



Using Calcium isotopes for dietary reconstruction of past human populations and past mammal ecosystem structures

CENTRE FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL SCIENCE (CAS) SEMINAR SERIES

DATE: FRIDAY 1 JUNE
TIME: 3:30-4:30PM
VENUE: 41.G03A, UOW
PRESENTER: THEO TACAIL

After having completed his PhD (“Calcium isotope physiology in mammals”) at the ENS de Lyon Geology Lab (France) in 2017, Theo Tacail will shortly move to Bristol University as a Marie Curie European fellow to pursue work on non-traditional stable isotope biogeochemistry.

SEMINAR OVERVIEW:

Environment influences the isotope compositions of body Ca and vertebrate physiology affects these compositions in turn. My work aims at a better understanding of the mechanisms responsible for the variability of Ca isotope compositions in mammals and human, and further characterizes such potential biomarkers for the reconstruction of biological and ecological traits of past mammals, past human populations and hominins. I will show that Ca isotopes are relevant for the study of weaning practices in human, dairy product consumption in human populations or past mammal ecosystem structures. I will finally shortly discuss the physiological mechanisms responsible for the biologically induced fractionation of Ca isotopes.



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