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# Afghan Genetic Mysteries

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# Afghan Genetic Mysteries

**Abstract** Letter To The Editor

## Letter to the Editor

#### Afghan Genetic Mysteries

I am a cultural anthropologist, and I have focused a large part of my research on Afghanistan populations. To my surprise, and despite the international attention given to this country in the last three decades, I have noted the absence of significant genetic studies intended to depict its complex population history. Available articles mainly concern those ethnic groups located across the borders, meaning that any conclusion about Afghanistan is an indirect inference, as only few Afghans living in Afghanistan or recently emigrated from Afghanistan, have been sampled (Agarwal et al. 1976; Rahimi et al. 1977; Goedde et al. 1977a and 1977b; Hirth et al. 1979 and 1982; Benkmann et al. 1980; Berti et al. 2005; Hohoff et al. 2006; Lacau et al. 2011).

Afghanistan is at the crossroad of many civilizations, where Central Asian and Indo-European populations (coming from the Iranian plateau and the Indian sub-continent) have met and sometimes admixed (Bruk 1955; Orywal 1983 and 1986; Barfield 2011).

As Afghanistan has been practically isolated from all neighboring regions from the 18th century to the beginning of the 20th century, more than anywhere else today, spoken languages well identify existing ethnic groups that are fully conscious of their identity. Therefore, linguistic diversity can be used as an excellent proxy to ethnic identity. In total, there are at least thirty-two different languages and dialects in Afghanistan, belonging to four different linguistic families. Twelve languages are specific to this country: Parachi; Munji, Sangleshi-Eshkashimi (Badakhshan province); Kati, Askuni, Waigali, Prasuni (Nurestan province); Pashayi; Ningalami, Watapuri, Sawi, Tirahi (Farhadi 1969 and 1970). For more details, the generally accurate guide "The Ethnologue" can be consulted, and to this end, I will report their capitalized three-letter accession code used at the beginning of each section (Lewis 2009).

Generally, the definition of Afghan ethnic groups corresponds to usual ethnological criteria: a specific political or social organization, a marked preference for endogamous marriages, the feeling of sharing a common culture, values, and memories, and a marked geographic continuity of the territory each group inhabits (Dupaigne and Rossignol 2002).

Before moving on to a systematic description of the ethnic groups living in the country, I would like to highlight that traditionally it was possible to marry a woman of a group considered as inferior, while the reverse was impossible. Furthermore, while marriages between Turkmens and Tajiks or between Uzbeks, Tajiks, and Arabs could be envisaged, in the Pashtuns tribes marriages between tribes far apart from each other were unlikely and almost impossible with any other ethnic group.

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Almost no Afghan ethnic group can be considered fully genetically homogeneous in view of the wars, the deportation of populations, the alliances, and its possible past integration in more powerful groups after a defeat. Further, the tradition of stronger groups to accept impoverished families or clans among them, that worked unpaid in exchange of protection until a final integration, may distort a trustworthy genetic inference about ancestry (Centlivres and Centlivres-Demont 1988).

I understand that researchers potentially interested in Afghans have been discouraged by the political instability of the region and by its cultural complexity. While I am unable to fix the first problem, I will describe the different groups, trying to provide a list of hypotheses that can be investigated with molecular markers and highlight the cases where such investigation is likely to be unsuccessful. Most importantly, the chronology of the arrival of the different ethnic groups, largely unknown, would be enlightened by population genetics. Several useful studies could be achieved before the official departure of allied forces scheduled for 2014. The foreign influence cannot be limited to that of conquering armies, and the scientific field open to research is immense.

Concerning the genetic sampling, the size and the ethnic diversity of the population of Kabul and other major cities would often suffice, and travelling to remote regions would not be required. Moreover, without mentioning many well-equipped hospitals, the universities of Kabul, Jalalabad, Mazar-i Sharif, Herat, or Kapisa would be eager to cooperate.

While the reader may conclude that Afghanistan is just a virtual name corresponding to a territory inhabited by tribes having contrasting and independent political aspirations, my experience shows that Afghans of any ethnical belonging, although still attached to their ancient loyalties, consider themselves as citizens of a unique Afghan nation.

Before moving on to the systematic description of the different ethnic groups, I would like to thank Pierre Darlu for providing useful references about genetic investigations and Nancy Wise for translating my text into English. If this letter persuades any anthropologist to start a genetic survey in Afghanistan, I will be glad to answer any inquiry sent through the editorial office of *Human Biology*. Meanwhile, Figure 1 can be used to geographically locate some of the groups I mention.

#### **Major Ethnic Groups**

**The Pashtuns (PBU, PBT).** The Pashtuns, constituting about 40% of the population, represent the dominant ethnic group in Afghanistan ("Afghan" generally is a synonym of "Pashtun"). They initiated the modern Afghan State in 1747 when, during a big tribal meeting (*loya djirga*) in Kandahar, Ahmad Shah, chief of the Abdalis tribe, was elected *emir* (king) of the southern tribes (Bellew 1880; Caroe 1958). They live not only in the south and southeast of Afghanistan, but also in the "tribal belt" of West Pakistan. The Pashtuns (called Pathans in



Figure 1. Map of some ethnical groups of Afghanistan (redrawn from Gille 1984, courtesy of Alain Marigo). A more detailed map can be found in Dupree 1980 at the page 58.

Pakistan) speak Pashto, a language belonging to the oriental group of Iranian languages, which was recognized in 1936 as one of the two official languages of Afghanistan (the other being *Farsi*).

The existence of Pashtuns is first mentioned in 982 CE in the geographic treatise *Hodûd al-'Alam* (Minorsky 1937). This manuscript actually refers to those inhabiting West Pakistan in the area of the Suleiman Mountains, but it does not mean that other Pashtun groups were not already living in Afghanistan. Originally followers of the Iranian fire religions (Zoroastrism, Mazdeism, Manichaeism), all Pashtuns converted to Islam between the 7th and the 11th centuries as a consequence of the Arab conquests.

These days, the Pashtuns are grouped in two political confederations, called Durranis in the south (areas of Kandahar and Quetta) and Ghilzays in the east (areas of Nangarhar and Paktya). They are respectively composed of about ten main tribes (Alekzays, Alikozays, Andars, Atchazays, Barakzays, Ishakzays, Mohammedzays, Nurzays, Popalzays, and Sadozays) and by about eight main tribes (Ahmadzays, Hotakis, Ishakzays, Kharotis, Musakhêls, Suleymankhêls, Tarakis, and Zadrans). Some eastern tribes (Jajis, Kakars, Khogianis, Mangals, Safis, and Turis) as well as the Afridis, Shinwaris, Mohamads, and Waziris do not belong to such confederations (Lal 1846).

I herein provide a detailed picture of the social organization, because each Pashtun tribe (or clan) claims to descend from a single common male ancestor. This traditional belief might be genetically tested, even though the traditional habit of adoption, as well as the various conquests and tribal wars, are likely to complicate the picture.

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We note that in the 19th century some British authors argued that the Pashtuns were the descendants of one of the ten lost tribes of Israel (Burnes 1834), but genetic research has still to find any evidence of such claim (Qamar et al 2002; Parfitt 2003). The political and religious group of the *Taliban* (literally, *students of religion*) is mainly, but not exclusively, constituted by Pashtuns.

#### **The Persanophones**

The Tajiks (PRS). The Tajiks represent about 25%–30% of the whole Afghan population. They are believed to be the most ancient inhabitants of Afghanistan (Masson and Romodin 1964–1965; Dupree 1973). They are a sedentary population of Persian tradition, spread almost all over the country. Different from Pashtuns, Tajiks are not organized in a tribal system. They are farmers, shopkeepers, civil servants, and artisans, and they name themselves by their region or valley of origin: Andarabis, Badakhchis, Heratis, Logaris, Panjcheris, Wakhis, etc., In Afghanistan, the Tajiks are generally known as *Farsiwan* (literally meaning: "who speak the Persian language") because they speak *Farsi* (or *Dari*, the official name of the literary language). *Farsi* is also the language of the central administration, medias, traders, and it shares with Pashto the status of official language of Afghanistan.

Small ancient Tajiks groups (Pamiri Tajiks in Figure 1), different from each other and from the majority of other Tajiks can be found in the mountain valleys of Pamir in the Northeast provinces of Badakhshan and Wakhan (Kussmaul 1965). They speak archaic Iranian dialects, called Eshkashemi (SGL), Munji (MNJ), Rochani, Shughni (SGH), Yaghnobi, and Wakhi (WBL). These isolates would permit a more refined genetic analysis of the original Tajik settlers (main Tajiks are often mixed), even though a loss of genetic diversity might be expected.

**The Aymaqs (AIQ).** Living in the isolated mountains of west central Hindu-Kush and accounting for around 600,000 people, they are also called *Farsiwan* (speaking *Farsi*), in spite of the fact that the word used to identify them, *Aymaq*, is of Mongol origin. They do not call themselves in such a way, preferring to use toponyms related to the original location of their tribe: Taymûris (around the cities of Herat and Qala-e no), Jamchidis (north of Herat), Taymanis, and Ferozkohis (Mandersloot 1971). The kind of *Farsi* they speak contains many Turkish terms borrowed from neighboring populations. Different from the Tajiks (another *Farsiwan* people), they are endogamous and remain attached to their tribal affiliations. They have a semi-nomadic lifestyle and could be the descendants of the Ghorids, who had established an empire from Afghanistan to India in the 12th and 13th centuries.

**The Baluchs (BGN).** There are about 250,000 Baluchs in Afghanistan. They originally came from north of the Caspian Sea. Arab geographers reported their presence during the 10th century in the province of Seistan (south-west of Afghanistan, between Iran and Pakistan) where they still live in their majority. Some smaller groups live in the northwest of Afghanistan and in Turkmenistan (Pehrson 1966). The Baluchs speak an ancient Iranian language and share a semi-nomadic lifestyle (de Planhol 1993). Their tribal organization is very strong and differentiated, with most of them being from the Rakhshani tribe. They are all Sunni Muslims, even those living in Iran.

**The Ormuris (ORU) and Paratchi (PRC).** The Ormuris consist of only a few families, either living around the town of Baraki-Barak in the province of Logar or near Kaniguram in the province of Waziristan (Pakistan). They speak Ormuri, an ancient language that is nearly extinct, of the south-eastern Iranian group (Kieffer 1977). Until recent times, the Ormuris did not exchange wives with their neighbors, and their maternal lineages should be of interest. The Paratchi people, who speak a language of the same name, can still be found in only some isolated villages of the Patchaghan valley (district of Nijrab, Kapisa province) and in the Shutul valley (Parwan province).

The Hazaras live mainly in the fairly isolated moun-The Hazaras (HAZ). tainous regions of central Afghanistan and account for around 10% of the Afghans. They speak a Persian dialect, the Hazaragi. Because of an "Asiatic" facial morphology, it has often been suggested that the Hazaras might be the descendants of soldiers of the army of Genghis Khan. Genghis Khan had conquered the region between 1221 and 1227 CE after having unified various Central Asian tribes like the Mongols, the Turks, and the Tatars. They came as soldiers without families, and some of them could eventually have settled in the Afghan valleys and married local women. In this way, they might be part of the ethnogenesis of the Hazaras. If such unsupported beliefs had to be considered reliable, it should be pointed out that Genghis Khan's cavalry-men were chosen among allied and conquered tribes and were likely to be genetically heterogeneous, meaning that the genetic roots of the Hazaras may be multiple (Qamar 2002). More likely, the Hazaras are the descendants of nomadic Turkish groups moving from the Altai to the West (Farhadi 2010). They could have been either the Huns Hephtalites (who annihilated the Kouchan empire in the 5th century), or the Tû-Kiue (a group that came to Afghanistan from the North in the 6th century), or even an admixed population having its roots in the various oriental Turkish groups forced to migrate elsewhere because of being "pushed" by the Mongol conquest.

Modern Hazaras use the district names corresponding to the area they inhabit (Jaghori, Behsud, Timuri, Day Tchopan, Day-Kundi, Day-Mirdad, Day-Zangi, Sheikh-Ali, and Yakaolang). We still do not know if they once formed well-constituted endogamic groups or if they admixed with groups of ancient Iranian lineage established in the region since more distant times (Poladi 1989; Mousavi 1998; Monsutti 2005).

The most respected among the Hazaras, are the Seyyeds. Men wear a traditional black turban and can be easily identified. The Seyyeds claim to descend from the Prophet Mohammed and are strictly endogamous. A genetic study would certainly shed some light on their paternal lineage in order to verify any affiliation with those found in the Arabian Peninsula.

**The Moghols (MHJ).** Considered by cultural anthropologists as true descendants of Mongol groups (Schurmann 1962), the small group called locally "moghols" (Zerjal et al. 2003) speak a form of Mongol, mixed with Persian language (Iwamura 1961). They are established in 8 villages of western Afghanistan, located in the southeast of Herat city (villages of Kundur, Karez-e Molla, Burya-baf, Bêdawi, and Zimi). They are also found in the province of Maymana (Do-rodi and Morcha-gol villages) and near Obeh, in the province of Ghor (Zaman-abad).

**The "Turkish peoples."** Many different populations speaking languages of the Turco-oriental group live in Afghanistan, mainly in the Northern provinces (Jarring 1939). Until the military conquest in 1882 by Abd-or Rahman, the founder of the modern Afghan state, they lived in small kingdoms, independent from the *emir* of Bukhara and from the Pashtun chiefs of southern Afghanistan (Krueger 1963; Toltova 1962–1963; Heywood 1998). Currently, smaller groups are located in well-defined districts, and were semi-nomads until quite recently: Qarakalpak (KAA), Kazakhs (KAZ), Qarluqs, Tatars, Türks near Herat, Mazar-i Sharif, and Kondoz cities; also Uygûris (UIG) in the Badakhshan province. They still remain attached to their tribal affiliations (Centlivres 1975).

**The Uzbeks (UZS).** The Uzbeks (approximately 10% of the whole population of Afghanistan) are probably among the descendants of the ancient Qipchak populations established in Central Asia and came from the North before the 16th century (Burnes 1834; de Clavijo 1928). Either nomadic or sedentary, they occupy the rich loess land of the northern plains from Maymana to Khanabad.

While not all of them may have a memory of their ancient tribal affiliations, some still identify themselves as members of tribes: Burka, Durmen, Kipchak, Lakay, Mangit, Ming, Muytan, Qattaghan, and Qungrat. At the end of the 19th century, the Uzbek kingdoms (Maymana, Sheberghan, Andkhoy, Balkh, Khulm, Kondoz, and Fayzabad) were annexed to the newly constituted Afghan nation, and Pashtuns nomads were installed in these former kingdoms. The two populations would not normally intermarry (Irwin et al. 2010; Revazov et al. 1983).

The Afshars (AZB). The Afshars arrived in Afghanistan following the conquest of Nadir Shah in 1737 and have since always lived in the Chandawol

neighborhood of Kabul. Descendants of a Turkish speaking group, they belong to Shia Muslim branch (Ligeti 1957). Generally well educated, they soon became civil servants, soldiers, or bodyguards at Court and kept their identity. A genetic comparative study with Iranian populations would be possible in order to more precisely identify their roots.

**The Turkmens (TUK).** Turkmens (approximately 2% of the whole population) are probably the descendants of the ancient Oghûz tribes of Mongolia. The Oghûz were already in the 7th century organized as a federation of 24 clans established around the Aral Sea and the Caspian Sea. From the 10th century onward, they were converted to Islam (König 1962).

Turkmens speak a language belonging to the south-western group of the Turkish languages. The main stream of Turkmens arrived in Afghanistan between 1928 and 1933. They settled near Herat and along the left bank of the Amu-Daria River, between the towns of Andkhoy and Kondoz. They still keep a tribal organization: the Tekkes (the dominant group in nearby Turkmenistan) near Herat, the Yomuds (numerous in east Iran), the Karas at Andkhoy, the Qarqins, the Ersaris who are the more numerous in Afghanistan, around Aqcha, and, finally the Alielis, Egdyrs, Chaudors, Göklens, Salors, and Saryks (Irons 1975).

Until 1884 and the takeover of Merv City by Russian troops, Turkmen living around the Aral Sea used to raid east Iranian villages, capturing peasants and selling them as slaves on the markets of Khiva and Bukhara. Genetic admixture has thus happened. Furthermore, being generally wealthy due to their successful carpet trade, they could sometimes afford having a second wife from neighboring villages not necessarily belonging to their own group.

**The Kirghiz (KIR).** Mainly living in the sovereign state of Kirghizstan and in the Pamirs Mountains across the Chinese border, there are only a few Kirghiz in Afghanistan. Their arrival from China is rather recent, before 1895 and around 1920 and 1949. Living the entire year at an altitude of 4000 m. in valleys accessible only in summer, they breed yaks and sheep (Dor 1975; Dor and Naumann 1978). Such geographic isolation might be of interest for demographers and geneticists to study recent drift and bottleneck phenomena with reference to Kirghiz living in Kirghizstan (Facchini et al. 1997; Gurgey et al. 2000). In 1979, a majority left for Pakistan as refugees, establishing in the area of Chitral. In 1982, they were given asylum in Kara Gündüz village of eastern Turkey, before commuting to larger cities. Those Kirghiz (estimated 2000) that remained in Afghanistan can be easily found in the Pamir area.

#### The "Indians"

**The Brahuis (BRH).** The Brahuis live in South-west Afghanistan, in Seistan and Registan. They belong to a very ancient population, having pre-Aryan roots

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and maintain a strong cultural identity. They speak a Dravidian language of the family of southern India's ancient languages (region of Dekkan) and of the north of Ceylon. Linguists believe that their arrival chronologically precedes the one of the Baluchs. Traditionally desert nomads, they breed racing dromedaries.

The Pachays (AEE, GLH, PSI, PSH). This appellation groups the populations of various valleys in the provinces of Laghman, Konar, and Kapisa in the east of Afghanistan (Wutt 1980). They are the descendants of a Dardic indo-Aryan group and have been isolated until recent times. A different dialect is spoken in each valley, and mutual intelligibility is very low. Dardic dialects belonging to the same group are spoken in some other villages: Gawarbati (GWT) and Sawi (SDG) in the Konar valley. Tirahi (TRA) is still spoken by a small group of the same name in a few villages of Nangarhar province.

**The Nurestanis.** This interesting population inhabits four isolated mountain valleys in the northeast of the country. In each valley, Ashkun (ASK), Bashgal, Prasun (PRN) and Waygal (WBK), a different dialect is spoken. Such dialects, mutually understandable to some extent, are very ancient (Fussmann 1972). Both have Iranian and Indian features and are related to the ancient pre-Vedic language of India before it split into Indian and Iranian branches. Until the end of the 19th century when they became part of the Afghan kingdom, the Nurestanis lived in near total isolation, as they were not yet Muslims (Robertson 1896). To the eyes of anthropologists, they have a special interest as almost perfect cultural and geographical isolates. These days, it is impossible to reach the valleys as they have become strongholds of insurgents, both local and foreign.

**The Gojurs (GJU).** They are constituted by small groups of endogamous nomads of Indian origin. Generally sheep farmers, they speak a specific language, *Gojur*, and live in the highlands of the eastern provinces (Kapisa, Nangarhar) and in the northeast (Baghlan).

**The Jats.** *Jat* means caste in India. This term identifies small and marginalized groups of itinerant artisans of Indian origin. The Gorbats, a similar group originally coming from Iran, speak Persian (Rao 1982).

**The Sikhs and the Hindus.** In the 19th century, Sikhs and Afghans fought together for the possession of Peshawar, now capital of the eastern Pashtuns of Pakistan. From 1835 to 1843, the city was administered and beautified by Paolo Avitabile, the Italian lieutenant in the 1st infantry regiment of Napoleon, who became general in the army of Ranjit Singh, the Sikh king of Penjab.

Easily recognizable by their turbans, the Sikhs used to live in their majority in the south and east of Afghanistan (Kandahar, Kabul, Jalalabad, and Khost), where they were mostly shopkeepers, specialized in Indian tissues and jewels.

In the same way, 20,000 to 30,000 Hindus used to live in Afghanistan, as tissue traders in southern cities. In 1832, Alexander Burnes (1834) pretended that all commerce activities in Central Asia, from Astrakhan and Machhad to Calcutta, were in their hands.

After the Taliban takeover of 1994–1996, both the Hindus and the Sikhs had to leave Afghanistan, but some returned after 2001 and rebuilt their religious sites (Dupree 2001). Both Sikhs (new about 2000) and Indus speak Hindustani (HIN), Punjabi (PAN), Lahnda (LAH), or Sindhi (SND).

#### The Semites

**The Arabs.** Arabs groups had arrived in Afghanistan at the very beginning of the Arab conquest (7th - 11th centuries), and then again in 1366 CE from Syria and Iraq in the army of Tamerlan. Many had settled in the north of the Amu-Daria river (in Uzbekistan and Tajikistan) (Vinnikov 1940; Doerfer 1969) or in the ancient province of Bactriane (north of Afghanistan) where, currently, they can be estimated at more than 100,000 individuals. They are semi-nomads and breed cattle, are Sunnite Muslims and speak Persian (Barfield 1981).

Four isolated villages of Afghan Arabs (ABH) have kept their Arab language, though it is mixed with Persian terms, and they are strictly endogamous: Hassan-abad, north-east of Shiberghan, Sultan-aregh, near Aqcha, Yakhdan, and Khoshhal-abad, near Dawlat-abad, Balkh province (Farhadi 1970). The communities living in these villages call themselves Qoresh Arabs, thus claiming a supposed belonging to the Qoresh tribe of the Prophet Mohammed (Sana 1975; Kieffer 1980; Dupaigne 1982). A genetic test may verify any possible relatedness, as according to their tradition, they came from Iraq after the conquest of Baghdad by Tamerlan in 1358 (Debec 1967).

According to a very vague verse in the Bible (Zechariah 6:8), Jews The Jews. could have lived in Afghanistan in the region of Khorasan ("Land in the North") (Fischel 1945; Goldstein 2010). Concerning ancient times, nothing else is known besides an interesting oral tradition handed down in Kabul by Alexander Burnes (1834) claiming that, after the destruction of Jerusalem, a Jewish tribe was deported by Nabuchodonosor II, king of Babylon, to the province of Ghor in 587 BCE. Such tradition is somewhat corroborated by the finding, in a cemetery near Jam (Ghor province), of graves with Jewish inscriptions, dated from 1012 to 1249 CE, that is at the time of the Ghor empire that collapsed in the 13th century (Bruno 1963; Gnoli 1964). After that, it is likely that they moved elsewhere, but it is impossible to know if they left any descendants. Other Jews arrived in Herat from Mashhad (city east of Iran) in 1839 escaping massacres. After the soviet revolution, starting in 1924, many other Jews came to Afghanistan from different areas of Central Asia, namely the cities of Khiva, Bukhara, and Samarkand. At the beginning of the 20th century, Herat still hosted an important Jewish

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Persian-speaking community, while smaller groups could be found in Bala Morghab, Qala-e No, Maymana, Andkhoy, Kandahar, and Kabul.

Starting in 1951, many Jews left Herat for Israel or the United States, and a complete emigration took place in 1978 after the communist takeover. Today, there is only one Jew left in Afghanistan, the guardian of the synagogue in Kabul.

To sample DNA from Jews of Afghan ancestry, a researcher should contact the numerous (approximately 15) Afghan synagogues located in Israel, mainly in Tel-Aviv, or the Afghan synagogue in New York City. Also, a "bukhariot" quarter, created in 1892 and called Rehovoth, exists in Jerusalem, and Afghan Jews live close to it (Bar'am-Ben Yossef 1998).

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# Instructions for Contributors

#### **Editorial Focus**

*Human Biology* publishes original scientific articles, brief communications, letters to the editor, review articles, and book and software reviews on the general topic of biological anthropology. Our main focus is understanding human biological variation and human evolution through a broad range of approaches.

*Human Biology* is the official publication of the American Association of Anthropological Genetics (AAAG) (http://aaag.sfbrgenetics.org/), an educational and scientific organization founded in 1994. AAAG aims to promote the study of anthropological genetics, as this field is broadly defined, to facilitate communication between individuals engaged in the study of anthropological genetics and to foster cooperation among anthropological geneticists.

We encourage investigators to submit any study on human biological diversity presented from an evolutionary or adaptive perspective. Priority will be given to interdisciplinary studies that seek to better explain the interaction between cultural processes and biological processes in our evolution. Methodological papers are also encouraged. Any computational approach intended to summarize cultural variation is encouraged. Studies that are essentially descriptive or concern only a limited geographic area are acceptable only when they have a wider relevance to understanding human biological variation.

Manuscripts may cover any of the following disciplines, once the anthropological focus is apparent: human population genetics, evolutionary and genetic demography, quantitative genetics, evolutionary biology, ancient DNA studies, biological diversity interpreted in terms of adaptation (biometry, physical anthropology), and interdisciplinary research linking biological and cultural diversity (inferred from linguistic variability, ethnological diversity, archeological evidence, etc.). Studies with a medical or epidemiological focus are discouraged.

#### Submitting a Manuscript

Manuscripts should be submitted by e-mail to human.biology@mnhn.fr. For other mailing needs, the address of the editorial office is *Human Biology*, c/o Nancy Wise, Musée de l'Homme, 17 place du Trocadéro, 75116 Paris, France.

Submissions should consist of a "cover letter" to the executive editor (Franz Manni) and a *single* PDF file. The PDF file must include a title page, an abstract, the full text of the article, the reference section, and the tables and figures and corresponding captions (please see the Manuscript Organization section for more details). Although a PDF is the preferred format for submission and review, a Microsoft Word document will be required for the final revised manuscript.

#### **Editorial Process**

All submitted articles go through a two-stage review. A first selection (prereview) is made by the editors on the basis of the abstract only. Manuscripts that are not within the focus of the journal or that are otherwise inappropriate will be rejected at this stage; otherwise, manuscripts are forwarded to researchers familiar with the particular subject area for a specialized review. After a paper is reviewed, it is returned to the author for revisions (if necessary) or rejected. Authors whose papers are accepted will need to sign a copyright transfer agreement. We cannot publish papers without the signed form. Once a paper has been accepted and an issue assigned, it will be copyedited according to the style of the journal, which incorporates elements of style from various standard style manuals (e.g., the *Chicago Manual of Style*). The copyedited manuscripts are then typeset. The journal reserves the right to charge authors for part of the costs involved in publishing long articles or those containing much tabular material. Authors will receive page proof, which they are to proofread carefully and return promptly.

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**General.** Authors should submit their revised manuscript as a Microsoft Word document (Word 2003 or earlier version; if you are using Word 2007, please save the file as a Word 2003 document). The manuscript should be double-spaced throughout, including the author affiliations, the Literature Cited, the figure captions, and the tables. The article should follow the style of *Human Biology* and should be written concisely.

The manuscript should be organized as follows. The first page should be a *title page*, including the title of the paper, authors' names, complete authors' affiliations, and key words.

The second page should contain the *abstract* of the paper (500 words maximum). The abstract should give a summary of the article and not be merely descriptive of it. For example, state the results and the conclusions; do not use such phrases as "The results are discussed in terms of epidemiology." The prereview made by the editors is based solely on the abstract and title; therefore the abstract should be exhaustive and informative.

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Submit clear and readable originals of line drawings in addition to a PDF or jpeg files containing only the figures. Photocopies of figures are not acceptable. You should submit high-quality laser printer copies. Photographs should be clear, sharp, and of high contrast. They should be printed on glossy paper. Please keep in mind that your figures will probably be reduced to fit the journal page. Thus make sure that all lettering and symbols will be able to withstand substantial reduction and still be legible. The Press does not alter figures. Therefore what you submit is what is printed. It is to your benefit—and your readers'—to present the highest-quality figures.

#### **Style Notes**

It is the style of *Human Biology* to use the Human Gene Mapping Workshop nomenclature for genetic systems. This nomenclature system and its terminology are explained by Shows et al. in their article "Guidelines for Human Gene Nomenclature: An International System for Human Gene Nomenclature (ISGN, 1987)" [*Cytogenet. Cell Genet.* 46:11–28 (1987)]. In addition, the abbreviations for specific alleles, enzymes, markers, etc. are given by McAlpine et al. ["Report of the Nomenclature Committee and the 1989 Catalog of Mapped Genes," *Cytogenet. Cell Genet.* 51:13–66 (1989)]. It is also the style of the journal to use metric units. In addition, symbols, diacritical marks, and other unusual characters should be clearly marked on the manuscript. Also be sure to distinguish between the number "1," the letter "1," and the letter "I" if you are using a sans serif typeface.

# Application of Genomics to Anthropological Research (AGAR) Workshop

Dates: Monday, January 9–Tuesday, January 10, 2012

**Location:** The Texas Biomedical Research Institute, San Antonio, Texas **Organizers:** The American Association of Anthropological Genetics (Education Committee) in collaboration with the Texas Biomedical Research Institute

The AGAR Workshop aims to provide students and scholars from the anthropological field with a substantial background in applications of the most state-of-the-art technologies used in genomic investigations. The workshop will be led by experts from the field of genomics, who will instruct and interact with participants in both casual and semi-formal settings.

Specifically, the workshop will comprise (1) keynote lectures from leaders in anthropological genomics, (2) formal presentations describing general as well as anthropology-specific applications of genomic tools, (3) Q&A sessions that address the practical issues of genomic research, (4) informal chalk-talk sessions in which the participants can discuss their own projects, and (5) social events to foster possible collaborations and contacts.

The overall goal of this workshop is to provide anthropologists previously unfamiliar with the field of genomics sufficient knowledge to apply genomic tools to their future research.

# **Tentative Schedule of Events**

#### Day 1 Monday: Arrival

7:00-7:30 p.m.: Workshop introduction 7:30-10:00 p.m.: Mixer

#### Day 1-Monday: Methodological issues regarding genomic applications

9:00–10:30 a.m.: Introduction to next generation sequencing General introduction to different sequencing platforms and basic methodological concepts, such as read-depth, read-pairs, library construction (and tagging), read-length, etc.

10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.: Calling variants: SNPs, indels and structural variation a regarding next-generation sequencing

A comparison of Sanger sequencing, microarray data (SNP, copy number variants, etc.) and other next-generation sequencing techniques. This session will also feature information on controls, quality checks, false-positive rates. 00-1:00 pm L unch

12:00-1:00 p.m.: Lunch

1:00-2:30 p.m.: Large scale analyses of the sequencing data

Analyses of genomic sequence data within the context of association studies and population genetics.

2:30-3:30 p.m.: Exome sequencing and human adaptation

This session will discuss techniques array capture and exome sequencing to identify adaptive variation in the genome.

3:30-4:30 p.m.: Ancient genomics

This session will focus on technical issues regarding extracting ancient DNA, preperation of large-scale genome libriaries, sequencing and interpretation of the data.

4:30–5:30 p.m.: Structural variation

Introduction to different types of genomic structural variations, including copy number variants (CNVs) with an emphasis of methods of "discovering" and "genotyping" such variations using next generation tools.

6:00-8:00 p.m.: Dinner featuring plenary talk

8:00-10:00 p.m: Mixer

#### Day 2- Tuesday: Applications of genomic tools to anthropological questions

10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.: Chalk-talk discussions of potential anthropological genomic projects

Here, the group will discuss 3 possible research questions and projects suggested by the participants, and provide advice on how to design and optimize such projects.

12:30-1:30 p.m.: Lunch

1:30-2:30 p.m.: In depth analyses of population history

In this session we will discuss how whole-genome sequencing data can be used to capitalize on recently developed methods that exploit population genetic theory to infer historical parameters such as divergence times, population sizes, and migration rates as well as perform model testing.

2:30-3:30 p.m.: Pathogens and genome evolution

Pathogens have played a critical role in human evolution, thus revealing their evolutionary dynamics may provide novel insights into the history of modern human populations. This session will focus on how unique features of human pathogen data may be utilized to study important events and behaviors in human evolution.

3:30-4:30 p.m.: Comparative genomics and primate genomics
Methods, challenges, and future directions in large-scale comparison of primate genomes within and across species using next-generation sequencing.
4:30-5:00 p.m.: Concluding remarks

**Registration:** Registration is open to all interested parties, though it will be limited to 40 participants. Fees are \$100 for students, \$150 for postdoctoral fellows, and \$200 for faculty and other professionals. Fees will cover lunches, dinner, and a mixer. Fees do not include travel or accommodations, though reservation blocks will be held at local hotels. To register, please visit www.anthgen.org/AGAR\_registration.html

Deadline: The deadline for registration is November 30, 2011.

**Student Awards:** A limited number of student awards are available to cover the registration fee. Award details can be found at www.anthgen.org/AGAR\_student\_awards.html.

**Contact:** For more information, please contact gokcumen@gmail.com to subscribe to the workshop email listserve.

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