Anthropology 455
Human Biology of the Pacific

Archaeological and Linguistic Models for Polynesian Origins

- Central and Eastern Pacific
- Consistency of languages, cultural traditions, archaeological evidence, and biology
- Homogeneity of Polynesians
- Singleness of origin
- Relatively narrow time interval (3,500 and 2,000 BP)
- Islands immediately to the east and southeast of New Guinea
- Asiatic (Southeast Asian) derivation

Polynesian Navigators
Archaeological and Linguistic Models for Polynesian Origins

- "Lapita homeland"
- Circa 3,500 ya: Lapita in the Bismarck Archipelago
- Long-distance trading networks

Austronesian Languages

- Proto-Oceanic
- Oceanic
- Central Pacific

Archaeological and Linguistic Models for Polynesian Origins

- ca 3100 ya Lapita spreads into Remote Oceania as far as Tonga/Samoa
- Central Polynesia (Tahiti, Marquesas, Cooks, etc.) 2,000 ya.
- Easter Island (500 AD)
- Hawaii (600 AD)
- New Zealand - 1100 AD
Micronesian Settlement (2100 - 3500 ya)

Austronesian Languages

Models of Polynesian Origins

- Fast/Express Train—Out of Taiwan (Bellwood, Blust, others)
- Indigenous Innovation—Bismarck people figure it out with a little help from SE Asia (Allen/White)
- Voyaging Corridor/Entangled Bank—New Guinea, Bismarck, Solomons and SE Asia people figure it out together, travel a lot (Terrell et al.)
- Slow Boat—Out of Island SE Asia (Oppenheimer & others)
Fast (Express)Train (or out of Asia) Model

Agricultural expansion
Neolithic diaspora
Australo-Melanesian
Australoids
S. Mongoloids

Indigenous Development Model (J. Terrell)

Voyaging Corridor (Irwin) & Entangled Bank Models (Terrell)
Alternative Models

Island Southeast Asia

- Non-Austronesian foragers
- Neolithic agriculturalists

Out of Taiwan Model
9 of the 10 subgroups of Austronesian languages are confined to Taiwan (red circle), and all Austronesian languages outside Taiwan belong to the tenth subgroup (green), which includes Polynesian languages (dark green).

Austronesian Languages

Robert Blust
Wm Meacham

Oppenheimer & Richards

- Taiwan an isolated backwater in Holocene?
- Rice
- Historical linguistics
- Subsistence change?
An insular Polynesian homeland?

- Bill Solheim’s ‘Nusantao’ people and culture

Reading for Today


Topics

- 1. Describe the “Express Train Model to Polynesia”.
- 2. Describe the “Slow Boat model to Polynesia”? 
Reading for next day


Write out answers to the following:

- 1. How is Tooth Summary size calculated and what does this measure say about the origin of Pacific Islanders.
- 2. Briefly define what is meant by Sundadonty and Sinodonty. What do dental non-metric data say about Polynesian origins?
- 3. In a paragraph, summarize what multivariate analysis of craniometric data says about Pacific peoples.