B3 Human evolution (BBS paper 104)

Lectures: Friday 10-12pm Michaelmas and Lent Term
Practicals: There are 8 practicals, four per term.

Overview

This course provides an in depth exploration of the evolutionary history of humans and hominins. The paper looks at human evolution from ca. 10 million years ago to 10,000 years ago. The course starts with the origins of the hominins and their relationship to the apes, the emergence of bipedalism in an ecological framework, and the adaptive radiation of hominins between 4 and 2 million years ago. From shortly after 2 million years ago, hominins dispersed beyond Africa, and the genus *Homo* became dominant. The emergence and dispersal of anatomically modern humans, giving particular focus on the diversity of their adaptations in different parts of the world, and their relationship to both the climate in which they evolved and the archaic competitors such as Neanderthals whom they out-survived. We will explore the modern human dispersal(s) into nearly all parts of the world during the last 100,000 years, and the evolution of human diversity. The central theme of the course is to understand how and why humans evolved in relation to the environments in which they existed. The course uses approaches from palaeontology, genetics and archaeology.

If you read one thing: