

The Authors

Nicholas J. Conard is a Palaeolithic archaeologist. He is the director of the Department for Early Prehistory and Quaternary Ecology, the founding director of the Institute of Archaeological Sciences at the University of Tübingen, and the scientific director of the State Museum of Prehistory in Blaubeuren. His work focuses on cultural evolution in the Middle to Late Pleistocene. He is head of research at UNESCO world heritage sites of “Caves and Ice Age Art of the Swabian Jura” in Germany and “The Emergence of Modern Human Behaviour: The Pleistocene Occupation Sites of South Africa” as well as the famous spear-site of Schöningen, Germany. His team discovered numerous ivory figurines and musical instruments from the Aurignacian in the caves of the Swabian Jura.

Rimtautas Dapschauskas is an evolutionary-cognitive archaeologist whose research focuses on the origins and early evolution of human sociality, ritual, and art during the Palaeolithic period. He has been conducting research in collaboration with the research center ‘The Role of Culture in Early Expansions of Humans’ (ROCEEH) at the Heidelberg Academy of Sciences and Humanities since 2015. Additionally, he serves as a lecturer at the University of Heidelberg.

Harald Floss is a prehistorian at the University of Tübingen. He conducts research primarily in southern Germany, France and the Balkans. In addition to the evolution of early human technologies, Harald Floss is interested in prehistoric art. He was involved in the inscription of the Chauvet Cave and the caves of the Swabian Jura on the UNESCO World Heritage List. One of his specialties is the relationship between prehistoric and modern art.

Agustín Fuentes, a Professor of Anthropology at Princeton University, focuses on the biosocial, delving into the entanglement of biological systems with the social and cultural lives of humans, our ancestors, and a few of the other animals with whom humanity shares close relations. His current projects include exploring cooperation, creativity, and belief in human evolution, multispecies anthropologies, evolutionary theory and processes, gender/sex, and engaging race and racism. Fuentes’ books include “Race, Monogamy, and other lies they told you: busting myths about human nature” (U of California), “The Creative Spark: how imagination made humans exceptional” (Dutton), and “Why We Believe: evolution and the human way of being” (Yale).

Miriam N. Haidle is a Palaeolithic archaeologist and paleoanthropologist. Since 2008, she coordinates the Research Center ‘The Role of Culture in Early Expansions of Humans’ (ROCEEH) at the Heidelberg Academy of Sciences and Humanities. Her research focuses on cognitive and cultural evolution, reverse engineering of processes and communities of practice from material remains, and the entanglement of performances, tools and social as well as material resources. In 2021, she co-curated the exhibition “Menschsein. Anfänge unserer Kultur” (Being human. The beginnings of our culture) at the Archaeological Museum, Frankfurt/Main.

Thomas Heyd is a philosopher who has written extensively on how we may understand prehistoric art manifestations on rock. He has taught in the Department of Philosophy and in Environmental Studies at the University of Victoria since 1993 and widely lectured on rock art aesthetics. He is Associate Fellow at the Centre for Global Studies at the University of Victoria, presently researching the relation of climatic changes to aesthetic manifestations in prehistory, with a view toward a better understanding of possible changes in aesthetic sensibilities due to present climate change.

Shumon T. Hussain is a Palaeolithic and multispecies archaeologist based at the University of Cologne, Germany. He is particularly interested in the long-term dynamics of coevolving human-animal-environment systems and the role of technology in early human evolution. He currently heads the ECOLITHIC (‘A Radical Ecosystems View of Lithic Macro-Evolution’) research group funded by the Volkswagen Foundation (2025-2028).

Andrew W. Kandel is a Palaeolithic archaeologist. Since 2008, he has conducted research with the research centre ‘The Role of Culture in Early Expansions of Humans’ (ROCEEH) at the Heidelberg Academy of Sciences and Humanities. His current research explores Middle and Upper Palaeolithic material culture with a focus on symbolic behavior as shown through personal ornaments and ochre use.

Marc Kissel is currently an assistant professor at the Appalachian State University in North Carolina. He has published on various topics in paleoanthropology such as the processes by which our ancestors became human, pedagogy in college, and the role of war and peace in human evolution. His first book, written with Nam Kim, “Emergent Warfare in Our Evolutionary Past” was published in 2018. The book examines the origins and development of human forms of organized violence from an anthropological perspective, suggesting that human warfare is qualitatively different from forms of lethal, intergroup violence seen elsewhere in the natural world, and that its emergence is intimately connected to how humans evolved and to the emergence of human nature itself.

Rémi Labrusse is senior researcher at the Ecole des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, Paris. He has devoted a substantial part of his work to the study of the invention of the concept of prehistory and its reception in artistic, literary, and scholarly circles, since the 19th century. Among his contributions in this domain, he published a book

(*Préhistoire. L'envers du temps*, Paris, 2019) and co-organised an exhibition at the Centre Pompidou, Paris (*Préhistoire. Une énigme moderne*, 2019).

Chris Low is an Affiliated Researcher with Pitt Rivers Museum, University of Oxford, and the Founding Director of !Kwa ttu San Heritage Centre, near Cape Town, South Africa. He currently works at !Kwa ttu as a heritage consultant and mentor. His primary interests concern spirit, healing and human-environmental relationships alongside Indigenous museology.

Oscar Moro Abadía works as Professor at Memorial University of Newfoundland (Canada). He specializes in the study of the history and epistemology of Palaeolithic art. He is the co-editor (with Martin Porr) of *Ontologies of Rock Art: Images, Relational Approaches and Indigenous Knowledges*, Routledge, London, 2021. Together with Margaret Conkey and Jo McDonald, he has recently co-edited *Deep-Time Images in the Age of Globalization*, Springer, New York, 2025.

Martin Porr is Associate Professor of Archaeology and a member of the Centre for Rock Art Research + Management at the University of Western Australia (UWA). He was recently awarded an Australian Research Council Future Fellowship for the project *Deep Time Images in the Age of Globalisation: Contemporary Heritage, Future Opportunities*. He has published widely on Palaeolithic art and archaeology as well as general theoretical aspects of archaeological and rock art research.

Nuria Sanz Gallego, an archaeologist and anthropologist, is an international civil servant at the United Nations. She holds a PhD in Prehistoric Archaeology from the Complutense University of Madrid (Spain) and a PhD in Human Ecology from the University of Tübingen (Germany). She has developed her professional career as an expert in natural and cultural heritage management in multilateral institutions such as the Council of Europe, European Union, UNESCO and FAO since 1995. Since 2022, she is the UNESCO Regional Director for Egypt and Sudan and Liaison Officer with the League of Arab States.

Adeline Schebesch is a professional theatre actress and archaeologist. She graduated from the renowned Max Reinhardt-Seminar, University of Vienna in 1987 and has been pursuing a successful acting career ever since. In 2012 she was awarded the title of 'Kammerschauspielerin' (state actress) and in 2022 the Bavarian Order of Merit for her achievements in performing arts. In 2012 she also obtained her M. A. in Prehistory and Media Sciences from Friedrich-Alexander University, Erlangen-Nürnberg (FAU). Besides working as an actress, she dedicates her archaeological research to the artistic expression and means of communication in prehistoric artifacts.

Bryn Tapper is Assistant Professor in the Department of Archaeology at Memorial University of Newfoundland (Canada). He specialises in the rock art of Atlantic Canada and the Maritime Peninsula, with a particular focus on the petroglyphs of the Mi'kmaq and Wolastoqiyik First Nations. His research interests include rock art

and culture-contact, landscape archaeology, and the maritime cultural landscapes of Indigenous and European-settlers in Atlantic Canada.

Sibylle Wolf is a prehistorian by training. Since 2016, she is scientific member and scientific coordinator of the Senckenberg Centre HEP at the University of Tübingen. She is an expert on Palaeolithic figurative artworks and personal ornamentation. Her research focuses on osseous raw materials. Wolf is involved in numerous museum exhibitions.