

Colorado Scientific Society November Meeting

Thursday, November 17, 2022

All in the (human) family: Neanderthals and Denisovans and us

Bence Viola, University of Toronto

Join us in-person in Community Rooms 1 and 2 at the Calvary Episcopal Church in Golden, 1320 Arapahoe Street, Golden, CO 80401.

All are welcome – no admission charge

after 6:00 pm. – Come for our in-person meeting and social time,

7:00 pm – Meeting and Program begin

There is on-street parking and a paid-parking structure (\$3.00 for 3 hours) next to the church. See more details about parking and access to [Calvary Church in Golden here](#).

You can also join this meeting online via Zoom

6:45 pm – Join our online Zoom meeting (see below)

7:00 pm – Meeting and start of talk

Click to Join CSS Zoom Meeting
from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android

Password for meeting, if needed: 503677

[For other Zoom options, click here.](#)



Denis Cave

Abstract: Over the last decade, the development of ancient DNA technology, allowing us to study the genetics of past populations, transformed our understanding of our origins. It became clear, that up until about 40,000 years ago our species was not alone on this planet, but coexisted with several other human groups such as the Neanderthals, Denisovans and others. These populations interacted, and the genetical traces of these contacts still linger in us today.

In this talk, I will present some of the recent advances in our understanding of how these groups interacted both biologically and culturally. I will focus on Central Asia, especially the Altai Mountains, where these three populations, early modern humans, Neanderthals and the enigmatic Denisovans – a group only known from a few fragmentary fossils and their DNA – interacted. By combining ancient DNA, archaeological and morphological data we will look at the dynamics of these populations, and explore these contacts.



Bence Viola

Bence Viola: Dr. Viola is a paleoanthropologist focusing on the biological and cultural interactions between different hominin groups in the Late Pleistocene. After studying at the universities of Vienna and Bordeaux, he spent four years as a postdoctoral fellow at the Max-Planck-Institute of Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig, and is now an Associate Professor at the Department of Anthropology, University of Toronto. Dr. Viola's research uses an interdisciplinary approach combining morphological, archaeological and genetic data to better understand how the Neanderthals, their enigmatic Asian cousins, the Denisovans, and the first modern humans interacted. He has led excavations in Central Europe, East Africa and Central Asia, and is currently conducting fieldwork in Sel'ungur cave in Kyrgyzstan and at Grub/Kranawetberg in Austria.