



Hominin dispersals: causes, rates and outcomes



Marta MIRAZON LAHR

Université de Cambridge, Royaume Uni



Rob FOLEY

Université de Cambridge, Royaume Uni



The out of Africa model, from its first inception in the 1980s, put an emphasis on dispersals as a mechanism driving human evolution, distribution and diversity. Dispersal has remained at the heart of virtually all subsequent iterations of the model. However, across this time virtually all aspects of hominin dispersals have been debated and challenged - one or many, only out of Africa or both ways, with or without admixture, driven by

external climatic factors or human adaptive success. In this paper we will consider the current evidence for hominin dispersals related to recent human evolution, and discuss the drivers of range expansion and the conditions shaping different outcomes. As dispersal models have become increasingly important in biogeography more generally, we also examine how models of hominin diversity fit into a broader framework of evolutionary processes.

