

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

The Role of Hunting in Anthropogeny

Friday, March 2, 2018



Alyssa Crittenden is a nutritional anthropologist who studies the evolution of human behavior as it relates to nutrition and reproduction. She studies the links between diet composition, growth and development, and family formation among the Hadza of Tanzania, one of the world's last remaining hunting and gathering populations. Her work is published widely in top-tier academic journals as well as highlighted in popular outlets, such as *The New York Times*, *Smithsonian*, and *National Geographic*. She is currently an Associate Professor in the Department of Anthropology and an Adjunct Associate Professor in the School of Medicine at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.



Rebecca Bliege Bird is an ecological anthropologist and a Professor of Anthropology at Pennsylvania State University. She is interested in the socioecology of subsistence in small scale societies. She pursues such topics as the gender division of labor in hunting and gathering, cooperation, costly signaling, indigenous conservation/land management, and fire ecology, drawing on theory, models, and methods from behavioral ecology and landscape ecology to answer questions about how local social contexts influence economic decision-making and how such decisions impact local ecological communities.



Ian Gilby is an Assistant Professor in the School of Human Evolution and Social Change at Arizona State University. He has studied the behavioral ecology of wild chimpanzees since 1997. His main research interests are cooperative hunting, meat sharing and adult male dominance strategies. He is co-director of the Gombe Chimpanzee Database, which contains over five decades of detailed behavioral, ecological, and demographic data from the long-term study of two chimpanzee communities in Gombe National Park, Tanzania.



David Watts is a Biological Anthropologist and a Professor in the Anthropology Department at Yale University. He received a B.A. from the University of Pennsylvania and M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Chicago. His doctoral research was on the behavioral ecology of mountain gorillas, and he spent over five years studying mountain gorilla behavior at the Karisoke Research Centre in Rwanda, including serving as Karisoke Director in 1986-87. Since 1993, he has pursued field research on chimpanzee behavior at Ngogo, in Kibale National Park, Uganda, and he is Co-Director of the Ngogo Chimpanzee Project with John Mitani (University of Michigan) and Kevin Langergraber (Arizona State University).



Jill Pruett has been the Director and Principal Investigator of the Fongoli Savanna Chimpanzee Project since 2001, when she began research on these apes in Senegal. Pruett is also a Professor of Anthropology at Texas State University. As a primatologist, she is interested in the behavioral ecology of these savanna-dwelling chimpanzees and, as an anthropologist, she has particular interest in using savanna chimpanzees as models for better understanding early hominid behavioral ecology.

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Margaret Schoeninger is a Distinguished Professor of Anthropology at UC San Diego a Research Archaeologist in the Glenn Black Laboratory of Archaeology at Indiana University, and a co-director of CARTA. She has done fieldwork in North America, Mexico, Pakistan, India, Kenya, and Tanzania as well as laboratory research on carbon, nitrogen, and oxygen stable isotope ratio analysis in biological tissues and food component analysis of traditional foods. Her major interest is in the evolution of human diet particularly as it informs our understanding of the appearance and evolution of the human lineage.



Briana Pobiner is a paleoanthropologist whose research centers on the evolution of human diet (with a focus on the ecology of meat-eating), but has included topics as diverse as cannibalism in the Cook Islands and chimpanzee carnivory. She has done fieldwork in Kenya, Tanzania, South Africa, and Indonesia. She joined the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History in 2005, where in addition to continuing her active field, laboratory, and experimental research programs, she leads the Human Origins Program's education and outreach efforts. Briana is also an Associate Research Professor of Anthropology at the George Washington University.



Richard Wrangham is the Ruth Moore Professor of Biological Anthropology at Harvard University, where he has taught since 1989. His major interests are chimpanzee and human evolutionary ecology, the evolutionary dynamics of violence, and ape conservation. He received his Ph.D. in Zoology from Cambridge University in 1975, and taught at the Department of Anthropology at the University of Michigan (Ann Arbor) from 1981-1989. Since 1987, he has studied wild chimpanzee behavior in Kibale National Park, Uganda. His most recent book is *Catching Fire: How Cooking Made Us Human* (Basic Books, 2009).

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