

Peer Review

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

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The authors explore whether evidence of early animal domestication during the Palaeolithic could shed light on human modernity and its possible connection to self-domestication. This is a compelling question that has appeared in the literature before but remains highly debated. Their paper reviews existing theories about domestication, drawing on archaeological findings, evidence of animal use in human societies, and molecular data. They discuss several case studies in detail, including reindeer, horses, bovids, and wolves/dogs.

The authors consider how early forms of animal management might have influenced human self-domestication and shaped human interactions with the environment. They also touch on unresolved issues concerning human origins and large-scale migrations. While the paper does not present new empirical discoveries, it provides a fresh perspective by shifting attention toward the broader conceptual understanding of domestication and its potential role in human evolution.

The question of whether humans may have begun self-domesticating before domesticating other animals is still open for discussion. In the absence of evidence ruling out this idea, some findings from modern bioarchaeology might gain new interpretations through such conceptual approaches. The paper offers a coherent narrative, though it is highly speculative and should be seen primarily as a perspective or hypothesis-driven contribution. The suggestion that human self-domestication may have been connected to the management of large mammals during the Late Pleistocene, as an early step toward later domestication, is thought-provoking. However, it would be useful to understand how the authors selected the literature they cite. It is not entirely clear whether their approach could support research that goes beyond a narrative review, given the lack of a formal protocol and the selective nature of the sources.

To clarify the scope and methodology, the authors could indicate that this work represents a conceptual synthesis, a narrative review, or a conceptual review, and briefly describe their approach to reviewing the literature.

Declarations

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.