

FACETS OF HUMAN EVOLUTION: A BIOLOGICAL ANTHROPOLOGY SERIES

IN COLLABORATION WITH

THE ARMELAGOS-SWEDLUND DISTINGUISHED LECTURE SERIES

PROUDLY PRESENT

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It's Biocultural All the Way Down: Anthropological Dynamics of Human Evolution



Anthropology, at its heart, is a biocultural endeavor. Regardless of whether practitioners admit it, recognize it, or like it, becoming and being human always entails a dynamic wherein bodies, minds, lives, and societies are deeply entangled, enmeshed, and mutually co-constructive. And this dynamic has deep roots in our evolutionary histories. Following the lead of George Armelagos and the work of so many others, I argue for the necessity of a biocultural approach but move its reach deep into the past. There are critical connections between the lives of the genus *Homo* in the Pleistocene and the contemporary human experience, but they are not simple; elucidating their possible meanings requires an integrative anthropological toolkit. Eschewing a “human nature” or strict adaptationist approach I invite us to think evolutionarily and anthropologically about key aspects of the human, such as shared imagination and beliefs, care of the living and the dead, sex/gendered lives, and imagine how they might be understood in the context of the long biocultural *durée* of the human, and hominin, experience.

APRIL 7TH, 2023

2:30-4PM

COMMONWEALTH HONORS COLLEGE EVENT HALL