SPEAKER BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

Human-Climate Interactions and Evolution: Past and Future
Friday, May 15, 2015
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Peter B. deMenocal is a professor in the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences at Columbia University. He uses geochemical analyses of ocean sediments to understand past changes in tropical ocean temperatures and terrestrial climate with a special interest in understanding African paleoclimate change and its influence on human evolution and culture. deMenocal is a fellow of the American Geophysical Union, an AGU Emiliani Lecturer, and a recipient of the Columbia Lenfest Distinguished Faculty Award. He presently leads Columbia's new Center for Climate & Life.

Jean-Jacques Hublin is a professor and director at the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig (Germany), where he founded the Department of Human Evolution. He has been a pioneer in the development of virtual paleoanthropology. His main research interests address the processes associated with the emergence of Neandertals and modern humans. Hublin is the main proponent of the "accretion model" for Neandertal origins. He also spearheaded the studies related to interactions between Neandertals and modern humans in Europe. He has conducted extensive fieldwork in Europe and North Africa. Professor Hublin is the president of the European Society for the Study of Human Evolution (ESHE), founded in 2011.

Rick Potts is a paleoanthropologist and directs the Smithsonian Institution's Human Origins Program in Washington, DC. His research investigates Earth's environmental dynamics and the processes leading to novel adaptations. Potts's ideas about the significance of environmental instability in human evolution have stimulated wide attention and new research in the Earth sciences, paleontology, and experimental and computational biology. Bridging across many research disciplines, his field projects are located in the East African Rift and in southern and northern China. Potts is curator of the Smithsonian's Hall of Human Origins, and is author of the companion book *What Does It Mean To Be Human?* (National Geographic, 2010).

Jeff Severinghaus is a professor of geosciences at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, UC San Diego. He received his Ph.D. in isotope geochemistry from Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory in 1995. Severinghaus is an environmental geochemist working on gases trapped in ice cores, which are used to reconstruct past variations in atmospheric composition and climate. His research often takes him to Antarctica and Greenland. Severinghaus is the 2011 Claire C. Patterson Medalist for environmental geochemistry and is a fellow of the American Geophysical Union.

William Ruddiman is a professor *emeritus* at the University of Virginia. He initially trained as a marine geologist at Williams College and Columbia University and then worked on past climate changes at Columbia's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory and the University of Virginia. He has investigated ice-age cycles in North Atlantic sediments and has examined the global cooling over the last 50 million years. With Maureen Raymo (Columbia University), Ruddiman proposed the uplift of Tibet drove that cooling and created the strong seasonally alternating monsoons that dominate Asia today. Since 'semi-retiring' in 2001, he has explored the climatic role farmers played during the last several thousand years by generating greenhouse gases from agriculture.

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Charles F. Kennel is Distinguished Professor of Atmospheric Science, vice-chancellor and director *emeritus* at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography at UC San Diego. He was educated in astronomy and astrophysics at Harvard and Princeton. He joined UCLA's Department of Physics and its Institute for Geophysics and Planetary Physics where he pursued research and teaching in theoretical space plasma physics and astrophysics, eventually chairing the Physics Department. From 1994 to 1996, he was an associate administrator at NASA and leader of its Earth science satellite program. Kennel's experiences at NASA influenced him to shift his focus to Earth science. During winter terms 2007, 2010, 2012, 2014, and 2015, he was a Distinguished Visiting Scholar at

Elizabeth Hadly is a professor in the Department of Biology, Stanford University. She has spent more than 25 years studying environmental change, conducting primary research on how living and fossil animals reveal the ways in which human activity influences evolutionary and ecological systems. Hadly pioneered the new scientific field of phylochronology, which uses fossil DNA to reveal how animals responded to long-ago perturbations, and the newly emerging field of conservation paleobiology, which uses the natural experiments of Earth's past to help predict how the biosphere will change in the future. Hadly's work has taken her from iconic Yellowstone National Park to the top of Mt. Kilimanjaro in her efforts to understand how people are changing the planet.

Naomi Oreskes is a professor of the History of Science and an affiliated professor of Earth and Environmental Sciences at Harvard University. She is the author of numerous books, articles, and opinion pieces. Her most recent books are *Merchants of Doubt* (Bloomsbury, 2010), which was short-listed for the Los Angeles Times Book Prize and released as a documentary film by the same name in 2015, and *The Collapse of Western Civilization* (Columbia University Press, 2014), both co-authored with Erik M. Conway. Oreskes has won numerous prizes and awards, including, most recently, the 2014 American Geophysical Union Presidential Citation for Science and Society and the 2015 Herbert Feis Prize of the American Historical Association for her contributions to

Veerabhadran Ramanathan is Distinguished Professor of Atmospheric and Climate Sciences at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, UC San Diego. In 1975, he discovered the super greenhouse effect of Chlorofluorocarbons, and in 1980, predicted that global warming would be detected by 2000. He led the Indian-Ocean-experiment that discovered the widespread Atmospheric Brown Clouds and the large warming effect of black carbon. Recently, he showed that mitigation of short-lived climate pollutants will slow down global warming significantly during this century. Among his numerous awards, Ramanathan was honored as the 2013 Champion of Earth for Science and Innovation by the United Nations, and named as the 2014 Global Thinker by the US Foreign Policy. He is a member of the National Academy of Science, the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, among others. He is now serving in Pope Francis' Council for the Pontifical Academy of Sciences (PAS) and co-organized a 2014 Vatican meeting on **"Sustainable Humanity, Sustainable Nature"** of social and natural scientists, philosophers and policy makers.

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