



**Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology**  
**Max-Planck-Institut für evolutionäre Anthropologie**

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## **NEWS**

04 August 2015

### **MPI-EVA has a new director**

**Headed by Professor Richard McElreath the Department of Human Behavior, Ecology and Culture is going to start its work at the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology (MPI-EVA) in Leipzig, Germany.**

Richard McElreath has accepted the call as Director at the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig, Germany, where he is setting up a new department starting in August 2015. Until now, he has been working as a professor at the University of California, Davis, in the USA.

The new Department of Human Behavior, Ecology and Culture will investigate the role of culture in human evolution and adaptation. The evolution of fancy social learning in humans accounts for both the nature of human adaptation and the extraordinary scale and variety of human societies. The integration of ethnographic fieldwork with mathematical models and advanced quantitative methods will be the department's methodological focus.

McElreath received his Bachelor's degree from Emory University in Atlanta, USA, and his graduate degrees from the University of California, Los Angeles, USA. He did his dissertation research in Tanzania and held a post-doctoral position at the Max Planck Institute for Human Development in Berlin before joining the faculty at University of California, Davis, in 2002. From August 2015 onwards McElreath is a director at the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig.

The MPI-EVA's five departments unite scientists with various backgrounds whose aim is to investigate the history of humankind from an interdisciplinary perspective with the help of comparative analyses of genes, cultures, cognitive abilities and social systems of past and present human populations as well as those of primates closely related to human beings.

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