COMING TO AMERICA

Human Migration and Genome Diversity During the Last Ice Age

A Presentation by Dennis H. O’Rourke, Foundation Distinguished Professor, University of Kansas

Human dispersal into the Western Hemisphere has been the subject of scientific inquiry and controversy for more than 500 years. The historical view of “waves of migration” from an unspecified Asian locale is now being replaced. Much of the research underlying the newer conceptions of North American origins has been made possible by extensive consultations, partnerships, and collaborations with indigenous communities, tribal governments, and village corporations. In this program, anthropological geneticist Dennis O’Rourke discusses his collaborative research in the Arctic and four key issues: 1) when the indigenous American genome became distinct from ancestral populations, 2) the duration of isolation in Beringia, 3) the timing and routes of early dispersals into the hemisphere, and 4) the identification of additional areas in northern North America that also may have contributed to the dispersals of populations into the Americas.

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