

"Isotope Studies and the Origins and Spread of Agriculture in Latin America"



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Stable carbon, nitrogen, and oxygen isotope analysis of skeletal tissues is able to quantify the proportions of C3 and C4 plants (e.g. maize) and the contribution of freshwater and/or marine resources to otherwise terrestrial diets, as well as variations in trophic level of the foods consumed. In addition, while studies of faunal and floral remains, pollen and phytoliths, and ceramic residues are complementary, the isotope analyses allow the comparison of individual dietary practices with variables such as sex and/or status, as well as ecological, chronological, and cultural settings. A synthetic perspective for Latin America is presented here based on collagen, apatite, tooth enamel, and hair data from sites in Mexico, Guatemala, Belize, Honduras, Panama, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Chile and Argentina.

**Room: McCarty B 2102
9/27 at 3 PM**

Conference sponsored by the Center for Latin American Studies with the collaboration of F.A.S.A and the Department of Anthropology.

Save the date for future conferences in "The Origins of Agriculture in Latin America "

Tom D. Dillehay, Professor, Vanderbilt University. Modeling Human Ecodynamics and Crop-Based Communities in Mid-Holocene Northern Peru. Friday 11/09, 4pm.

Stephen Rostain, Professor, La Maison René Ginouvès d'Archéologie et d'Ethnologie, University of Paris X at Nanterre. Friday 11/16, 4pm.
Peter Stahl, Professor, Binghamton University. Friday 11/30, 3pm.