

CARTTA



**Center for Academic Research
and Training in Anthropogeny**

"To explore and explain the origins of the human phenomenon"

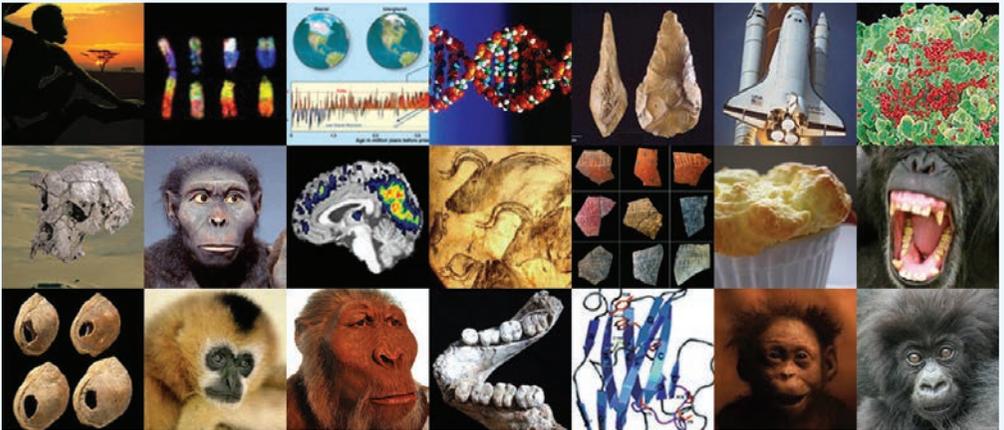
WHAT IS CARTA?

The Center for Academic Research and Training in Anthropogeny (CARTA) seeks to explore and explain the origins of the human phenomenon. CARTA is a transdisciplinary and scholarly effort involving UC San Diego and Salk Institute faculty, along with an international panel of prominent experts. At CARTA, research and discourse span an array of academic disciplines. It is from this unique approach that we ask and explore the fundamental questions that comprise anthropogeny:

- **Where did we humans come from?**
- **How did we get here?**

We are also deeply interested in important questions arising from these investigations:

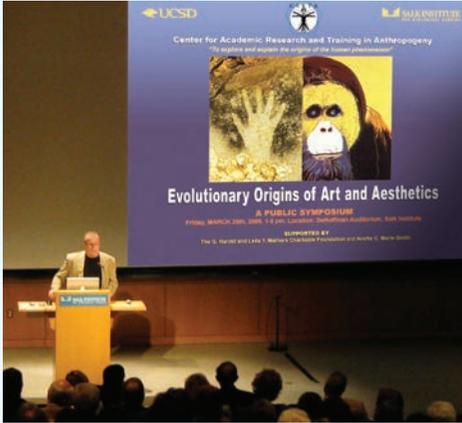
- **What are the practical applications for humans today?**
- **Where are we humans going in the future?**
- **How are we different from, and similar to, other animals?**



CARTA addresses these broad topics:

- Human and Non-Human Primate Genetics and Evolution
- Paleoanthropology and Hominid Origins
- Mammalian and Primate Neurosciences
- Primate Biology and Medicine
- Language, Communication and Cognition
- Nature-Nurture Interactions in Explaining Language and Cognition
- Human and Primate Society and Culture
- Comparative Developmental Biology of Primates
- General Theories for Explaining Humans

WHAT DOES CARTA DO?



Public Symposia & Lectures

CARTA hosts three public symposia each year on subjects related to human origins, ranging from altruism to bipedalism, art and aesthetics to the genetics of humanness, and from nutrition to theory of mind. Each symposium features nine short talks presented by experts who lead the research. Watched in person or live via a webcast worldwide, CARTA

symposia are a global forum for understanding who we are and how we got here. Past symposia can be viewed online at the CARTA website, UCTV, iTunes, and YouTube. CARTA periodically partners with other organizations in sponsoring public lectures on human origins and related topics.

Matrix of Comparative Anthropogeny (MOCA)

MOCA is an online comparative database that highlights the differences between humans and the “great apes,” with an emphasis on uniquely human features. Having such information in one location promises new insights and transdisciplinary interactions, which help explain these differences and determine what is uniquely human.

Museum of Primatology (MOP)

CARTA is home to several unique primate collections, which together make up its Museum of Primatology. These collections consist largely of human, chimpanzee, and macaque skeletons, but also include detailed veterinary and behavioral records and bloodwork data for dozens of chimpanzees who died of natural causes. The MOP collections contain the basic data for comparing humans and chimpanzees, our closest living relative, to address questions concerning the origins of our lineage. A significant portion of the collections has been cataloged, scanned, and digitized in 3D, making this precious data a powerful resource for science and education.



J. Moreland

Anthropogeny Graduate Specialization

Through a unique graduate specialization available to students in participating PhD programs at UC San Diego, the Faculty of Anthropogeny is training a new generation of transdisciplinary thinkers who can advance the study of anthropogeny. Students enrolled in the Specialization must complete a curriculum of required courses on human origins, participate in CARTA's scientific symposia and ensuing discussions, network with researchers from around the world, and cross-train with peers from a variety of disciplines. This valuable training greatly benefits students as they embark on future careers in both public



and private sectors where the ability to mediate between different knowledge bases is becoming increasingly important.



Field Course

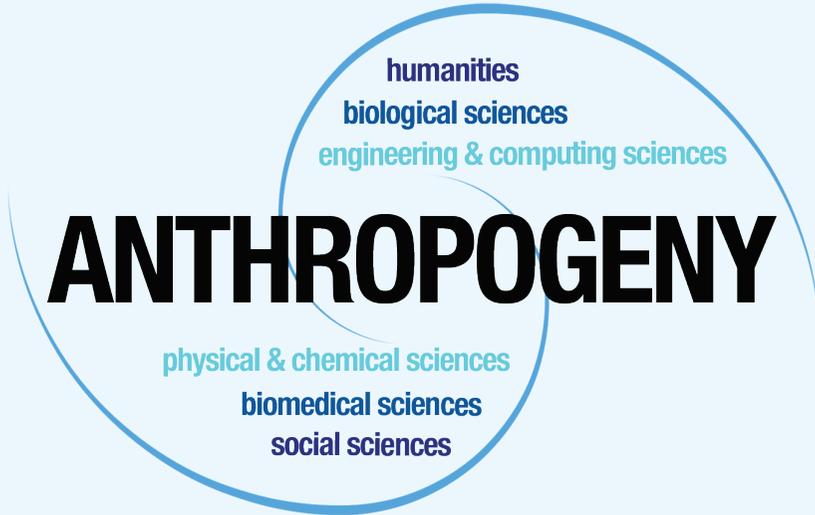
CARTA's field course provides anthropogeny graduate students with the opportunity to see where hominid fossils and ancient artifacts are found in East Africa, to experience the life of Hadza hunter-gatherers, and to encounter chimpanzees in their natural habitat. At each site, students



students interact with people involved in ongoing field research. This course provides students with an unforgettable foundation for their own future scientific endeavors.

WHAT IS ANTHROPOGENY?

anthropogeny /an`thruh`poj`uh`nee/ n. The investigation of the origin of man (humans). Oxford English Dictionary, 2006



WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

Understanding our origins has relevance to numerous practical issues that we humans face in our daily lives, such as:

- Why many of our common diseases are unique to humans
- Why some illnesses, like allergies, are increasing in frequency
- How our brains work and what features are unique to humans
- Why we can have serious mental illnesses
- How the modern diet affects our well-being
- How our reproductive schedule fits in with modern life
- Why we can be so cruel to each other, and conversely, why we can be so good to each other



HOW YOU CAN PARTICIPATE

Attend a CARTA Symposium

CARTA's symposia are free and open to the public.

See schedule at:

<http://carta.anthropogeny.org/>

Watch a Video of a CARTA Symposium

Past symposia are viewable online at the CARTA, UCSD-TV, iTunes, and YouTube websites

Join CARTA's Mailing List

If you would like to receive news regarding upcoming events, send an email to: carta-info@anthropogeny.org

Support CARTA

Contribute to CARTA by making an online donation at:

<http://carta.anthropogeny.org/donate>

CARTA LEADERSHIP

Co-Directors

Ajit Varki, Professor of Medicine and Cellular & Molecular Medicine, UC San Diego

Fred H. Gage, Professor, The Salk Institute, and Adjunct Professor of Neurosciences, UC San Diego

Margaret Schoeninger, Professor and past Chair of the Department of Anthropology, UC San Diego

Associate Director

Pascal Gagneux, Associate Professor of Pathology, Division of Comparative Pathology and Medicine, UC San Diego

CARTA SUPPORTERS

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