



Stone tool function, plant exploitation and foraging histories

SEMINAR PRESENTED BY THE CENTRE FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL SCIENCE (CAS)

DATE: FRIDAY 7TH APRIL
TIME: 3:30-4:30PM
VENUE: 41.G03A, UOW
PRESENTER: PROF RICHARD FULLAGAR



Richard has a PhD in Archaeology from La Trobe University, and held ARC fellowships at the Australian Museum and research positions at the University of Sydney. A main interest has been the study of usewear and residues to determine stone tool function. He has been director of an archaeological consulting company since 2007. Richard was appointed Professorial Research Fellow (2014–2018) in the Centre for Archaeological Science to study stone artefacts at key sites in eastern Asia, including Denisova (Siberia) and Liang Bua (Indonesia)—under the auspices of Prof Bert Robert's ARC Australian Laureate Fellowship.

SEMINAR OVERVIEW: STONE TOOL FUNCTION, PLANT EXPLOITATION AND FORAGING HISTORIES

In 2009, Denham et al. (*Quat. Int.* 202: 29–40) published a review of archaeobotanical and other evidence from Australia and New Guinea. An aim was to understand modern human colonization of the Asian-Australian region and how generalist practices and patterns of behaviour became more regionally distinct. We documented sophisticated plant exploitation practices in the Pleistocene and Holocene, with transitions to agriculture emerging in only some locations. Since that time, there have been major revisions in our understanding of Eurasian hominins, their distributions, capacities and interactions. In this presentation, I describe the methodology of usewear and residue studies, recent applications and how this approach can contribute to understanding some current issues raised by the new archaeological finds and revised age estimates for modern humans in the region.



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