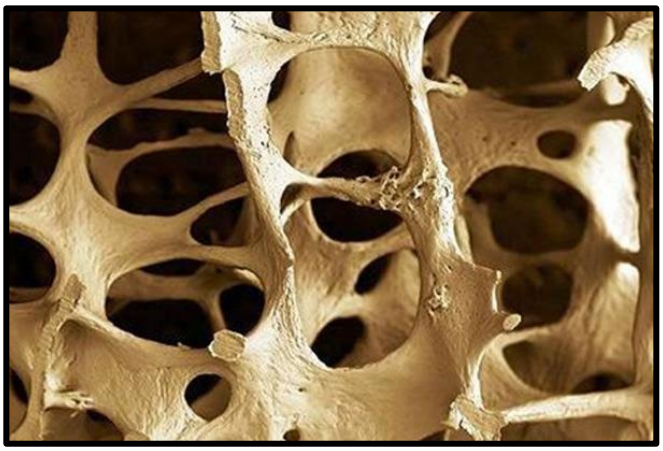
University of Victoria

GRADUATE COLLOQUIUM

DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY

The evolutionary origins of human metabolic disease



Dr. Alison Murray

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Monday, November 14th, 2022
11:30 am – 12:50 pm
Cornett A225
In person & Online via Zoom

Humans present an interesting paradox in evolutionary biology: the nearly 8 million of us on the planet today are genetically very homogeneous, yet observably (phenotypically) we are incredibly diverse. This tells us that non-genetic mechanisms are the dominant means through which our species adapts to environmental challenges, and this fact has had profound implications for contemporary human health. Traits like body fat mass, lean mass, and bone strength/density are highly variable depending on an individual's sex, stage of life, physical activity level, and even developmental experiences. Why? Understanding why these traits evolved to be so sensitive to our environment is crucial to understanding why these traits are all so disrupted when that environment is a western industrialized one, leading to an epidemic of chronic metabolic diseases like obesity, osteoporosis, Type 2 diabetes, and cardiovascular disease.

EVERYONE WELCOME

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