

## ROUND TABLE

### **Modern Human behaviour: archaeological evidence from Coastal South Africa and Iberian Peninsula**

**Where:** Faculty of Geography and History,  
University of Barcelona.

Montalegre, 6-8, 4rth floor, SALA GRAN

**Date:** 27th October 2017

**Time:** 10.00 to 18.00

#### **Opening:**

Prof. Josep Maria Fullola. SERP. Dept. of History and Archaeology, University of Barcelona

#### **Moderators:**

Prof. Josep Maria Fullola

SERP. Dept. of History and Archaeology, University of Barcelona

Prof. Rosa Maria Albert

ICREA. ERAUUB, Dept. of History and Archaeology. University of Barcelona

#### **Lecturers:**

Prof. Curtis Marean

Institute of Human Origins, School of Human Evolution and Social Change,  
Arizona State University, USA.

African Centre for Coastal Palaeoscience, Nelson Mandela University, Port  
Elizabeth, Eastern Cape 6031, South Africa.

#### **Prof. João Zilhão**

ICREA. SERP, Dept. of History and Archaeology of the University of  
Barcelona

#### **Closing:**

Prof. Rosa Maria Albert ICREA. ERAAUB, Dept. of History and Archaeology.  
University of Barcelona

#### **Organizers:**



#### **Free admission**

Certificates of attendances are available upon request

For more information, contact: Rosa Maria Albert ([rmalbert@ub.edu](mailto:rmalbert@ub.edu) or [rosamaria.albert@icrea.cat](mailto:rosamaria.albert@icrea.cat))

# The transition to foraging for dense and predictable resources and its impact on the evolution of modern humans

**Curtis Marean**

Scientists have identified a series of milestones in the evolution of the human food quest that are anticipated to have had far-reaching impacts on biological, behavioural and cultural evolution: the inclusion of substantial portions of meat, the broad spectrum revolution and the transition to food production.

The foraging shift to dense and predictable resources is another key milestone that had consequential impacts on the later part of human evolution. The theory of economic defendability predicts that this shift had an important consequence—elevated levels of intergroup territoriality and conflict. In this paper, this theory is integrated with a well-established general theory of hunter–gatherer adaptations and is used to make predictions for the sequence of appearance of several evolved traits of modern humans. The distribution of dense and predictable resources in Africa is reviewed and found to occur only in aquatic contexts (coasts, rivers and lakes). The palaeoanthropological empirical record contains recurrent evidence for a shift to the exploitation of dense and predictable resources by 110 000 years ago, and the first known occurrence is in a marine coastal context in South Africa. Some theory predicts that this elevated conflict would have provided the conditions for selection for the hyperprosocial behaviours unique to modern humans.



# **Neandertals as fisher-hunter-gatherers: the evidence from Last Interglacial Iberia**

**João Zilhão**

Based on a number of sites located in Southern Africa, the exploitation of marine resources and the development of coastal adaptations have been promoted as a key factor in the putative co-emergence of anatomical and behavioral modernity over the late Middle and the early Upper Pleistocene.

The evidence from Iberia, namely the sites of Cueva de los Aviones (Murcia) and Gruta da Figueira Brava (Portugal), however, shows that Iberia's Last Interglacial Neandertals developed the exploitation of coastal resources (fish, mollusks, crustaceans, nuts) on a Mesolithic-like scale, and that their symbolic use of mineral pigments and marine shells predates by tens of thousands of years any equivalent evidence so far reported from anywhere else in the world. The implications of these findings for models of recent human evolution will be addressed.

