

Editorial stepping ahead...

Last year there was a substantial “restyling” of the **JASS**. This year we have made considerable changes in the content. In fact, the current issue of our Journal presents two completely new sections, namely the **Invited Reviews** and the *forum*.

The distinctive feature of the **JASS Invited Reviews** lies in their interdisciplinary approach. In fact, not only do these contributions present the state of the art of a given topic, but they also discuss how different disciplines may help gain insights into problems which are specific to anthropological issues. Each manuscript usually includes *info on the web*, a list and description of useful web sites, which provides readers with easily accessible material that can be used for teaching and for research purposes. In order to keep our readers up to date with important developments, we encourage authors to submit brief updates of their previous contributions which will be put online and published in subsequent volumes.

The **JASS Invited Reviews** of this volume cover a wide range of anthropological issues. *Angelo Pavesi* (Parma, Italy) discusses implications for human migrations of the genetic studies of microbes which co-evolve with the human host. *Andrea Cucina* and *Vera Tiesler* (Merida, Mexico) run through the stages that characterized Maya bio-archaeology from the pioneer studies of the sixties, to new advances and discoveries. *Bonaventura Majolo* (Lincoln, UK) and coworkers present an account of 30 years of research into mother-infant interactions, social relationships and life-histories among the Japanese macaques of the important colony in Rome zoo. Finally, *Marco Gamba* and *Cristina Giacoma* (Torino, Italy) give a critical review of the results, tips and techniques of studies in primate vocal communication.

The second new entry, the **JASS forum**, is a multi-authored discussion of a topical interdisciplinary subject, which is published both online and in the printed version. The 2005 forum presents a discussion of the evergreen antinomy of holism vs reductionism starting from the seminal book “What it Means to be 98% Chimpanzee”. The starting commentary is by *Andrea Drusini* (Padova, Italy) and there is also a comment by *Jon Marks* (Charlotte, USA), the author of the book.

We would like to remind you that this year the *ISItA* has published a supplement to **JASS**, the **Catalogue of the Italian Human fossils from the Palaeolithic to the Mesolithic**. This publication gathers together information of the most diverse nature (anthropological, geo-chronological, paleo-environmental) about sites and human remains which covers a period of more than 800.000 years. Apart from its descriptive content, the Catalogue is intended to be a useful tool to understand how ancient human beings distributed in the territory and how geo-climatic changes influenced peopling processes.

We hope all these efforts give a precise and original scientific personality to **JASS** and make it of interest to an ever wider audience. As ever, we welcome any readers' feedback and thank you in advance for your consideration and time.

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