

Press Release  
**XXIX JOURNAL OF ANTHROPOLOGICAL RESEARCH DISTINGUISHED LECTURE**  
by  
**Prof. GEORGE J. ARMELAGOS**  
On

**The Omnivore's Dilemma:  
The Evolution of the Brain & the Determinates of Food Choice**

Thursday, November 5, 2009, at 7:30 pm  
UNM Anthropology Lecture Hall (Room 163) near Redondo & Roma

Why don't modern humans eat right? This lecture will explore the evolutionary history of human diet in relationship to changes over time in our guts & our brains. As humans abandoned foraging for farming, this posed a conflict with the way in which our evolving anatomy had intestinally resolved earlier demands for diets necessary to feed a growing brain. Food preparation methods, as they became increasingly industrialized, have led to seemingly maladaptive eating habits with major consequences for the health in so-called developed countries.

Dr. Armelagos is the Goodrich C. White Professor & Chair of Anthropology at Emory University. He received his PhD from the University of Colorado in 1968. His research has focused on diet & disease in human evolution; he is specifically interested in changes in adaptation with the origins of agriculture that led to a major epidemiological transition in human evolution. His work often researches the long-term interaction between humans and pathogens in light of changes in diet, and thus has clear implications for current human health problems. He has published over a half-dozen books, plus proceedings volumes, about 240 articles & chapters, & two dozen reviews, and has given very many meeting papers. Among his awards are the highly prestigious Viking Fund Medal of the Wenner-Gren Foundation, the Franz Boas Award of the American Anthropological Association and, in 2009, the Charles Darwin Award for Lifetime Achievement to Biological Anthropology from the American Association of Physical Anthropologists. He is on the editorial boards of numerous leading journals of biological and evolutionary anthropology.

**SPECIALIZED SEMINAR:**

**Genomics at the Origins of Agriculture**

Friday, November 6, 2009 at 12 noon  
Anthropology Room 248

The Neolithic revolution transformed the human landscape & profoundly altered the relationship among humans, animals, plants & pathogens. While the cost of agricultural development on the biology of humans has been well documented, we now have the tools to understand the origins of these changes. The sequenced genomes of domesticated & wild plants, animals and pathogens have been multiplying, dramatically increasing the amount of data relevant to this topic. Findings relevant to our understanding of the origins of agriculture will be discussed, including novel information provided by genomics in the context of data drawn from many fields. The impact of the origins of agriculture extends beyond animals & plants and considers the effect of this new technology on human pathogens & upon the migration & admixture of the early agriculturalists.

**Both events are free & open to the public. For information on *Journal of Anthropological Research*, call 277-4544 or visit [www.unm/~jar](http://www.unm/~jar). *JAR* has been published by UNM since 1945  
Prof. Lawrence Guy Straus, Editor-in-Chief**