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# Workshop Announcement: Revisiting the "Negrito" Hypothesis, an Inter-Disciplinary Synthesis of the Prehistory of Southeast Asia

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## **Abstract**

Title: Revisiting the "Negrito" Hypothesis, an Inter-Disciplinary Synthesis of the Prehistory of Southeast Asia.

Date: Paris (France); September 3–5, 2012

Venue: The National Museum of Natural History, Paris, France

Convener: Phillip Endicott, Ph.D.

Website: [www.mnhn.fr/mnhn/ecoanthropologie/paris2012negrito/negrito\\_index.html](http://www.mnhn.fr/mnhn/ecoanthropologie/paris2012negrito/negrito_index.html)

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## ***Workshop Announcement***

In the frame of a special issue scheduled to be published in 2013 and guest edited by Dr Phillip Endicott (France), *Human Biology* will sponsor the workshop mentioned below.

This event will be open for attendance by other interested scholars working in the fields of Anthropology (Social, Cultural and Biological), Archaeology, History, Linguistics, and Population Genetics of Southeast Asia.

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### **Aim:**

The “negrito” hypothesis was one of the first evolutionary paradigms to emerge from the nascent academic discipline of Anthropology in the late 19th century. It posits that various indigenous groups throughout island and mainland Southeast Asia have a shared phenotype—defined by short but gracile stature, dark complexion, and tightly curled hair—due to common descent from a putative ancestral population, representing a pre-agricultural substrate of humanity in the region. Alternatively, these various groups are an example of convergent evolution within Southeast Asia. The category of “negritos” (from the Spanish diminutive for black) was also used in early attempts to delineate humans into various “races” based on shared physical characteristics. Assessing to what extent there is shared genetic and/or cultural heritage between these groups takes on additional significance with the growing consensus that Southeast Asia formed a corridor of migration for early human populations and, possibly another species of hominin, Denisovans. Therefore, the “negrito” hypothesis intersects with many of the core issues in evolutionary anthropology both past and present.

The International Workshop to be held in Paris 3–5 September 2012 is designed to revisit the “negrito” hypothesis within an inter-disciplinary framework involving contributions from Archaeology, Biological Anthropology, Cultural Anthropology, Physical Anthropology, Social Anthropology, Linguistics, and Population Genetics. Methodological approaches will be both synchronic and diachronic, and a comparative approach is actively encouraged. The workshop will present the latest research available and explore where there is a common framework between the different disciplines.

### **Invited Speakers:**

Geoffrey Benjamin (Singapore), Social and Cultural Anthropology  
Robert Blust (USA), Comparative Linguistics  
David Bulbeck (Australia), Physical Anthropology  
Gyaneshwer Chaubey (Estonia), Population Genetics  
Murray Cox (New Zealand), Population Genetics  
Frederick Delfin (Philippines), Population Genetics  
Fabrice Demeter (France), Archaeology  
Florent Detroit (France), Archaeology  
Nathaniel Dominy (USA), Biological Anthropology  
Michael Dunn (The Netherlands), Comparative Linguistics  
Evelyne Heyer (France), Population Genetics  
Charles Higham (New Zealand), Archaeology  
Andrea Migliano (United Kingdom), Biological Anthropology  
Abe Padilla (Philippines), Social Anthropology  
Vishvajit Pandiya (India), Social Anthropology  
Lye Tuck Po (Malaysia), Cultural Anthropology  
Lawrence Reid (USA), Comparative Linguistics  
Naroyua Saitou (Japan), Population Genetics  
Jay Stock (United Kingdom), Physical Anthropology  
Mila Tommaseo-Ponzetta (Italy) Population Genetics

### **Talks, Poster Presentations:**

The invited papers will be presented at the workshop in an open forum with the focus being on discussion of the content and possible cross-discipline connections. The papers will also be considered for publication in a special issue of *Human Biology: The International Journal of Population Genetics and Anthropology*. We try to keep the organization as light as possible, but we are looking forward to developing our scientific agenda as much as possible, so please feel free to submit an abstract for a talk, or bring a poster if you have one that fits.

Registration fee: \*

*Before June 15, 2012*

Students: 180 Euros

Senior researchers: 275 Euros

*After June 15, 2012*

Students: 250 Euros

Senior researchers: 350 Euros

To attend or pre-register, please send a message to [paris2012negrito@gmail.com](mailto:paris2012negrito@gmail.com). For scientific inquiries only (paper submissions, etc.), please send a message to [phillip.endicott@mnhn.fr](mailto:phillip.endicott@mnhn.fr).

\* The registration fee covers the workshop package, coffee breaks, and a welcome reception/dinner but NOT accommodations.