

Wednesday 9 Sept 2026

Icebreaker

Homo erectus
Tbilisi, September 2026


100 + 35

From Toumaï to Sima de los Huesos: Landmarks in Human Evolution

Time	Program	Title
19:00	opening	David Lordkipanidze
19:30	Michel Brunet	History of Toumai
20:00	Juan-Luis Arsuaga	History of Sima de los Huesos
20:30	apero	
21:30	closing	

Thursday 10 Sept 2026

Session I – Reassessment and Evolutionary History of Homo erectus



09:00–10:00	Registration	
10:00–10:20	David Lordkipanidze Opening of the conference	Dmanisi 1991-2026
10:20–11:00	Bernard Wood Keynote	The History of Homo erectus
11:00–11:20	Fred Spoor	Revisiting African early Homo and the Dmanisi hominins
11:20–11:40	Sandrine Prat	New conceptual issues on hominin phylogeny and their implication regarding Homo erectus evolutionary paradigms
11:40–12:00	Coffee Break	
12:00–12:20	Adam Van Arsdale	The Relationship Between Time, Distance, and the Interpretive Framework for Dmanisi
12:20–12:40	Brian Villmoare	A meta-analytic examination of the reliability of character-based phylogenetic analyses for fossil taxa
12:40–13:00	Enrico Cappellini	Palaeoproteomics and human evolution: what's going on and what's next
13:00–14:30	Lunch	
14:30–14:50	Antoine Balzeau	What remains to be discovered about the brain of Homo erectus?
14:50–15:10	Alessandro Urciuoli	Inspecting the semicircular canal morphology of early Homo from Dmanisi: Taxonomic and phylogenetic implications
15:10–15:30	Ann Margvelashvili	Scars of Survival: Trauma, Disease, and Death among the Dmanisi Hominins
15:30–15:50	Jukka Jernvall	The disappearing act of the wisdom tooth
15:50–16:10	Coffee Break	
16:10–16:30	Clement Zanolli	Investigation of the dental structural organization of the Dmanisi hominins: Taxonomic and phylogenetic implications
16:30–16:50	Nicole Torres-Tamayo	The Anatomy of dispersal: new perspectives from the Dmanisi postcranium
16:50–17:10	Tea Jashashvili	Postcranial anatomy of the Dmanisi hominins: body form, habitual locomotion, and early Homo dispersal
17:10–17:30	Kristian Carlson	New insights into locomotor adaptations of the Dmanisi hominins

Friday 11 Sept 2026

Session II – Life History and Behavioral Aspects of *Homo erectus*



09:00–10:00	Registration	
10:00–10:40	Reid Ferring and Tea Shelia Keynote	Dmanisi: An Archive of Earliest Adaptations to Temperate Eurasia
10:40–11:00	Nick Toth and Kathy Schick	The Cognitive Abilities of <i>Homo erectus</i> : Insights from Experimental Archaeological Studies
11:00–11:20	Jackson Njau	Early Homo at Olduvai Gorge: Evidence, Advances, and Future Perspectives
11:20–11:40	Christine Hertler	Tool-Supported Scavenging – A Cutting-Edge Advantage
11:40–12:00	Coffee Break	
12:00–12:20	Michael Pante	The Behavioral and Technological Evolution of the Genus <i>Homo</i> and Its Impact on Hominin Land-Use at Olduvai Gorge, Tanzania
12:20–12:40	Mohamed Sahnouni	Rethinking Tighennif (ex. Ternifine), Algeria: New Multidisciplinary Insights into a Landmark Early Pleistocene Hominin Site in North Africa
12:40–13:00	Ana Mgeladze	Strategies of Human Perception and Exploitation of the Environment: Results of Petroarchaeological Research in the Kvirila Basin
13:00–14:50	Lunch & Posters	
14:50–15:10	Ian Stanistreet	Olduvai Gorge Coring Project (OGCP) and Kilombe Project contributions to <i>Homo erectus</i> time and palaeoenvironmental frameworks, Tanzania and Kenya.
15:10–15:30	Deborah Barsky	Barranco León and Fuente Nueva 3 (Orce, Andalusia, Spain): Behavior and Adaptation of the First Hominins in Western Europe
15:30–15:50	Bienvenido Martínez-Navarro	The Engel Ela Basin (Danakil Depression, Eritrea): An Early Pleistocene Acheulian Site on the Way to Eurasia
15:50–16:10	Robert Sala-Ramos	Plio-Pleistocene stone tools from Eastern Morocco and the hominin settlement of Maghreb
16:10–16:30	Coffee Break	
16:30–16:50	Giorgi Bidzinashvili	Orozmani: A New 1.8-Million-Year-Old Early Pleistocene Site in Georgia
16:50–17:10	Mehmet Cihat Alçiçek	First <i>Homo erectus</i> of Anatolia: An extraordinary fossilization environment and exceptional recovery

Saturday 12 Sept 2026

Session III – Migrational Diversity and Environmental Context of Homo erectus



10:00–10:40	Julia Lee-Thorp Keynote	Broad isotopic eco-niches in East African Homo erectus by ~2 Ma and implications for expansions into the mid-latitudes of Eurasia
10:40–11:00	Boyang Sun	Homo erectus and Early Pleistocene Large Mammalian Faunas in China
11:00–11:20	Martha Tappen	The Dmanisi Bones Were Accumulated by a Palimpsest of Processes
11:20–11:40	Amanda Henry	FoodWays: Exploring the influence of plant foods on Pleistocene hominin migration into western Eurasia
11:40–12:00	Coffee Break	
12:00–12:20	Larisa DeSantis	Life in a Dynamic World: Mammalian Perspectives on the Paleoenvironments of Homo erectus
12:20–12:40	Saverio Bartolini-Lucenti	One Among Many: The Carnivore Guild of Dmanisi and the Place of Homo
12:40–13:00	Joan Madurell-Malapeira	One Among Many: The Carnivore Guild of Dmanisi and the Place of Homo
13:00–14:30	Lunch	
14:30–14:50	Maia Bukhsianidze	Spiral-horned antelopes from Dmanisi (Georgia)
14:50–15:10	Luca Pandolfi	Eurasian rhinocerotines (Mammalia, Rhinocerotidae) during the Early Pleistocene: paleobiogeographic and paleoecological implications for the environmental context of early Homo dispersals
15:10–15:30	Katerina Harvati	Paleoenvironment and hominin adaptations in the Megalopolis basin: the case of a Pleistocene refugium and what this means for human evolution
15:30–15:50	Coffee Break	
15:50–16:50	David Lordkipanidze & Angela Bruch Closing Discussion	The Southern Caucasus: Biodiversity, Refugia, and Human Evolution — Challenges and Perspectives
19:30	Gala Dinner -at Rigi/Auditoria - Dress Code: Smart Casual	

Posters

Friday 11 September 2026



Reed Coil	Carnivore Richness, Hominin Range Expansion, and the Taphonomy of Hominin Scavenging during the Early Pleistocene
Jennifer Leichliter	No Evidence for Substantial Meat Consumption by Homo at Swartkrans ca. 1.8 Ma
Lisa Schiersch	Edible Plants in the Dmanisi Landscape – Paleobotanical Insights into Early Human Environments
Francesca Scotti	What's for Dinner, Mama erectus? Modelling the Diet and Energetic Requirements of a Homo erectus Female in the Site of Dmanisi, Georgia
Suzanna Sova	Phenotypic Effect of Rickets in the Enamel of Human Molars
Miikka Tallavaara	Ecological Flexibility Rather than Habitat Tracking Enabled the First Hominin Dispersal into Eurasia: Evidence from Dmanisi
Marta Taktakishvili	Testing the Inhibitory Cascade Model in the Dmanisi Hominins
Wei Ping Young	Reconstructing early human foodways: investigating edible plant taxa and their bioavailability in early Pleistocene European environments
Christopher Ruff	A distinctive pattern of bipedal locomotion in the Dmanisi hominins