

Peer Review

Review of: "Does Palaeolithic Resource Management Leading to Domestication Explain Human “Modernity”?”

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1. Independent researcher

This is not a serious piece of research. It lacks a methodology and results and reads more like an opinion piece or a stream of consciousness. Yet, the opinions raised are poorly constructed, some are self-referential, and others downright wrong. There are wild, unsubstantiated claims that go against the scientific consensus such as “music in Lomekwi” and that “Neanderthals, Denisovans and extant humans are one species”. Regarding this latter point, the author claims that “there is no substantive evidence in favour of this notion, be it anthropological, archaeological, demographic or genetic”, when the overwhelming majority of archaeological, anthropological, and genetic evidence is in favour of the three species being separate, not one species.

I also do not see how the reduction in anatomically modern human cranial capacity, gracilisation of the body, and neotenisation at the end of the Late Pleistocene have anything to do with the gradual migration of modern humans from Africa starting in MIS 6 (e.g., Misliya Cave, Apidima Cave) 180,000 years prior, or how the anatomical changes would disprove migration. The author further claims humans only became modern in the last 40ky but fails to provide any evidence.

This is not publishable.

Declarations

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.