

## PRESS RELEASE

<p><b>TITLE</b></p> <p>Matariki Lecture Series 2021: #HumanEvolution  <i>“Is Human Evolution more complicated than we first thought?”</i></p>
<p><b>SUMMARY</b></p> <p>Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> March, 15:00-17:00 (GMT)</p> <p>Zoom: <a href="https://zoom.us/j/92081916298">https://zoom.us/j/92081916298</a> (Password: 460244)</p> <p>YouTube: <a href="https://youtu.be/yS3UkNlq9Sc">https://youtu.be/yS3UkNlq9Sc</a></p> <p>A special two-hour event featuring short presentations on Human Evolution by four scientists at the cutting-edge of their research field, followed by a live and interactive Q&amp;A panel event.</p> <p>Find out more about The Matariki Network here: <a href="http://www.matarikinetwerk.org">www.matarikinetwerk.org</a></p> <p><i>Please remember to tag @MatarikiNetwork in Twitter posts relating to this event!</i></p>
<p><b>DESCRIPTION</b></p> <p>The Matariki Lecture has traditionally been an annual event; with a faculty member from one Matariki partner delivering a public lecture with Q&amp;A at one of the other partner institutions, (often as part of a wider visit). The initiative was started by Queen’s University, with the first lecture being given by a researcher from Dartmouth College in 2017. Lectures followed in 2018 in Tübingen, 2019 at Otago, and 2020 for the first time <i>virtually</i> – because of the outbreak of the Coronavirus pandemic – at Queen’s.</p> <p>In 2020, the Matariki Executives voted to build on this concept of annual lectures by developing series of lectures, with several presentations being delivered over a shorter period of time attached to the same broad theme. Due to current travel restrictions, these lecture series will take place virtually in the first instance, starting with this event which features the following presentations:</p> <p><b><a href="#">Prof. Madelaine Böhme</a></b> (University of Tübingen, Germany) – <b>“<i>Danuvius guggenmosi</i> and the positional behaviour of the last common ancestor of great apes and humans.”</b></p> <p><b><a href="#">Prof. Per Ahlberg</a></b> (Uppsala University, Sweden) – <b>“The Trachilos footprints: what are they and what do they tell us about early hominins?”</b></p> <p><b><a href="#">Prof. Jerry DeSilva</a></b> (Dartmouth College, USA) – <b>“All Walks of Life. Bipedal diversity in <i>Australopithecus</i>.”</b></p>

[Prof. Sarah Elton](#) (Durham University, UK) – “Did it happen by chance? Neutral models in primate evolution.”

#### VENUE

Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/92081916298> (Password: 460244)

YouTube: <https://youtu.be/yS3UkNlq9Sc>

#### START DATE/TIME

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> March, 15:00 (GMT)

#### FINISH DATE/TIME

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> March, 17:00 (GMT)

#### CONTACT EMAIL

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#### BACKGROUND NOTES

The [Matariki Network of Universities](#) (MNU), an international group of 7 leading, like-minded universities, was founded in **2010**.

**Matariki** is the Māori name for a group of stars known as the Pleiades star cluster, also known as the ‘Seven Sisters’.

The 7 **MNU member institutions** are:

- Dartmouth College (Hanover, USA)
- Durham University (Durham, UK)
- Queen’s University (Kingston, Canada)
- University of Otago (Dunedin, New Zealand)
- University of Tübingen (Tübingen, Germany)
- University of Western Australia (Perth, Australia)
- Uppsala University (Uppsala, Sweden)

The **Matariki Network** seeks to build upon the collective strengths of its member institutions to develop international excellence in research and education and to promote social responsibility locally and globally. They are critical friends and trusted partners with a shared ethos for sharing knowledge, expertise, resources, and creativity.