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Beyond prometheus: pursuing the origins of fire production among early humans

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Citation

Sorensen, A. C. (2018, December 13). *Beyond prometheus: pursuing the origins of fire production among early humans*. Retrieved from <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/67525>

Version: Not Applicable (or Unknown)

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Issue Date: 2018-12-13

Acknowledgements

Per the guidelines set by the Leiden PhD Regulations, the acknowledgements section is limited to maximally 400 words, which does not seem to be nearly enough space to thank all those who have contributed to the success of my PhD study. I hope there is some leeway here. And while a number of people and institutions already make appearances in the acknowledgements sections contained within the articles that comprise this thesis, I would like to, nevertheless, thank them again here for making this dissertation possible.

To begin, thank you to the funding bodies that made this project possible in the first place: to the Nederlandse Organisatie voor Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek (NWO) for awarding me the 'PhDs in the Humanities' grant that funded the lion's share of this research; to the Stichting Nederlands Museum voor Anthropologie en Praehistorie (SNMAP) for providing the additional funds necessary to carry out analyses in France; and to Wil Roebroeks for generously donating portions of his NWO SPINOZA and KNAW budgets to keep me afloat, when needed. Thanks again to Wil and also to Annelou van Gijn for their invaluable support and insight while serving as my co-supervisors for both my MA and my PhD, and as co-authors on my first peer-reviewed publication. Of course, a number of my other publications would not have been possible without the contributions of my co-authors Fulco Scherjon, Emilie Claud and Marie Soressi: thank you for everything!

Thank you to my paranymphs Femke Reidsma and Igor Djakovic for being by my side through this process, both before and during the defence. I am proud to have such intelligent, capable and caring friends flanking me during this important moment in my life. And extra thanks to Femke for translating my Samenvatting.

Propping me up along the way are numerous other colleagues and friends (usually one and the same) primarily (but not exclusively) drawn from the Leiden Human Origins Groups and Material Culture Studies Group, namely Shumon Hussain, Alexander Verpoorte, Eduard Pop, Kathy MacDonald, Morgan Roussel, Amanda Henry, Jean-Jacques Hublin, Leonardo Carmignani, Gerrit Dusseldorp, Raymond Corbey, Josephine Joordens, Dimitri de Loecker, Jac Aarts, Emily Wilkes, Eric Mulder, Paul Kozowyk, Annemieke Verbaas, Virginia Garcia Diaz, Josephine Say, Mike Field, Erica Hees and Korrie Bakkels: thank you all for listening to my problems, answering questions, reviewing manuscripts, providing feedback on presentations and just 'being there' when I needed you.

My research has also been helped along by numerous folks outside the Leiden sphere. I would like to extend my thanks to these people who provided me with guidance, ideas, data and opportunities to examine materials: Dick Stapert, Alain Turq, Veerle Rots (and the entire Liège crew), Anne-Laure Daniau, Jürgen Weiner, Jean Airvaux, Ivan Jadin, the team at Scladina cave, especially Dominique Bonjean and Kevin Di Modica, the Monrepos-RGZM team, especially Olaf Jöris and Sabina Gaudzinski-Windheuser, the folks at IPHES, especially Gema Chacon Navarro, Franceso Romagnoli and Florent Rivals, and the crew on Jersey, specifically Olga Finch and Matt Pope.

To my loving parents, Tim and Rene, without whom none of this would have been possible: thank you from the bottom of my heart for supporting me on this adventure, being vocally proud of my accomplishments, for enduring my long absences from home and for simply being the best parents a guy could ask for.

And last, but certainly not least, to my beautiful wife Jessie de Geus, who has arguably borne the brunt of the stresses and craziness that comes with pursuing a PhD and taken it in stride: thank you for loving me, for supporting me, for putting up with me and continuing with me on this journey, wherever it may lead. And thank you also for providing me with a new family who have shown me nothing but love and support, and to whom I am also eternally grateful: thank you Sjaak, Lenie, Jose, Marley, Jan, Gaby and Bas. You're the best! All of you!

Curriculum vitae

Andrew Charles Sorensen was born on the 19th of May 1982 in Mason City, Iowa, USA. After graduating *cum laude* with Bachelor's degrees in Geology and History from Cornell College (Iowa) in 2004, he began working as an archaeological field and laboratory technician for the University of Iowa Office of the State Archaeologist, a cultural resource management firm in Iowa City. During his seven years with this organisation, he participated in and led hundreds of archaeological surveys and excavations, ultimately rising through the ranks to become an assistant project archaeologist and assistant geomorphologist. During his tenure here, he also began making yearly trips to Nijmegen, the Netherlands, to volunteer on various prehistoric, Roman and Medieval excavations with the Gemeente Nijmegen Bureau Archeologie en Monumenten, beginning in 2006. This work sparked a love for the country that ultimately coaxed Andrew back to the Netherlands in 2011 to pursue a Master's Degree in Palaeolithic Archaeology and Material Cultural Studies at Leiden University, where his thesis research applied experimental and microwear analytical methods towards understanding and identifying possible Neandertal fire making technology. Upon receiving his degree in early 2012, Andrew began working for Prof. dr. Wil Roebroeks as a Junior Researcher, which allowed him to expand on his Master's research and put together a proposal for a PhD project in a similar vein. This proposal was ultimately awarded by the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO) in 2013 through their 'PhDs in the Humanities' funding initiative. His project 'Beyond Prometheus', described in this dissertation, sought to provide insight into Neandertal fire use practices, how these present themselves archaeologically and to try to identify evidence for Neandertal fire making capabilities, and was co-supervised by Prof. dr. Wil Roebroeks (Human Origins) and Prof. dr. Annelou van Gijn (Material Culture Studies). This research culminated in four articles published in peer-reviewed, international journals, one book chapter and more than a dozen conferences presentations. During his PhD, Andrew lectured in, supervised, coordinated and served as a teaching assistant for multiple Bachelors and Masters-level courses. He also helped to organise two international conferences in Leiden: the Association of Archaeological Wear and Residue Analysts (AWRANA) meeting in 2015, and the European Society for the study of Human Evolution (ESHE) meeting in 2017. Also in 2017, in parallel to his PhD position, Andrew began working as a post-doctoral researcher on the Auneau Hearth project under Prof. dr. Marie Soressi and Prof. dr. Wil Roebroeks.