

Arizona State University Institute of Human Origins  
and the IHO Research Council invite you to

# The Origins of Modern Human Cognition

An evening with  
**Ian Tattersall PhD**

5:30 pm to 8:30 pm

Friday, November 3, 2023

The Harmonie Club, New York City

**ASU** Institute of  
Human Origins  
Arizona State University

A research center of  
The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences



[iho.asu.edu](http://iho.asu.edu)

# The Origins of Modern Human Cognition

An evening with Ian Tattersall PhD

Curator Emeritus of Human Origins

American Museum of Natural History

**You are invited** to join the Institute of Human Origins (IHO) Research Council and IHO Director and Professor Yohannes Haile-Selassie for a lively and engaging evening at The Harmonie Club in New York City. Cocktails and conversation will be followed by the evening's feature presentation by Ian Tattersall PhD.

Modern human beings process information symbolically, rearranging mental symbols according to rules to envision multiple potential realities. They also express the ideas thus formed using structured articulate language. No other living creature does either of these things, reflecting a qualitative cognitive gulf between modern *Homo sapiens* and every other species in the Great



Tree of Life on the planet. Yet it is evident that we are descended from an ancestor that was both nonsymbolic and nonlinguistic. How did the astonishing transformation to modern cognition occur? Was it simply a passive result of the increase in brain size that typified multiple lineages of the genus *Homo* over the Pleistocene? Dr. Tattersall presents what the scrutiny of the fossil and archaeological records reveals to answer these fascinating questions in our evolutionary history.

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**Tickets \$200 per person\***

to benefit IHO research, student scholarships, and education outreach programs

**Information online**

<https://iho.asu.edu/events/NY2023>

**Questions?**

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\*The cost of your ticket may be considered a charitable contribution. All funds will be deposited with the ASU Foundation for A New American University, a separate nonprofit organization that exists to support ASU. Due to the value of benefits provided, only payments in excess of fair market value (FMV) of \$100 may be considered a charitable contribution. Please consult your tax advisor regarding the deductibility of charitable contributions.