Hominid Foraging Behavior and Human Origins

Nathaniel Dominy, Ph.D., Dartmouth College
Friday, October 19, 1:00 pm, Olin 001

Nate Dominy is a biological anthropologist who conducts research at the intersection of primate behavior, ecology, and evolution. He is interested in how humans and nonhuman primates acquire, process, and assimilate food, and the relationship of such behaviors to the evolution of anatomical form and function.

Dominy has studied the visual ecology of nonhuman primates and the foraging advantages of trichromatic color vision. He has since focused on the dietary adaptations of early human ancestors, with the aim of testing the hypothesis that starchy plant resources were vital foods and drivers of anatomical hallmarks in the human lineage. He is also currently researching the evolution of the human pygmy phenotype.