



# *Homo* – What, Who, When, Where?



**DATE:** THURSDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> MAY  
**TIME:** 12.30PM-1.30PM  
**VENUE:** 43.G01, UOW  
**PRESENTER:** PROFESSOR BERNARD A. WOOD

Bernard Wood is a Miegunyah distinguished visiting fellow at The University of Melbourne and director of the Center for the Advanced Study of Human Palaeobiology at George Washington University. While in medical school in England in 1968, he joined Richard Leakey's first expedition to Lake Turkana, Kenya, and he has done research in palaeoanthropology ever since. He is the author or co-author of 12 books that range from a 1991 major monograph on the hominid cranial remains from Koobi Fora to the non-technical *Human Evolution, A Very Short Introduction*. He edits the Wiley-Blackwell Encyclopedia of Human Evolution and is the author of over 200 refereed scientific articles and book chapters. His research interests are taxonomy, phylogeny reconstruction and comparative morphology.



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**SEMINAR: HOMO – WHAT, WHO, WHEN, WHERE?**

The search for the 'origin of *Homo*' suggests we know what we are looking for, but unless we are clear about that, then how will we know we have found it? The origin of *Homo* is a question that conflates several 'origins' problems. The first obvious one is 'what is a genus?' How do we take those general principles about the criteria for recognizing a genus, and apply them to our own genus, *Homo*? Who were the first members of our genus? Where did that transformation take place? The search for the origin of a living genus can be conducted either from the bottom up, or from the top down. Both strategies have their problems. This talk will explain what I am looking for when I look within the fossil record for the origins of our own genus, *Homo*.

