Out of Australia and into Africa Theory – Human Origins Rewrittenaa

Our understanding of the evolutionary origins of modern humans and the migrations which carried hominins around the planet remain in flux. Limited ancient DNA samples and fragmentary fossil evidence make it incredibly difficult to pin down the definitive narrative of the human story. The further we peer into the past the more uncertain the details of this crucially important anthropological narrative.

For much of the last forty years, the scientific community has adhered to the ‘Out of Africa Theory’ for modern human origins, this theory involves several models fused together to best explain 7,000,000 years of human evolution across various hominin species around the globe. Before pointing out any flaws or offering revisions to this understanding let’s first consider a summary of the current consensus account.

Around 5,000,000 years ago, the first recognizable hominins (members of the human family) appeared in the fossil record, uniquely in Africa. Some of our earlier primate ancestors had lived in Eurasia, but existing evidence places the transition from primates to humans in Africa. For millions of years, our human family evolved, with groups splitting off then interbreeding and passing on newly acquired adaptive traits.

Close to 2,000,000 years ago, a few archaic hominins left Africa, and these would eventually give rise to Neanderthals. Our direct ancestors remained behind evolving further until giving rise to early Homo sapiens about 300,000 years ago. These Homo sapiens populations continued to change in