

# African Eve: Hoax or Hypothesis?

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The replacement hypothesis proposes that “modern humans” evolved only in sub-Saharan Africa, through a speciation event rendering them unable to breed with other hominins. They then spread throughout Africa, then to Asia, Australia and finally to Europe, replacing all other humans by exterminating or out-competing them. In this critical analysis of the replacement hypothesis it is shown that it began as a hoax, later reinforced by false paleoanthropological claims and a series of flawed genetic propositions, yet it became almost universally accepted during the 1990s and has since dominated the discipline. The numerous shortcomings of the hypothesis are appraised from genetic, anthropological, and archaeological perspectives and it is refuted. The resulting hiatus in the history of the human genus is then filled with an outline of a comprehensive alternative theory presented recently, which not only explains the origins of “modern humans” but also numerous so far unexplained aspects of being human.

**Keywords:** Replacement Hypothesis; Domestication Hypothesis; African Eve; Human Evolution; Genetics; Epistemology

## Introduction

Since the decades—long rejection of the contemporaneity of humans and Diluvial (Pleistocene) fauna (cf. e.g. Boucher de Perthes, 1846), the former existence of early hominins (cf. Fuhlrott, 1859), the Pleistocene age of certain cave art (cf. Sautuola, 1880) or the universal rejection of Dubois’ (1894) fossil man, pleistocene archaeology and paleoanthropology have been plagued by the failure to rise above sectarian preoccupations and struggles for authority. The proposition of this paper is that this “pre-paradigmatic state” (Kuhn, 1962) still pertains, and it is illustrated with an example that has mesmerized the discipline during recent decades: the origins of “anatomically modern humans” (AMHs), a nonsensical concept (Latour, 1993).

The notion that the “Upper Paleolithic” was introduced into Europe from Africa has been around for a long time, for instance Dorothy Garrod believed in this invasion in the early 20th century. In 1973 Professor Reiner Protsch “von Zieten” proposed that modern humans arose in sub-Saharan Africa, presenting a series of false datings (Terberger & Street, 2003; Schulz, 2004) of presumed “modern” fossil specimens from Europe over the following years (Protsch, 1973, 1975; Protsch & Glowatzki, 1974; Protsch & Semmel, 1978; Henke & Protsch, 1978). In 2003 it was shown that all of his datings had been concocted and he was dismissed by the University of Frankfurt. However, his idea had in the meantime been developed into the “Afro-European *sapiens*” model (Bräuer, 1984), and a few years later the “African Eve” complete replacement scenario appeared (Cann et al., 1987; Stringer & Andrews, 1988; Mellars & Stringer, 1989) and was vigorously developed subsequently (e.g. Vigilant et al., 1991; Tattersall, 1995; Krings et al., 1997). It was followed by the Pennisi (1999) model, the

“wave theory” (Eswaran, 2002), the Templeton (2002) model, and the “assimilation theory” (Smith et al., 2005), among others. Of these, the mitochondrial Eve model is the most extreme, contending that the purported African invaders of Asia, then Australia and finally Europe, were a new species, unable to interbreed with the rest of humanity. They replaced all other humans, either by exterminating or out-competing them (be it economically or epidemiologically).

In addition to having been spawned by a hoax there were right from the start significant methodological problems with this “African Eve theory”, as the media had dubbed it. The initial computer modeling by Cann et al. (1987) failed and its haplotype trees were irrelevant. Based on 136 extant mitochondrial DNA samples, it arbitrarily selected one of  $10^{267}$  alternative and equally credible haplotype trees (which are very much more than the number of elementary particles of the entire universe, about  $10^{70}$ ). For instance Maddison (1991) demonstrated that a re-analysis of the Cann et al.’s model could produce 10,000 haplotype trees that are more parsimonious than the one chosen by these authors. Yet no method could even guarantee that the most parsimonious tree result should even be expected to be the correct tree (Hartl & Clark, 1997: p. 372). Cann et al.’s assumption of constancy of mutation rates of mtDNA was similarly a myth (Rodriguez-Trelles et al., 2001, 2002). As Gibbons (1998) noted, by using the modified putative genetic clock, Eve would not have lived 200,000 years ago, as Cann et al. had contended, but only 6000 years ago. The various genetic hypotheses about the origins of “Moderns” that have appeared over the past few decades placed the hypothetical split between these and other humans at times ranging from 17,000 to 889,000 years bp (e.g. Vigilant et al., 1991; Barinaga, 1992; Ayala, 1996; Brookfield 1997). They are all contingent upon purported models of human

demography, but these and the timing or number of colonization events are practically fictional: there are no sound data available for most of these variables. This applies to the contentions concerning mitochondrial DNA (“African Eve”) as much as to those citing Y-chromosomes (“African Adam”; Hammer, 1995). The divergence times projected from the diversity found in nuclear DNA, mtDNA, and DNA on the non-recombining part of the Y-chromosome differ so much that a time regression of any type is extremely problematic. Contamination of mtDNA with paternal DNA has been demonstrated in extant species (Gyllensten et al., 1991; Awadalla et al., 1999; Morris & Lightowers, 2000; Williams, 2002), in one recorded case amounting to 90% (Schwartz & Vissing, 2002). The issues of base substitution (Lindhal & Nyberg, 1972) and fragmentation of DNA (Golenberg et al., 1996) have long been known, and the point is demonstrated, for instance, by the erroneous results obtained from the DNA of insects embedded in amber (Gutierrez & Marin, 1998). Other problems with interpreting or conducting analyses of paleogenetic materials are alterations or distortions through the adsorption of DNA by a mineral matrix, its chemical rearrangement, microbial or lysosomal enzymes degradation, and lesions by free radicals and oxidation (Geigl, 2002; Carlier et al., 2007).

These preliminary considerations suggest that the genetic basis of the replacement hypothesis was far from sound right from its inception. The story of how it rapidly became the dominant model in human evolution, and how for over two decades it determined what could be published in mainstream venues or what kind of research would be funded not only rivals the history and the effects of the Piltdown hoax (Weiner et al., 1953); it exceeds it in terms of its consequences. It is therefore justified to examine the epistemology of the “African Eve hypothesis” in some detail, and to determine how it was possible that an entire discipline was again captivated by a paradigm that, upon careful reflection, was always improbable—and contradicted by all the relevant sound evidence available *at the time it was proposed*. Although initially conceived on the basis of fossil skeletal evidence (Protsch, 1973; Bräuer, 1984), it was only in 1987 that the replacement hypothesis became primarily founded on genetics. Its massive influence, however, has affected the disciplines of paleoanthropology and Pleistocene archaeology so profoundly that their entire current doctrines need to be questioned to detect the wide-ranging effects of this paradigm. This will be attempted here by examining the relevant genetics, anthropology and archaeology, after which an outline of the model to replace the replacement hypothesis will be presented.

This paper attempts to present the differences between two hypotheses, one of which is almost bereft of empirical support, while the other has ample support and offers extensive explanatory potential. The apparent biases by the author are simply a reflection of this state.

## The Genetics

Since 1987 the genetic distances in nuclear DNA (the distances created by allele frequencies) proposed by different researchers or research teams have produced conflicting results (e.g. Vigilant et al., 1991; Barinaga, 1992; Ayala, 1996; Brookfield, 1997), and some geneticists concede that the models rest on untested assumptions; others even oppose them (e.g. Barinaga, 1992; Hedges et al., 1992; Maddison et al., 1992; Templeton, 1992, 1993, 1996, 2002, 2005; Brookfield, 1997; Klyosov & Rozhanskii, 2012a, 2012b; Klyosov et al., 2012; Klyosov

& Tomezzoli, 2013). The key claim of the replacement theory, that the “Neanderthals” were genetically so different from the “Moderns” that the two were separate species, has been under strain since Gutierrez et al. (2002) demonstrated that the pairwise genetic distance distributions of the two human groups overlap more than claimed, if the high substitution rate variation observed in the mitochondrial D-loop region (see Walberg & Clayton, 1981; Torrini et al., 1994; Zischler et al., 1995) and lack of an estimation of the parameters of the nucleotide substitution model are taken into account. The more reliable genetic studies of living humans have shown that both Europeans and Africans have retained significant alleles from multiple populations of Robusts (Hardy et al., 2005; Garrigan et al., 2005; cf. Templeton, 2005). After the Neanderthal genome yielded results that seemed to include an excess of Gracile single nucleotide polymorphisms (Green et al., 2006), more recent analyses confirmed that “Neanderthal” genes persist in recent Europeans, Asians, and Papuans (Green et al., 2010). “Neanderthals” (use of this term here is only to comply with established jargon and implies no approval; the generic term “Robusts” is preferable) are said to have “interbred” with the ancestors of Europeans and Asians, but not with those of Africans (Gibbons, 2010; cf. Krings et al., 1997). The African alleles occur at a frequency averaging only 13% in non-Africans, whereas those of other regions match the Neanderthaloids in ten of twelve cases. “Neanderthal genetic difference to humans [note however that all members of the genus *Homo* are humans!] must therefore be interpreted within the context of human diversity” (Green et al., 2006: p. 334). This suggests that gracile Europeans and Asians evolved largely from local robust populations, which had long been obvious from previously available evidence. For instance Alan Mann’s finding that tooth enamel cellular traits showed a close link between Neanderthaloids and present Europeans, which both differ from those of Africans (Weiss & Mann, 1978), had been ignored by the Eve protagonists, as has much other empirical evidence (e.g., Roginsky et al., 1954; Yakimov, 1980). In response to the initial refutations of the Eve model, Cann (2002) made no attempt to argue against the alternative proposals of long-term, multiregional evolution.

So what was it that prompted Pleistocene archaeology and paleoanthropology to recycle Protsch’s African hoax? Cavalli-Sforza et al. (1988) considered that the phylogenetic tree separates Africans from non-Africans, a view reinforced by Klyosov et al. (2012). But whereas the first authors interpreted this as placing the origin of “modern humans” in Africa, Klyosov et al. showed that this separation continued for  $160 \pm 12$  ka since the split of the haplogroups A from haplogroups BT (Cruciani et al., 2002); therefore Africans and non-Africans evolved essentially separate. As Klyosov et al. most pertinently observe, “a boy is not a descendant of his older brother”. Therefore, contrary to Chiaroni et al. (2009), haplogroup B is neither restricted to Africa, nor is it at 64 ka remotely as old as the haplogroups A are (some of these may be older than 160 ka).

Another flaw of the replacement model was that Cann et al. had also mis-estimated the diversity per nucleotide (single locus on a string of DNA), incorrectly using the method developed by Ewens (1983) and thereby claiming greater genetic diversity of Africans, compared to Asians and Europeans. This oft-repeated claim (e.g. Hellenthal et al., 2008; Campbell & Tishkoff, 2010) is false: the genetic diversity coefficients are very similar, 0.0046 for both Africans and Asians, and 0.0044 for Europeans. Even the premise of genetic diversity is false, for instance it is

greater in African farming people than in African hunters-foragers (Watson et al., 1996), yet the latter are not assumed to be ancestral to the former (see e.g. Ward et al., 1991). Similarly, the contention that genetic diversity of extant humans decreases with increasing geographical distance from Africa (e.g. Atkinson, 2011) is doubtful, and has no bearing on the questions of the origins of the “AMHs”. Certainly such diversity diminishes markedly in regions first occupied in the Final Pleistocene or Holocene, which is to be expected, but the number of haplotypes is higher in Eurasia than in Africa.

It is interesting to note that the “genetic clock” archaeologists subscribe to in reference to these purported AMHs is rejected when it is applied to the dog, implying its split from the wolf occurred 135 ka ago. Archaeologists disallow it because there is no paleontological evidence for dogs prior to about 15,000 years ago (Napierala & Uerpmann, 2010; but see Germonpré et al., 2009). The same restraint and avoidance of a catastrophist scenario is needed in relation to hominins. After all, humans are only one of the many species that have managed to colonize a great variety of environments, from the Arctic to the tropics, and in all cases genetic diversity is thought to be the result of introgression. Perhaps this discrepancy in approach is attributable to humanistic fervor (Bednarik, 2011a). That view is supported by a critical consideration of the fossil hominin evidence and a review of the cultural indices, both of which have been recruited extensively in support of the “African Eve hypothesis”.

### The Paleoanthropology

As noted, the original impetus of the African Eve notion derived from the false datings of numerous hominin remains, especially in Europe. This included those of the four Stetten individuals from Vogelherd, Germany, widely claimed to be about 32 ka old (e.g. Churchill & Smith, 2000a, 2000b), when in fact their Neolithic provenience had long been noted (Gieseler, 1974; Czarnetzki, 1983: p. 231) and they are between  $3980 \pm 35$  and  $4995 \pm 35$  carbon-years old (Conard et al., 2004). The Hahnöfersand calvarium, the “northernmost Neanderthal specimen found” and dated to  $36,300 \pm 600$  bp or  $35,000 \pm 2000$  bp (Bräuer, 1980) by Protsch, is actually a Mesolithic “Neanderthal”, at  $7470 \pm 100$  bp or  $7500 \pm 55$  bp (Terberger & Street, 2003). The Paderborn-Sande skull fragment, purportedly  $27,400 \pm 600$  years old (Henke & Protsch, 1978), is only  $238 \pm 39$  carbon-years old (Terberger & Street, 2003). The Kelsterbach skull, dated to  $31,200 \pm 1600$  years bp (Protsch & Semmel, 1978; Henke & Rothe, 1994), is probably of the Metal Ages (Terberger & Street, 2003) but has mysteriously disappeared from its safe. And the cranial fragment from Binshof, dated by Protsch to  $21,300 \pm 20$  bp, is in fact only  $3090 \pm 45$  years old.

These German finds are not the only misdated fossils from the crucial period of the “Early Upper Paleolithic” in Europe. The “modern” Robust specimen from Velika Pečina, Croatia, is now known to be only  $5045 \pm 40$  radiocarbon years old (Smith et al., 1999). Those from Roche-Courbon (Geay, 1957) and Combe-Capelle (originally attributed to the Châtelperronian levels; Klaatsch & Hauser, 1910) are now thought to be Holocene burials (Perpère, 1971; Asmus, 1964), as probably is the partial skeleton from Les Cottés (Perpère, 1973). The “type fossils” of early “modern” Europeans, the “Aurignacian” Crô-Magnon specimens, are not at all of modern skeletal anatomy; especially cranium 3 is quite Neanderthaloid. Moreover, at about

27,760 carbon-years (Henry-Gambier, 2002) they are of the Gravettian and not of the Aurignacian. A similar pattern pertains to the numerous relevant Czech specimens, most of which are intermediate between robust and gracile. This includes the Mladeč sample, now dated to between 26,330 and 31,500 bp (Wild et al., 2005), the very robust specimens from Pavlov and Předmostí (both between 26 and 27 ka), Podbaba (undated), and the slightly more gracile and more recent population from Dolní Věstonice. The same pattern of “intermediate” forms continues in the specimens from Cioclovina (Romania), Bacho Kiro levels 6/7 (Bulgaria) and Miesslingtal (Austria).

The earliest liminal “post-Neanderthal” finds currently available in Europe are the Peștera cu Oase mandible from Romania (Trinkaus et al., 2003), apparently in the order of 35 ka old, and the partial cranium subsequently found in another part of the same cave (Rougier et al., 2007). Both lack an archaeological context and are not “anatomically modern”. The six human bones from another Romanian cave, Peștera Muierii ( $\sim 30$   $^{14}\text{C}$  ka bp), are also intermediate between robust and gracile types (Soficaru et al., 2006). In fact literally hundreds of Eurasian specimens of the last third of the Late Pleistocene are intermediate between robust *Homo sapiens* and *H. sapiens sapiens*, or imply that a simplistic division between “Moderns” and “Neanderthals” is false. They include the finds from Lagar Velho, Crete, Starosel’ e, Rozhok, Akhshtyr’, Romankovo, Samara, Sungir’, Podkumok, Khvalynsk, Skhodnya, Denisova, and Narmada, as well as several Chinese remains such as those from the Jinniushan and Tianyuan Caves. The replacement advocates ignored this obvious obstacle to their model, of numerous intermediate or liminal forms contradicting their belief that robust and gracile populations were separate species. Moreover, they failed to appreciate that not a single fully gracile specimen in Eurasia can credibly be linked to any Early Upper Paleolithic tool tradition, be it the Aurignacian, Châtelperronian, Uluzzian, Proto-Aurignacian, Olschewian, Bachokirian, Bohunian, Streletsian, Gorodtsovian, Brynzenian, Spitzinian, Telmanian, Szeletian, Eastern Szeletian, Kostenkian, Jankovichian, Altmühlian, Lincombian, or Jerzmanovician (Bednarik, 2011a). Therefore their proposition that these industries were introduced from sub-Saharan Africa is without basis, especially as there are no geographically intermediate Later Stone Age finds from right across northern Africa until more than 20,000 years after the Upper Paleolithic had been established in Eurasia. Similarly, the African Eve advocates ignored that at least six Early Upper Paleolithic sites have yielded human skeletal remains attributed to Neanderthals: the Châtelperronian layers of Saint Césaire ( $\sim 36$  ka) and Arcy-sur-Cure ( $\sim 34$  ka) in France, the Aurignacian of Trou de l’Abîme in Belgium, the Hungarian Jankovichian of Máriaremete Upper Cave ( $\sim 38$  ka; Gábori-Csánk, 1993), the Streletsian of Sungir’ in Russia (which yielded a Neanderthaloid tibia from a triple grave of “Moderns”; Bader 1978), and the Olschewian of Vindija in Croatia (Smith et al., 1999, 2005; Aherm et al., 2004). The Neanderthals at the latter site are the most recent such remains reported so far ( $28,020 \pm 360$  and  $29,080 \pm 400$  carbon years bp). Like other late specimens they are much more gracile than most earlier finds—so much so that many consider them as transitional (e.g. Smith & Raynard, 1980; Wolpoff et al., 1981; Frayer et al., 1993; Wolpoff, 1999; Smith et al., 2005).

The replacement paradigm is not even supported by the paleoanthropological finds from Africa, which generally mirror the gradual changes in Eurasia through time. It is often claimed

that “AMHs” date from up to 200 ka ago, yet no such specimens exist. The skulls from Omo Kibish offer some relatively modern features as well as substantially archaic ones; especially Omo 2 is very robust indeed (McDougall et al., 2005). Their dating, also, is not secure, and Omo 2 is a surface find. The much more complete and better dated Herto skull, BOU-VP-16/1, is outside the range of all recent humans in several cranial measurements (White et al., 2003)—and is just as archaic as other specimens of the late Middle Pleistocene, in Africa or elsewhere. The lack of “anatomically modern” humans from sub-Saharan Africa prior to the supposed Exodus is glaring: the Border Cave specimens have no stratigraphic context; Dar es Soltan is undated; and the mandibles of Klasies River Mouth lack cranial and post-cranial remains. The Hofmeyr skull from South Africa, about 36 ka old, features intermediate morphology (Grine et al., 2007, 2010) comparable to that found in Europe at that time, e.g. in Romanian specimens. Similarly, extant Australians, with their average cranial capacity of 1264 cc (males 1347 cc, females 1181 cc, i.e. well within the range of *Homo erectus*), possess molars and other indices of robusticity matching those of Europeans several hundred millennia ago, yet they are “AMHs”. Their tool traditions were of Mode 3 types (Middle Paleolithic) until mid-Holocene times, and remained so in Tasmania until European colonization. Clearly, the guiding principle of the replacement advocates, that Mode 4 technologies were introduced together with “modern” anatomy is false, in Europe as well as elsewhere.

The scarcity of African fossils of the African Eve “species” prompted the replacement advocates to turn to the Levant for help, which would be on the route the Exodus had taken, and the Mount Carmel finds from Qafzeh Cave and Skhul Shelter were recruited as “Moderns” (Stringer et al., 1989; Grün & Stringer, 1991; Stringer & Gamble, 1993; McDermott et al., 1993). Yet all of these skulls present prominent tori and receding chins, even Qafzeh 9, claimed to be of the most modern appearance. The distinct prognathism of Skhul 9 matches that of “classic Neanderthals”, and the series of teeth from that cave has consistently larger dimensions than Neanderthaloid teeth. Supposedly much later “Neanderthal” burials in nearby Tabun Cave as well as the Qafzeh and Skhul material are all associated with the same Mousterian tools, and the datings of all Mount Carmel sites are far from soundly established, with their many discrepancies. The TL dates from Qafzeh, for instance, clash severely with the amino racemization dates (ranging from 33 to 45 ka), and are in any case plagued by inversion: the lower layer 22 averages 87.7 ka, the middle layer 19 is 90.5 ka, while the uppermost layer 17 averages 95.5 ka (Mercier et al., 1993; cf. Bada & Masters Helfman, 1976). Therefore the claims of 90-ka-old “modern” humans from Mount Carmel, a cornerstone in the Eve model, are unsound, and this population is best seen as transitional between robust and gracile forms, from a time when gracilization had commenced elsewhere as well.

### The Archaeology

The Early Upper Paleolithic (EUP) tool traditions of Eurasia, claimed to indicate the arrival of Eve’s progeny there, all evolved locally. They first appear fairly simultaneously between 45 ka and 40 ka bp, even earlier, at widely dispersed locations from Spain to Siberia (e.g. Makarovo 4/6, Kara Bom, Denisova Cave, Ust’-Karakol, Tolbaga, Kamenka, Khotytk, Podzvon-kaya, Tolbor Dorolge, & Bednarik, 1994). The earliest carbon date

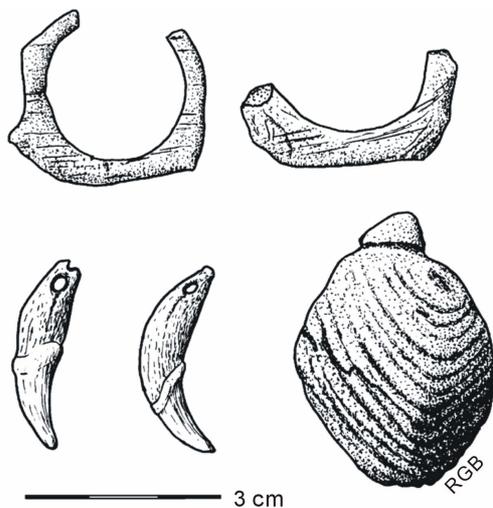
was provided by Senftenberg, Austria, at >54 ka bp (Felgenhauer, 1959). The Aurignacian of Spain commences at least 43 ka ago (Bischoff et al., 1994; Cabrera Valdés & Bischoff, 1989). EUP variants such as the Uluzzian (Palma di Cesnola, 1976, 1989), the Uluzzo-Aurignacian, and the Proto-Aurignacian (43 - 33 ka bp) have been reported from southern Italy (Kuhn & Bietti, 2000; Kuhn & Stiner, 2001). The montane Aurignacoid tradition of central Europe, the Olschewian (42 - 35 ka bp), clearly developed from the region’s final Mousterian (Bayer, 1929; Kyrle, 1931; Bächler, 1940; Zotz, 1951; Brodar, 1957; Malez, 1959; Vértes, 1959; Bednarik, 1993). The Bachokirian of the Pontic region (>43 ka bp), the Bohunician of east-central Europe (44 - 38 ka bp; Svoboda, 1990, 1993), and various traditions of the Russian Plains complete the picture to the east. Some of the latter industries, such as the Streletsian, Gorodtsovian, and Brynzenian derived unambiguously from Mousteroid technologies, whereas the Spitzinian or Telmanian are free of Mode 3 bifaces (Anikovich, 2005). The gradual development of Mode 3 industries into Mode 4 traditions can be observed at various sites along the Don River, in the Crimea and northern Caucasia, with no less than seven accepted tool assemblages coexisting between 36 and 28 ka ago: Mousterian, Micoquian, Spitzinian, Streletsian, Gorodtsovian, Eastern Szeletian and Aurignacian (Krems-Dufour variant). A mosaic of early Mode 4 industries began before 40 ka bp on the Russian Plain and ended only 24 - 23 ka ago. In fact in the Crimea, the Middle Paleolithic is thought to have ended only between 20 - 18 ka bp, which is about the same time the Middle Stone Age ended across northern Africa. In the Russian Plain, the first fully developed Upper Paleolithic tradition, the Kostenkian, appears only about 24 ka ago.

The Russian succession of traditions connecting Mode 3 and 4 technocomplexes is repeated in the Szeletian of eastern Europe (43 - 35 ka bp; Allsworth-Jones, 1986), the Jankovician of Hungary; and the Altmühlian (~38 ka bp), Lincombian (~38 ka bp) and Jerzmanovician (38 - 36 ka bp) further northwest. Similarly, the gradual development from the Middle Paleolithic at 48 ka bp (with “Neanderthal” footprints of small children) to the Upper Paleolithic is clearly documented in Theopetra Cave, Greece (Kyparissi-Apostolika, 2000; Facorellis et al., 2001). Thus there is a complete absence of evidence in the presumed eastern or southeastern entry region of Europe, of an intrusive technology arriving from the Levant. Nor should it be expected, considering that in the Levant both Mode 3 and Mode 4 industries were used by robust as well as more gracile populations: the replacement advocates’ notion that their “Moderns” introduced Mode 4 in Europe is refuted by all archaeological evidence. The Mousteroid traditions of the Levant developed gradually into blade industries, e.g. at El Wad, Emireh, Ksar Akil, Abu Halka, & Bileni Caves, and that region’s Ahmarian is transitional. This can be observed elsewhere in southwestern Asia, for instance the Aurignacoid Baradostian tradition of Iran clearly develops *in situ* from Middle Paleolithic antecedents. The late Mousterian of Europe is universally marked by regionalization (Kozłowski, 1990; Stiner, 1994; Kuhn, 1995; Riel-Salvatore & Clark, 2001), miniaturization, and increasing use of blades, as well as by improved hafting technique. This includes the use of backed or blunted-back retouch on microliths set in birch resin in Germany, almost as early as the first use of microlithic implements in the Howieson’s Poort tradition of far southern Africa. Therefore the notion that a genetically and paleoanthropologically unproven people with a Mode 4 tool set

travelled from sub-Saharan Africa across northern Africa is completely unsupported, while there is unanimous proof that these traditions developed *in situ* in many Eurasian regions long before they reached either northern Africa or the Levant.

Precisely the same applies to paleoart. The replacement advocates relied considerably on the unassailability of their belief that the EUP traditions, especially the Aurignacian, were by “AMHs” (Graciles). As mentioned above, there are no unambiguous associations between “AMHs” and any of the many identified EUP tool traditions, including the Aurignacian. These “cultures”, as they are called, are merely etic constructs, “observer-relative or institutional facts” (Searle, 1995); as “archaeofacts” or “egofacts” (Consens, 2003) they have no real, emic existence. They are entirely made up of invented (etic) tool types and based on the misunderstanding in Pleistocene archaeology that tools are diagnostic for identifying cultures. The authentic cultural variables of Pleistocene archaeology have never been employed in creating the period’s cultural nomenclature. Cultures are defined by cultural variables, but Pleistocene archaeology as it is conducted relegates the cultural information available (such as rock art and portable “art”) to marginal rather than central status, forcing it into the false technological framework it has created.

One of the effects of this misunderstanding has a direct bearing of the “African Eve hypothesis”. Among the EUP traditions its advocates attribute to AMHs, the Châtelperronian was in 1979 discovered to be the work of Neanderthals. But the Châtelperronian of Arcy-sur-Cure in France had produced numerous portable palaeoart objects, including beads and pendants (Figure 1). So the Eve supporters argued that the primitive Neanderthals, incapable of symboling, must have “scavenged” and used these artifacts (White, 1993; Hublin et al., 1996). They failed to explain, however, why such primordial creatures would possibly scavenge symbolic objects and what they would do with them. This is one of numerous examples of the accommodative reasoning of the replacement advocates, others can be found in d’Errico (1995), d’Errico and Villa (1997) and Rigaud et al. (2009); or in the assertion that Early Pleistocene



**Figure 1.** Body ornaments made and used by “Neanderthals”, from Arcy-sur-Cure, France: two ivory ring fragments, two perforated animal canines, and a fossil shell with an artificial groove for attachment.

seafaring colonizers (Bednarik, 1997, 1999, 2003) might have drifted on vegetation. After it was first observed that there is no evidence linking early Aurignacian finds to the purported Moderns (Bednarik, 1995), it was proposed that no such link exists to any EUP industry (Bednarik, 2007, 2008a). The contention that the Aurignacian rock art (e.g. in Chauvet Cave, Zarzamora Cave, El Castillo) and portable paleoart (e.g. in Hohlenstein), arguably the most complex and sophisticated of the entire Upper Paleolithic, is the work either of “Neanderthals” or of their direct descendants (Bednarik, 2007, 2008a, 2011a, 2011b; Sadier et al., 2012) has demolished the last vestiges of support for the “African Eve hypothesis”. It now stands refuted. The record shows unambiguously that the Upper Paleolithic of Eurasia developed *in situ*, that the hominins in question evolved *in situ*, and that introgression accounts fully for the genetic observations. “Modern” or gracile humans derive from archaic *H. sapiens* in four continents, they interbred no more than grandchildren breed with their grandparents.

Klyosov et al. 2012, who demonstrate genetically that recent human evolution in Eurasia must have occurred *in situ*, list no less than 24 papers asserting that “AMHs” (see Tobias, 1996 for a cogent rejection of this concept) entered Europe between 27 and 112 ka ago. Most of these nominate 40 to 70 ka as the time of the “African invasion”. It would seem that these untenable propositions simply reflect archaeological estimates of a phenomenon that never actually occurred (Bednarik, 2013b).

### Replacing the “African Eve Hypothesis”

Replacing the replacement theory is not going to be easy, because of the deeply embedded vested interests defending it. Yet it lacks any archaeological, paleoanthropological, technological, or cultural evidence (Bednarik, 1991, 1992, 1995, 1997, 2008a, 2011a). Introgressive hybridization (Anderson, 1949), allele drift based on generational mating site distance (Harpending et al., 1998), and genetic drift (Bednarik, 2011b) through episodic genetic isolation during climatically unfavorable events (Barberi et al., 1978; Fedele et al., 2002, 2003; Fedele & Giaccio, 2007) account for the mosaic of hominin forms found from the Arctic (Schulz, 2002; Schulz et al., 2002; Pavlov et al., 2001) to the tropics, from Iberia to Australia. The failure of the “African Eve hypothesis” leaves a huge hiatus in the received narrative of hominin evolution, in that the most controversial part of it is left without an explanation. The alternative multi-regional model, almost vanquished in the wake of Eve, offers a reprieve, but it is in need of much greater detail. Its vantage position derives from default: as the single origin notion fails, there is only one option left, namely that changes occurred in many centers in four continents. This is broadly what the archaeological, paleoanthropological, and genetic data gathered so far imply, but for the past decades only a handful of scholars subscribed to this position (e.g. Thorne & Wolpoff, 1981; Bednarik, 1992, 1995 *et passim*; Brace, 1993, 1999; Wolpoff & Caspari, 1996; Wolpoff, 1999; Eckhart, 2000; Henneberg, 2004). What remains profoundly lacking is a theory of the processes underlying the rather sudden appearance of what has been termed “AMHs”.

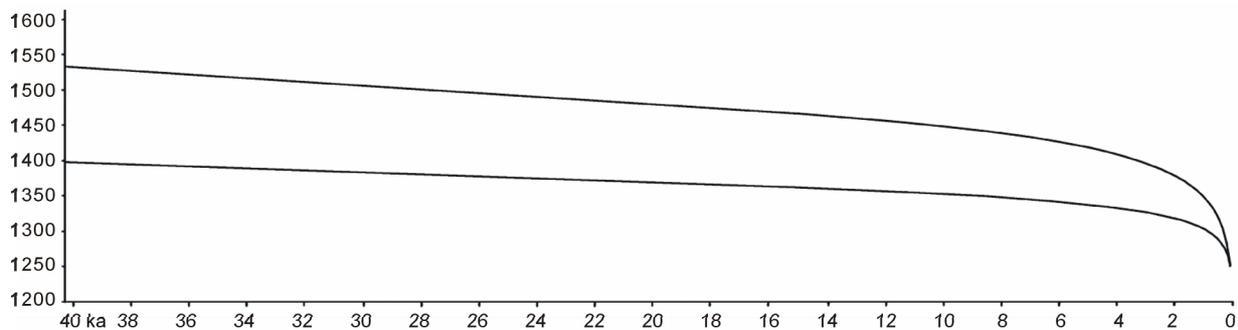
The greatest mistake of the replacement advocates was to disregard the inherent fundamentals of the hominin changes toward the end of the Pleistocene. For instance human brain volume, after the relentless encephalization of millions of years, suddenly began decreasing rapidly (Henneberg, 1988, 2004).

The reversal introduced a reduction at a rate 37 times greater than the previous rate of increase in cranial space (**Figure 2**), which is not just a dramatic phenomenon, but occurred during a time that is universally agreed as having been marked by increasing demands on the brain. Human encephalization is the most remarkable aspect of human evolution (Henneberg, 1990; Henneberg & Steyn, 1993; De Miguel & Henneberg, 2001), almost unequalled in the species of this planet (the horse is an exception), yet its massive reversal in the last forty millennia was completely ignored by Eve's supporters. Not only that, their claimed speciation event in a sense explained it away. But brain atrophy (Bednarik, 2013a, in press) commenced in late *Homo sapiens neanderthalensis*, and it is not the only unexplained adverse development during this period. It coincided with massive reduction in physical power and in skeletal robusticity, which were hardly advantageous anatomical adaptations in a Paleolithic setting. The rapid atrophy of the human brain cannot be explained effectively by changes in lifestyle, diminution of body weight or stature, genetic drift or climate change (Bennett et al., 1964; Bedi & Bhide, 1988; Rightmire, 2004; Bailey & Geary, 2009; Bednarik, in press). All the Eve advocates offer in explanation for these significant deleterious changes is speciation, with the unproven and unprovable notion that these were more than compensated for by a more powerful brain, underwriting technology, symbolism, and language (but see Pinker, 1994; Tobias, 1996; Bednarik, 1997; Falk, 2009; Bickerton, 2010). In other words, for several million years the increasing complexity of hominin societies was made possible by continuous encephalization, and the sudden brain atrophy facilitated even more cognitive and intellectual advances. Not that the Eve people ever used this absurd argument, their entire project did not even consider such details. Encephalization involved enormous costs, for instance in its obstetric demands (O'Connell et al., 1999), but also for its burden to society and to the breeding cycle (Falk, 2009; Bednarik, 2011a, 2011c). To suggest that such a severe impediment to reproductive fitness (Joffe, 1997) as this abnormally enlarged organ was tolerated by evolutionary selection without some very significant compensatory developments is biologically untenable. The toleration of this great cost is justified by the significant advantages of the larger brain, particularly in cognitive and intellectual returns. Yet if the much reduced modern human brain is capable of even greater processing power, the previous argument is effectively negated.

But there are many more contradictions. For instance the "African Eve hypothesis" would be incapable of addressing the classical Keller and Miller paradox, or any other deeper ques-

tions raised by neuroscience or cognitive science. Not only are the replacement advocates unable to explain why natural selection has allowed the establishment of thousands of genetic disorders, neuropathologies, and neurodegenerative conditions afflicting modern humans; their model has actually prevented the explanation of this paradox (Keller & Miller, 2006, and extensive debate therein). Its rationalization of recent evolution by natural selection and genetic drift caused by a bottleneck cannot account for this, and for numerous other features of human modernity (Bednarik, 2012). It cannot, for instance, explain the loss of estrus in humans or the genetic base of exclusive homosexuality. In fact it cannot explain any feature endemic to the "human condition" (Bednarik, 2011a). Not only that, by its absolute dominance it has, for over twenty years, prevented the probing of more profound issues in human evolution, effectively stifling the discipline with its rhetoric, and its supporters have very effectively thwarted the publication of dissent in the mainstream journals.

Meanwhile the advocacy of an alternative model explaining the most recent phase of hominin evolution has been constrained to more innovative venues (Bednarik, 2007, 2008a, 2008b, 2011a, 2011c, 2012, 2013a, in press; Bednarik & Helvenston, 2012) and still lacks a critique by opponents. It is the *domestication hypothesis*, according to which the distinctive neotenization of humans during the most recent 40,000 years or so is attributed to sexual selection driven by cultural constructs, which effectively resembles a Mendelian domestication process. Domestication promotes unfavorable alleles (e.g. Horrobin, 1998, 2001; Andolfatto, 2001; Lu et al., 2006), and it can even account for otherwise unexplained features, such as exclusive homosexuality. Selective breeding defies natural evolution in the sense that it can rapidly change the characteristics of a population without any natural selection in the Darwinian sense occurring. Domestication of animals typically results in decreased cranial volume relative to body size, a decrease that can be as much as 30% - 40%. Neotenus physical traits arising from the domestication of animals include changes in reproductive cycles (loss of estrus), fewer or shortened vertebra, curly tails (Trut, 1999), loss of hair, larger eyes, rounded forehead, reduced skeletal robusticity, and shortened muzzle (Bertone, 2006). Many of these (and others) reflect the gracilization noted in humans, and that also applies to the changes in behavior, toward playfulness, behavioral plasticity, exploratory pattern, and pathology. Neotenus somatic traits in gracile humans include thin-walled, globular skulls lacking prominent tori; almost vertical facial plane; hair limited largely to the top of the head and the chin; absence of a penis bone, presence of the *labia*



**Figure 2.** The rapid brain atrophy of humans in the Final Pleistocene and the Holocene, in ccm/ml.

*majora* and hymen; alignment of the organs of the lower abdomen, such as rectum, urethra and vagina forward of the spine; slow closing of the cranial sutures; shape of the cartilage of the ear; and the shape of both hands and feet. All of these features in modern humans resemble those of fetal chimpanzees, and all of them disappear in apes around birth or soon after, whereas in humans sexual maturity is attained before full somatic development, and the juvenile characteristics are retained for life (De Beer, 1930, 1940; Haldane, 1932; Ashley Montagu, 1960; Badcock, 1980). Neotenus development of recent hominins is one of many results of selective breeding.

Unintentional self-domestication through deliberate breeding-mate choice is unique to recent humans: no other animal, including primates, exhibits preferences in mate selection of youth or specific body ratios, facial features, skin tone or hair; yet in present humans these are deeply entrenched, practically “hardwired”. Facial symmetry, seen to imply high immunocompetence (Grammer & Thornhill, 1994; Shackelford & Larsen, 1997), is also of importance, and in female humans neotenus facial and other features are strongly preferred by males (Jones, 1995, 1996). Since this applies today, the rational way to examine the issue is to consider at what point in human development the influence of non-evolutionary currents can be first detected. The fossil record suggests that around 40 ka ago, cultural practice had become such a determining force in human society that breeding mate selection became increasingly moderated by cultural factors, i.e. by factors attributable to learned behavior (Bednarik, 2008a, 2008b, 2011a, 2013a). These could have included the application of a variety of cultural constructs in such choices, such as social standing, communication skills, body decoration (which becomes notably prominent 40 ka ago, although existing earlier), but most especially culturally negotiated constructs of physical attractiveness.

Besides the domestication hypothesis there is currently no alternative explanation for the rapid and continuing establishment of the thousands of neuropathological, neurodegenerative and other detrimental alleles typically absent in extant non-human primates (Rubinsztein et al., 1994; Walker & Cork, 1999; Olson & Varki, 2003). Selective genetic sweeps tend to yield relatively recent etiologies, of less than 20,000 years, for all human neuropathologies. For instance the absence of such schizophrenia susceptibility alleles as *NRG3* is demonstrated in ancestral robust humans (Voight et al., 2006), and this mental illness has been suggested to be of very recent etiology (Hare, 1988; Bednarik & Helvenston, 2012). Numerous deleterious conditions were derived from the neoteny accounting for modern humans, including cleidocranial dysplasia or delayed closure of cranial sutures, malformed clavicles, and dental abnormalities (genes *RUNX2* and *CBRA1* refer), type 2 diabetes (gene *THADA*); the microcephalin D allele, introduced in the final Pleistocene (Evans et al., 2005); or the *ASPM* allele, another contributor to microcephaly, which appeared around 5800 years ago (Mekel-Bobrov, 2005). A good example of the recent advent of detrimental genes is that of *CADPS2* and *AUTS2*, involved in autism and absent in robust humans. The human brain condition autistic spectrum disorder seems to have become notably more prominent in recent centuries, even decades (Jacob et al., 2009; Weintraub, 2011; Kim et al., 2011; Buchen, 2011). These and thousands of other deleterious genetic predispositions (the genes accounting for about 1700 of the 5000–6000 Mendelian disorders had been identified over a decade ago) cannot be accounted for in a system determined entirely by

natural selection, and unless many of them can be detected in pre-gracile hominins, their widespread existence in the extant human genome can only be explained by the domestication hypothesis. It is the most elegant explanation ever formulated for the human condition (Bednarik, 2011a).

## Conclusion

In other words, this alternative hypothesis, which replaces the replacement hypothesis, is not only in agreement with all the empirical evidence, being it archaeological, anthropological, or genetic; it also has astonishing explanatory power, something entirely lacking in the Eve hypothesis. It is capable of elucidating the Keller and Miller paradox, explaining exclusive homosexuality, the shedding of estrus, the swift neotenuzation in recent humans, the rapid atrophy of human brains, the proliferation of mental illness and all other neuropathology, and of countless other genetically based disorders and conditions. It explains comprehensively the human condition as we know it: the contradictions, tensions, and paradoxes accounting for the complexities of human nature. The domestication hypothesis is even capable of explaining how recent humans compensated cognitively for their rapid brain size reduction (Bednarik, in press), a simple issue that is so fundamental to the nature of our sub-species that it cannot be overemphasized. By comparison, the replacement hypothesis explains practically nothing.

Two considerations emerge from this insight. First, it needs to be asked why such an unlikely model as the “African Eve hypothesis” ever gained such wide, almost universal acceptance. Its popularity appears to be attributable to the feel-good subliminal message that all extant humans are essentially distant cousins. It also seems to express a faint feminist message, and the idea that Africans, as the source of us all, should not be discriminated against. These wholesome notions may be very commendable, but they cannot change that the hypothesis also rationalizes genocide, explaining it as an inevitable process—a rather less opportune aspect. But a more rational perspective which needs to be asked: is it the role of science to exercise moral acumen in presenting its findings, or does science strive to operate as a detached agent and present its findings without any subliminal perspective? The question is not whether it succeeds in this, but merely what it aims for.

The second consideration follows on from the first. The replacement of humanist psychology with scientific modes of investigation is a symptom of the inevitable general process of supplanting the “soft sciences” with the “hard” (Becher, 2001; Bednarik, 2011a), a slow but inevitable course. Just as astrology was replaced with astronomy, or phrenology with neuroscience, in many of its practices traditional archaeology lacks the rigor of a scientific discipline. Phenomena that are of interest to it, such as behavior, thinking, intention, or personality, cannot be quantified effectively and with a semblance of objectivity by the humanities (cf. Panksepp, 1998). The improbably high support research which has reported for initial hypotheses in such humanities as psychology and psychiatry (Sterling, 1959; Klamer et al., 1989; Fanelli, 2010) is several times that yielded in the hard sciences, indicating systematic bias. The logical and methodological rigor employed to test hypotheses varies systematically across disciplines and fields. Papers in psychology, psychiatry, and business studies report positive testing of hypotheses five times as often as space science, while the biological disciplines rank intermediate. Studies applying

behavioral and social methodologies on people rank 3.4 times higher than physical and chemical studies on non-biological material, using the same index of confirmation bias (Press & Tanur, 2001). The social sciences are thus qualitatively different from the hard sciences (Shipman, 1988; Latour, 2000; Simonton, 2004; Bishop, 2007; Bednarik, 2011a), and psychology and psychiatry, for instance, “pretend to be sciences, offering allegedly empirical observations about the functions and malfunctions of the human mind” (Szasz, 2006). Yet they are still considerably more rigorous than Pleistocene archaeology, arguably the softest of the “soft sciences” (Bednarik, 2013b).

This is most apparent in investigating the epistemology of the “African Eve” or replacement hypothesis, which became incredibly popular without presenting comprehensive empirical evidence and without really explaining anything with its central proposition. Initially based on a 1970s hoax that was uncovered in 2003/4, it has very adversely affected the course of the discipline for two or three decades, through its biases against competing theories. The inherent practice of Pleistocene archaeology, evident since the times of Boucher de Perthes and Pengelly, of stifling dissent rather than addressing it continues to determine the discipline’s dogma. But it is not the rejection of such dissent that one should find disturbing; it is the subsequent grudging acceptance of corrections and the inexorable watering down and inevitable corruption of the alternatives. The many historical cases all present the same pattern: ultimately, usually several decades later, the corrections were accepted, but the discipline misinterpreted them and veered off on yet another false course. The entire discipline would not exist if the propositions of Boucher de Perthes and Pengelly had not been absorbed, and yet ever since it has inevitably rejected major corrections, throughout most of two centuries, only to eventually accept them in corrupted forms. The explanation of this “inverted falsificationism” is beyond the scope of the present paper, but it has been attempted (Bednarik, 2013b).

In the case of the “African Eve hypothesis” this mechanism has led to the most incredible ideas. Among them are the propositions that only *H. sapiens sapiens* are human (even by some geneticists), that all earlier hominins should rightly belong to the apes (Davidson & Noble, 1990), that the use of language and symbolism began with the “Moderns”, that these were unable to breed with any other hominins, and that they are superior to the Robusts in a whole raft of ways. The last-mentioned shows that Pleistocene archaeology has never addressed the most important question in the discipline: what is it that caused the development of hominins to change from an evolutionary (dysteleological) process to a teleological one? It is generally agreed that this process began as an evolutionary progression, determined essentially by Darwinian natural selection. It should also be obvious that it ended as the precise opposite: a teleological, clearly not evolutionary process. In speaking of “cultural evolution”, archaeologists illustrate the incommensurability of their discipline and the sciences: archaeological progressivism, based as it is on a Eurocentric reality construct, implicitly views development as teleological, toward “more developed” forms. Regarding evolution as having an ultimate purpose, the creation of a superior species, is an ideologically inspired falsity (i.e. deriving from religion), and the concept of “cultural evolution” is an oxymoron. One might say that the development and transmission of culture is by memes rather than genes, and is reversible. Thus the change from a dysteleological to a teleological development is the key element in

understanding the human condition (Bednarik, 2011a), and yet it has never been examined in this light. How human self-selection and human culture changed the process to a teleological one is therefore crucial to understanding recent hominin history. But it is incompatible with the view that supposedly modern humans (cf. Latour, 1993) are the result of a speciation event—that they are a species different from robust *H. sapiens* types. Their gradual appearance in four continents is attributable to culture sidelining natural selection, and all “modern” humans derive from robust populations. Hence our ancestors did not “interbreed” with them (which in the Eve model is in any case impossible as it would negate the concept of species); we are their progeny, albeit altered by a process we ourselves brought about. It involved selection in favor of neoteny—and it is called domestication.

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