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978-1-107-01785-6 - Southern Asia, Australia and the Search for Human Origins

Edited by Robin Dennell and Martin Porr

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Southern Asia, Australia and the Search for Human Origins

This is the first book to focus on the role of southern Asia and Australia in our understanding of modern human origins and the expansion of *Homo sapiens* between East Africa and Australia before 30,000 years ago. With contributions from leading experts that take into account the latest archaeological evidence from India and Southeast Asia, this volume critically reviews current models of the timing and character of the spread of modern humans out of Africa. It also demonstrates that the evidence from Australasia should receive much wider and more serious consideration in its own right if we want to understand how our species achieved its global distribution. Critically examining the “Out of Africa” model, this book emphasises the context and variability of the global evidence in the search for human origins.

Robin Dennell is professor of archaeology, University of Exeter. The recipient of a Leverhulme Research Fellowship (1989–1992) and a British Academy Research Professorship (2003–2006), Dennell has conducted extensive fieldwork in Bulgaria, Iran, Pakistan (where he was Field Director of the British Archaeological Mission) and China. He is the author of *The Palaeolithic Settlement of Asia* (Cambridge University Press, 2009) and *European Economic Prehistory: A New Approach* (1983), among other books. He is also a Fellow of the British Academy.

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32 Avenue of the Americas, New York NY 10013-2473, USA

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Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781107017856

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First published 2014

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication data

Southern Asia, Australia and the search for human origins / [edited by] Robin Dennell, Martin Porr.
pages cm.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 978-1-107-01785-6 (hardback)

1. Human evolution – South Asia. 2. Human evolution – Australia. 3. Human beings – South Asia – Origin. 4. Human beings – Australia – Origin. I. Dennell, Robin. II. Porr, Martin.

GH281.S685 2013

599.93'80954-dc23 2013027296

ISBN 978-1-107-01785-6 Hardback

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social technologies within Pleistocene Neanderthal and Modern Human populations remain the underlying focus of her research. She is co-author of “From small holes to grand narratives: the impact of taphonomy and sample size on the modernity debate in Australia and New Guinea Langley” (with C. Clarkson and S. Ulm; *Journal of Human Evolution*, 2011) and “Behavioural complexity in Eurasian Neanderthal populations: a chronological examination of the archaeological evidence” (with C. Clarkson and S. Ulm; *Cambridge Archaeological Journal*, 2008).

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M.J. Morwood† was professor in Archaeology in the Centre for Archaeological Science, University of Wollongong. He undertook regional research projects across northern Australia – as outlined in his book *Visions from the past: the archaeology of Australian Aboriginal art* – and in Indonesia, where he co-directed excavations at Liang Bua on the island of Flores that yielded evidence for a tiny, endemic hominin species, *Homo floresiensis*. Recent publications included guest editing a special issue of *Journal of Human Evolution* on Liang Bua and a monograph, *The discovery of the hobbit*. His latest research projects focussed on the Kimberley, northwest Australia, and on the Indonesian islands of Flores and Sulawesi. Sadly, he died in July 2013 and will be immensely missed.

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Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-01785-6 - Southern Asia, Australia and the Search for Human Origins

Edited by Robin Dennell and Martin Porrk

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