STandD

Centre for Society, Technology and Development

presents:

Diet Choice in the Land of Plenty

Holocene Ecology and Diet Breadth in the Gobi Desert



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How do humans decide what to eat? For many decades we have modelled our understanding of hunter-gatherer diets on the idea that calories were the driving force behind diet choice and that a broad spectrum diet was necessarily a symptom of population packing or environmental degradation. While this model of diet choice is still a robust measure, its application seems increasingly tenuous with regard to the baseline changes in human hunting strategies that preceded the adoption of agriculture. Here, we will look at human adaptations to the Gobi Desert of Mongolia and China as a means of untangling the complex relationship between evolutionary ecology, environmental constraints, caloric intake, nutrient balancing and socially-mediated diet choice.



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Friday, February 26th, 2016

12:30-2:00pm

Peterson Hall, Room 116 3460 McTavish Street

Lunch/Refreshments provided



