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ROUND TABLE TITLE:

HOMININ DISPERSAL AND COLONISATION IN SOUTH ASIA: TRACKING THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL CHALLENGES

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ABSTRACT

Interdisciplinary study has recently focused heavily on the Early-Middle Pleistocene spread patterns of anatomically modern people in Asia. Archaeologists additionally use the spatio-temporal perspective of the lithic technical evidence, which are extensively available throughout South Asia, in addition to the paleoenvironmental, genetic, and paleoanthropological investigations, to have a better knowledge of the problem. The impetus for hominin dispersal from Africa during Early-Middle Pleistocene and their occupation in Eurasia and South Asia are attributed to the occurrence of Mode 1 and 2 lithic technologies across the region. The surrounding debate on hominin dispersal and colonization processes has led to the framing of myriad models and, of these, include two main conflicting models: their arrival and colonisation in a normal dispersal route from eastern Africa by ~45–50 ka, and their arrival before the time of the volcanic ‘super-eruption’ of Mount Toba in Sumatra at ~74 ka. Against the backdrop of these and other models, this session seeks to highlight myriad issues - pertaining to the archaeological records of hominin occupations: issues with prehistoric cultures and chronologies; paleoanthropological evidence associated with hominin occupations; route of Hominin dispersals into and within the region, to cite a few, - toward exploring the insights and rationale of hominin dispersal and colonization in South Asia.

Keywords: Hominin dispersal, Paleoanthropological and Archaeological evidence, South Asia

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