

 The Institute for Science & Interdisciplinary Studies presents

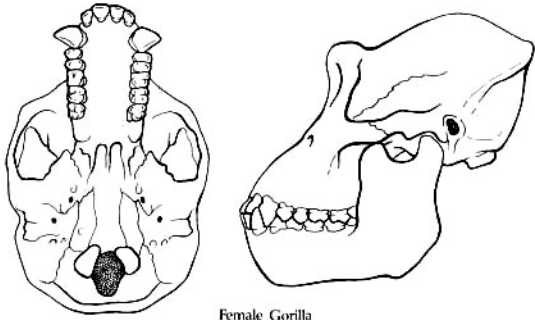
When Did Humans Become Human?

Dr. Robert Proctor

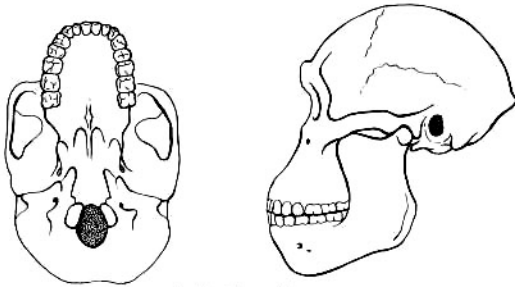
Tuesday, October 2nd
7:30 PM

East Lecture Hall,
Franklin Patterson Hall
Hampshire College

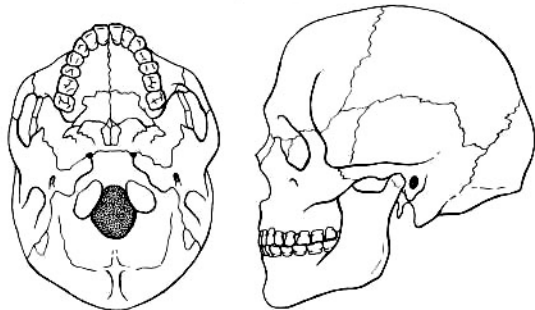
World-renowned historian of good & evil
in science Robert Proctor talks about
three reasons anthropologists have
decided that humanity is very recent.



Female Gorilla



Australopithecus africanus



Homo sapiens

Proctor will introduce his latest work via his long experience studying the history of Nazi medical experiments (both excellently helpful and gruesomely evil) including their remarkably advanced war on cancer, the idea of “pure” or value-free science, and other topics on the morality of modern science. He will trace the path from the evil of the Holocaust to lessons we should all learn about social influences on science.

A confluence of ideas in science, social science, and socio-political responses to historic events helps construct the facts that date human origins. In discussing when our species first became human, Proctor traces three roots of the idea that humans are recent—in molecular biology, in refiguring the Acheulean era (pre-Stone Age), and in UNESCO’s response to Auschwitz—showing how varied are the social influences on today’s scientific facts and vice versa.

Proctor’s pioneering work helps doctors, scientists, social scientists, and their students, as well as the general public, better understand the complex relation between political/social trends and scientific work.

For a copy of Dr. Proctor’s paper before his talk, call Debby Nelson at ISIS (559-5582).

*This event is co-sponsored by matching grants from the Massachusetts
Foundation for the Humanities and Hampshire College.*

ISIS events are smoke- and fragrance-free to ensure accessibility. Thanks for your consideration.