

CURRICULUM VITAE

Sileshi Semaw

Citizenship: Ethiopian

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ADDRESS

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EDUCATION

- 1997 Ph.D. In Anthropology. Department of Anthropology, Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, New Brunswick, NJ.
- 1989 M.A. In Anthropology. Department of Anthropology, Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, New Brunswick, NJ.
- 1982 B.A. In History. Department of History, Addis Ababa University, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

POSITION/ APPOINTMENTS

- 1997-Present Principal Investigator/ Project Director, Gona Palaeoanthropological Research Project, Afar, Ethiopia.
- 2003-Present Research Scientist, CRAFT, Stone Age Institute, Indiana University.
- 1998-03 Postdoctoral Fellow, CRAFT Research Center, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN.
- 1982-1986 Historian, National Museum of Ethiopia, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Origin and evolution of stone tool technology, African Prehistory, Origin and evolution of Humans, Palaeolithic Archaeology, Palaeoanthropology.

FIELD RESEARCH

- 1999- Present, Directed survey of the Late Miocene-Early Pliocene deposits of the Gona Western Escarpment and the Gona Western Margin, Afar, Ethiopia.
- 2008 Museum study of the newly excavated Early Acheulian stone artifacts from the Ounda Gona South archaeological site of OGS-12 and the North Busidima Early Acheulian site of BSN-12.
- 2008-06 Museum study of excavated Oldowan stone artifacts from the East and Ounda Gona

- South archaeological sites (EG10/12 & OGS-7).
- 2003 Directed the excavations at the newly discovered Early Acheulian site of Ounda Gona South 12 (OGS-12) and carried out paleoanthropological survey of the Plio-Pleistocene Gona deposits.
- 2001 Directed the excavations and survey of newly discovered Late Pliocene archaeological sites in the Dana Aoule North (DAN-1), Gona, Afar, Ethiopia.
- 2000 Carried out systematic excavations at the newly discovered archaeological sites of Ounda Gona South 6 and 7 (OGS-6 & OGS-7).
- 1997 Site visit, Bouri Peninsula and Herto, Middle Awash, Afar, Ethiopia. PI/PD the late Professor J.D. Clark and Professor Tim White.
- 1994 Fieldwork, palaeoanthropological survey of Kada Gona, Busisima and Talalak deposits, Afar, Ethiopia.
- 1993 Fieldwork, palaeoanthropological survey of the Kada Gona deposits.
- 1992 Excavated the two archaeological localities- EG10 and EG12 (East Gona), the oldest known archaeological sites in the world dated to 2.5-2.6 Million years old (see publications).
- 1989 Survey in the Kesem- Kebena with the Rift Valley Palaeo-survey team Co-Directed by Dr. Berhane Asfaw, National Museum of Ethiopia and Professor Tim D. White, the University of California, Berkeley, California.
- 1990 Survey of the Fejej deposits (Lower Omo) with the Rift Valley Palaeo-Inventory survey team Co-Directed by Dr. Berhane Asfaw, National Museum of Ethiopia and Professor Tim D. White, the University of California, Berkeley, California.
- 1987 Fieldwork, palaeoanthropological reconnaissance survey of the Gona Late Pliocene sites with J.W.K. Harris. Discovered two Late Pliocene archaeological sites at West Gona.
- 1987 Fieldwork and site visit of the Lokalalei-1 Late Pliocene archaeological site (West Turkana) and Koobi Fora (East Turkana), Kenya. Participated in the excavation of the Kokiselei archaeological site, at West Turkana, (co-PIs M. Kibunjia and H. Roche).
- 1987 Site visit of the Olduvai Gorge and the Laetoli Plio-Pleistocene palaeoanthropological sites, Tanzania with Professor J.W.K. Harris.

RESEARCH GRANTS

- 2008-04 Researching Hominid Origins Initiative (RHOI), National Science Foundation research grant for fieldwork in the Mio-Pliocene Gona deposits, Afar, Ethiopia. RHOI/NSF grant made to Professor Clark Howell and Professor Tim White (co-PIs), Department of Integrative Biology and Laboratory for Human Evolutionary Studies, University of California, Berkeley.
- 2008-99 L.S.B. Leakey Foundation, major research grant for fieldwork, Late Miocene-Early Pliocene deposits, Gona Project.
- 2001-99 National Geographic Society, research grant for geological fieldwork. Funding made to J. Quade (Gona project senior geologist) and Robert Butler (invited specialist in paleomagnetism), University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ.
- 2008-06 Wenner-Gren Foundation, research grant for fieldwork in the Early Pleistocene deposits, Gona Project.
- 2001-00 Wenner-Gren Foundation, research grant for fieldwork in the Early Pliocene- Late

- Pleistocene deposits, Gona Project.
- 2001-00 National Science Foundation, research grant for fieldwork in the Early Pliocene-Late Pleistocene deposits, Gona Project.
- 1994 L.S.B. Leakey Foundation, research grant for fieldwork in the Late Pliocene-Late Pleistocene deposits, Gona Project.
- 1994 Boise Fund, research grant for fieldwork in the Late Pliocene deposits, Gona Project.
- 1993 L.S.B. Leakey Foundation, Dissertation Improvement Grant.
- 1991 National Science Foundation, Dissertation Improvement Grant.
- 1991 Gordon Getty Esq. Grant for Ph.D. Dissertation research entitled "Late Pliocene archeology of the Gona River deposits, Afar, Ethiopia."
- 1991 L.S.B. Leakey Foundation, Dissertation Improvement Grant.

PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS IN SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS

- In prep.* Semaw, S., S.W. Simpson, J. Quade, N. Levin, M.J. Rogers, W. McIntosh, N. Dunbar and T. Kidane. Early *Homo erectus* cranium and associated stone artifacts from Gona Ethiopia. To be submitted to *Nature*.
- In revision* Stout, D., Semaw, S., Rogers, M. and Cauche, D. Technological variation in the earliest Oldowan from Gona, Afar, Ethiopia. *Journal of Human Evolution*.
- In submission* Simpson, S.W., Kleinsasser, L., Quade, J., Levin, N.E., McIntosh, W.C., Dunbar, N. and Semaw, S. Late Miocene hominid teeth from the Gona Palaeoanthropological Research Project Area, Afar, Ethiopia. *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*.
- 2008 Quade, J., Levin, N., Simpson, S.W., Butler, R., McIntosh, W., Semaw, Kleinsasser, L., Dupont-Nivet, G., Renne, P. and Dunbar, N. The Geology of Gona, Ethiopia. *Geological Society of America Bulletin*, Special Paper **446**:1-31.
- 2008 Kleinsasser, L., Quade, J., Levin, N., Simpson, N., McIntosh, W.C. and Semaw, S. Geochronology of the Adu-Asa Formation, Gona, Ethiopia. *Geological Society of America Bulletin*, Special Volume **446**:33-65.
- 2008 Simpson, S.W., J. Quade, N. Levin, R. Butler, G. Dupont-Nivet, M. Everett and S. Semaw. A complete female *Homo erectus* pelvis from Gona, Ethiopia. *Science* **322**:1089-1092.
- 2005 Semaw, S., Simpson, S.W., Quade, J., Renne, P.R., Butler, R.F., McIntosh, W., C., Levin, N., Dominguez-Rodrigo, M. & Rogers, M.J. Early Pliocene Hominids from Gona, Ethiopia. *Nature*, **433**:301-305.
- 2005 Domínguez-Rodrigo, M., Pickering, T.R., Semaw, S. and Rogers, M. Cutmarked bones from archaeological sites at Gona, Afar, Etiopía: Implications for the function of

the world's oldest stone tools. *Journal of Human Evolution*, **48**:109-121.

- 2005 Stout, D., Quade, J., Semaw, S. and Rogers, M. Raw material selectivity of the earliest tool makers at Gona, Afar, Ethiopia. *Journal of Human Evolution*, **48**:365-380.
- 2004 Levin, N.E., Quade, J., Simpson, S.W., Semaw, S. & Rogers, M. Isotopic evidence for Plio-Pleistocene environmental change at Gona, Ethiopia. *Earth and Planetary Science Letters*, **219**:93-100.
- 2004 Quade, J., Levin, N., Semaw, S., Stout, D., Renne, P., Rogers, M. and Simpson, S.W. Paleoenvironments of the Earliest Stone Toolmakers, Gona, Ethiopia. *Geological Society of America Bulletin* **116**:1529-1544.
- 2003 Semaw, S., Rogers, M.J., Quade, J., Renne, P.R., Butler, R.F., Stout, D., Dominguez-Rodrigo, Hart, W., Pickering, T. and Simpson, S.W. 2.6-Million-year-old stone tools and associated bones from OGS-6 and OGS-7, Gona, Afar, Ethiopia (2003). *Journal of Human Evolution*, **45**:169-177.
- 2000 Semaw, S. The World's oldest stone artifacts from Gona, Ethiopia: Their implications for understanding stone technology and patterns of human evolution between 2.6-2.5 million years ago. *Journal of Archaeological Science*, **27**:1197-1214.
- 1997 Semaw, S., Renne, P., Harris, J.W.K., Feibel, C., Bernor, R., Fesseha, N. and Mowbray, K. 2.5 million-year-old Stone tools from Gona, Ethiopia. *Nature*, **385**:333-338.
- 1993 Asfaw, B., Beyene, Y., Semaw, S., Suwa, G., White, T., and WoldeGabriel, G. Tephra from Fejej, Ethiopia. A reply. *Journal of Human Evolution*, **25**:519-521.
- 1992 Wolde-Gabriel, G., White, T., Suwa, G., Semaw, S., Beyene, Y., Asfaw, B. and Walter, R. Kesem Kebena: a newly discovered palaeoanthropological research area in Ethiopia. *Journal of Field Archaeology*, **19**:371-391.
- 1991 Asfaw, B., Beyene, Y., Semaw, S., Suwa, G., White, T. and WoldeGabriel, G. Fejej: a new paleoanthropological research area in Ethiopia. *Journal of Human Evolution*, **21**:137-143.
- 1989 Harris, J.W.K. & Semaw, S. Further archaeological studies at the Gona River, Hadar, Ethiopia. *Nyame Akuma*, **31**:19-21.

CHAPTERS IN EDITED BOOKS

In press Semaw, S., M.J. Rogers and D. Stout. The Oldowan-Acheulian Transition: Is there a 'Developed Oldowan'? In *Transitions in the Paleolithic*, P. Chauhan and M. Camps (Eds.), Springer Press.

- In press* Semaw, S., Rogers, M., and Stout, D. Insights into Late Pliocene Lithic Assemblage Variability: The East Gona and Ounda Gona South Oldowan Archaeology (2.6 Million Years Ago), Afar, Ethiopia. In *The Cutting Edge: New Approaches to the Archaeology of Human Origins*. N. Toth and K. Schick (Eds.), CRAFT Press.
- In press* Semaw, S., Rogers, M.J., Stout, D., Simpson, S., Quade, J., Levin, N., Renne, P. and Kidane, T. Archaeological and hominid discoveries (1999-2008) from the Gona Palaeoanthropological Research Project Study Area, Afar, Ethiopia. In *Paleoanthropology, Paleontology and Archaeology in Ethiopia, "Transforming the Might of a Century Long Research Output into Development*. Manuscript submitted to the Authority for Research and Conservation of Cultural Heritage and the Ethiopian Millennium Festival National Council Secretary Office.
- In press* Rogers, M.J. and S. Semaw. From Nothing to Something: The Appearance and Context of the Earliest Archaeological Record. In *Transitions in the Paleolithic*, P. Chauhan and M. Camps (Eds.), Springer Press.
- 2006 Semaw, S. The oldest stone artifacts from Gona (2.6-2.5 Ma), Afar, Ethiopia: Implications for understanding the earliest stages of stone knapping. In *The Origins of Human Technology: Studies into the Early Stone Age (Oldowan)*. N. Toth and K. Schick (Eds.), CRAFT Press, Bloomington, IN.
- 2006 Semaw, S. The World's oldest stone artifacts from Gona, Ethiopia: Their implications for understanding stone technology and patterns of human evolution between 2.6-2.5 million years ago. In *Human Evolution Source Book*. R.L. Ciochon & J.G. Fleagle (Ed.), pp 256-271. Reprinted by permission from the *Journal of Archaeological Science* (2000).
- 2006 Stout, D. and Semaw, S. Knapping skills of the earliest stone-tool makers: Insights from the study of modern human novices. In (N. Toth and K. Schick, Ed.) *The Origins of Human Technology: Studies into the Early Stone Age (Oldowan)*. CRAFT Press, Bloomington, IN.
- 2006 Toth, N., Schick, K. and Semaw, S. A technological comparison of the stone tool-making capabilities of Australopithecus/early Homo, Pan paniscus, and Homo sapiens, and possible evolutionary implications. In *The Origins of Human Technology: Studies into the Early Stone Age (Oldowan)*. N. Toth and K. Schick (Eds.), CRAFT Press, Bloomington, IN.
- 2005 Semaw S. 2005. Les plus anciens artefacts lithiques (2,6-2,5 millions d'années) des sites archéologiques du Pliocène Final de EG-10 et EG-12 à Gona Est, Afar, Ethiopie. In (Sahnouni, Ed.) *Le Paléolithique en Afrique: L'histoire la plus longue*. Artcome/Errance, Paris.

OTHER PROJECT PUBLICATIONS

2008 Levin, N. E, Simpson, S.W., Quade, J., Cerling, T.E., & Frost, S.R. Herbivore enamel carbon isotopic composition and the environmental context of *Ardipithecus* at Gona, Ethiopia, in Quade J, and Wynn JG, eds., *The Geology of Early Humans in the Horn of Africa: Geological Society of America Special Paper* **446**:215–234.

In press Quade, J. & Levin, N.E. East African hominid paleoecology: isotopic evidence from paleosols. In: *Early Hominin Paleoecology*. M. Sponheimer, K. Reed, J. Lee-Thorp, P. Ungar (Eds.).

IN ADDITION, MORE THAN 10 COAUTHORED ABSTRACTS PUBLISHED IN THE LAST 15 YEARS ARE NOT INCLUDED HERE.

PAPERS PRESENTED AT PROFESSIONAL MEETINGS

- 2009 Semaw, S. The earliest Archaeology from Gona at 2.6 Ma: Its implications for Late Pliocene Human behavior in East Africa. Paper presented at the American Museum of Natural History, ‘Darwin’s Legacy,’ Early Human Evolution in Africa, February 27-March 1, 2009. New York.
- 2008 Semaw, S., Rogers, M.J., Stout, D., Simpson, S., Quade, J., Levin, N., Renne, P. and Kidane, T. Archaeological and hominid discoveries (1999-2008) from the Gona Palaeoanthropological Research Project Study Area, Afar, Ethiopia. Paper presented at the International Conference on Paleoanthropology, Paleontology and Archaeology in Ethiopia, “*Transforming the Might of a Century Long Research Output into Development*,” January 2008. Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
- 2008 Semaw, S., Rogers, M.J., Stout, D., Quade, J., Levin, N., Renne, P.R., Simpson, S.W. and Kidane, T. The Oldowan-Acheulian transition: New insights from Gona, Ethiopia. Paper presented at the Paleoanthropology Society Annual Meeting (Abstract), 25-26 March. Vancouver, B.C., Canada.
- 2008 Rogers, M.J, Semaw, S. and Stout, D. The earliest archaeological record: Expanding our knowledge of the first toolmakers at Gona, Ethiopia. Paper presented at the International Conference on Paleoanthropology, Paleontology and Archaeology in Ethiopia, “*Transforming the Might of a Century Long Research Output into Development*,” January 2008. Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
- 2008 Stout, D., Semaw, S., and Rogers, M., 2008, Technological Variation in the Oldowan (2.6 Ma) from Gona, Afar, Ethiopia. Paper presented at the Paleoanthropology Society Annual Meeting (Abstract), 25-26 March. Vancouver, B.C., Canada.
- 2006 Semaw, S. The earliest stone tools from Gona (2.6 Ma): insights on Late Pliocene

hominid technology and raw material selectivity. Paper presented at the 71st Annual SAA meeting, April 27, 2006. San Juan, Puerto Rico.

- 2006 Semaw S. The earliest stone technology (2.6 Ma), and recent archaeological and hominid discoveries from Gona, Afar, Ethiopia. Paper presented at “Lucy, 30 ans après,” Symposium on hominids and environments in Africa from 7 to 1.5 Million years ago: new discoveries and lines of research. June 12-14, 2006. Conference organized by M. Taieb, CEREGE, Aix en Provence, France.
- 2003 Semaw, S., Rogers, M.J., Quade, J., Dominguez-Rodrigo, M., Simpson, S.W., Renne, P.R., Stout, D., Levin, N. & Butler, R.F. Recent archaeological discoveries from Gona, Afar, Ethiopia. Paper presented at the Paleoanthropology Society Annual Meeting. April 22-23, Tempe, AZ.
- 2002 Semaw, S., Schick, K., Toth, N., Simpson, S., Quade, J., Rogers, M., Renne, P., Stout, D. and Dominguez-Rodrigo. Recent discoveries from Gona, Afar, Ethiopia. Paper presented at the Palaeoanthropology Society Annual Meeting, 19-20 March. Denver, Colorado.

GRADUATE STUDENT WITH Ph.D. DISSERTATIONS WRITTEN ON MATERIALS FROM GONA

- 2008 Levin, N. *Isotopic Records of Plio-Pleistocene Climate and Environments in Eastern Africa*. University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT.
- 2008 Everett, M. The Paleoeology of the Pleistocene Upper Busidima Formation, Gona, Afar Depression, Ethiopia. Indiana University, Bloomington, IN.

AFFILIATIONS

National Museum of Ethiopia,
 Palaeoanthropology Society,
 Society of Africanist Archaeologists (SAFA),
 Society of American Archaeology (SAA)