



## **Paleolithic Children Come of Age**

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Studying children in the deep past presents Paleolithic archaeologists with unique challenges relative to scientists researching this topic in other periods. While all archaeologists grapple with the vagaries of the differential preservation of subadults, the situation is exacerbated for those of us working in Deep Time. Other challenges specific to the Paleolithic include the use of children as holotypes, the choice of human or non-human models for the pace of ontological growth and development, the difficulties of defining what it means to be human in the Paleolithic and the necessity of moving between ethological and ethnographic frameworks. Taking a retrospective look at how the archaeology of (Paleolithic) childhood has come of age, this lecture discusses the problems and prospects of studying children in the Deep Time and argues that the youngest members of our oldest societies are key to understanding the human story.