

ARCHE Seminar Series 2024

Australian Research Centre for Human Evolution Seminar Series

"The crocodylian record from the Quaternary of Australasia"

Presented by Dr Jorgo Ristevski

Although only four crocodylian species – all of the genus *Crocodylus* – inhabit Australasia today, the fossil record has revealed a remarkable diversity of extinct crocodylians from the Pleistocene and Holocene. This taxonomically rich crocodylian assemblage is represented by species belonging to several lineages, with the most prominent being members of the now extinct clade Mekosuchinae. Crocodylians from the Quaternary Period of Australasia are characterized by disparate morphologies and palaeoecologies ranging from over 5-meter-long semi-aquatic giants to less than 2-meter-long dwarfs, as well as terrestrial predators with serrated teeth. This presentation will summarize the current state of knowledge on the taxonomic diversity, palaeobiogeography, palaeoecology, and extinctions of the unique crocodylians from Australia, New Guinea, New Caledonia, Vanuatu, and Fiji.

Bio: Jorgo Ristevski is a palaeontologist that studies the evolutionary history, anatomy, and taxonomy of crocodylians. His main research focus is on the evolution of crocodylians from the Cenozoic Era of Australasia. Some of the research methods that he utilizes include comparative anatomy, phylogenetics, and micro-computed tomographic imaging, with the latter allowing him to pioneer crocodylian palaeoneurology in Australasia. Jorgo has multiple peer reviewed publications about crocodylians, including on the largest and smallest extinct crocodylians from Australia's prehistory. Jorgo holds a bachelor's degree in archaeology, a master's degree in vertebrate palaeontology, and a PhD in palaeontology. He is currently a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Max Planck Institute of Geoanthropology and an Adjunct Research Fellow at ARCHE Griffith.



Date/Time: Thursday 26th September @ 1pm

Room: N78_-1.13 (Nathan Campus)