. Using a large hunter-gatherer database that he created, cultural anthropologist Chris Boehm reconstructs the moral life of prehistoric foragers through the use of ethnographic analogy. The morals of today's hunter-gatherers are closely coordinated with what they do for a living and with their intense interest in keeping band life egalitarian and cooperative. They have strong opinions about right and wrong and are willing to act as a group to impose group rules on individuals prone to deviate. Hunter-gatherers live by the Golden Rule, promoting generous behavior that contributes to cooperation.

Sponsored by Santa Fe Audio Visual

OCTOBER 29, 2015



Marlene Zuk, University of Minnesota
Paleofantasy: What Evolution Tells Us about Modern Life

Are our bodies and brains at odds with contemporary life? Would we be better off if we reverted to the way things used to be, before the rapid changes of agriculture brought us diseases of civilization like diabetes and obesity? Biologist Marlene Zuk says that popular theories about how our ancestors lived—and why we should emulate them—are often based on speculation and reflect a basic misunderstanding about how evolution works. Despite suggestions that we would do well to emulate our Stone Age ancestors, ample evidence exists that our genes have changed substantially over the last few thousand years. There was never a time when everything about us—our bodies, our minds, or our behavior—was in perfect synch with the environment.

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JANUARY 21, 2016



John Huth, Harvard University

Navigation and the Lost Art of Wayfinding

Cultures, such as the Polynesians, the Vikings, and the early European explorers developed navigational schema that relied on a person's relation to the environment to find one's way. In the modern era, we have become accustomed to instantaneous transfer of information. To find our way, we use GPSs and devices that guide us from point A to point B without giving it a second thought. Are we losing the cognitive processes that our ancestors had, and at what price? John Huth, professor of physics, explores recent work on the organization of cognitive processes in the context of navigation as a template for how we organize our lives.

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MARCH 24, 2016



Agustin Fuentes, University of Notre Dame

Human Evolution: A Cocktail of Creativity

A cocktail of creativity and collaboration that is unique to our species has propelled the development of our bodies, minds, and cultures—for good and for bad. We are neither the nastiest nor the nicest species. We are neither entirely untethered from our biological nature nor slavishly yoked to it. It's not the drive to reproduce, compete for mates, resources, or power, nor our propensity for caring for one another that has separated us from all other creatures. We are first and foremost the species singularly distinguished and shaped by creativity. Biological anthropologist Agustin Fuentes provides a glimpse into the emerging new synthesis of the human evolutionary story.

Sponsored by George Watson; Flora Crichton Lecture Fund

APRIL 28, 2016



Barbara King, College of William and Mary

Animal Emotion

Biological anthropologist Barbara King reveals unexpected breadth in animal emotion, ranging from wild dolphins to farm animals to our much loved companion animals like dogs, cats, horses, and more. In this illustrated talk she shares stories of animal love and animal grief and responds to those who worry that attributing such deep emotion to other species is mere anthropomorphism. Tracing the evolution of mourning practices through human prehistory, King considers what knowledge of animal grief may mean for us today as we grapple more than ever before with issues of animal welfare.

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