



**Istituto  
Italiano  
di Cultura  
Sydney**



*Embassy of Italy  
Canberra*

## **THE SCIENCE OF HUMAN HISTORY**

Italian Institute of Culture, Sydney 26<sup>th</sup> March 2015

Based on the latest scientific discoveries, until 50.000 years ago, at least four different human species still lived together, straggling to survive to the vagaries of an unpredictable climate. Some representatives of our species exchanged genes with Neanderthals and Denisovians, the new humans recently discovered in Siberia, leaving traces that are found today in our own genes. Probably we met also the Hobbits, the dwarf humans from the island of Flores, and other human species that have not yet been discovered. The data to study human biodiversity in the past derive from many instruments and methods, including advanced DNA sequencing, radiation imaging, geochronology and palaeoclimatology. Italian and Australian scientists will briefly discuss how the 'science of human history' is advancing.

**18:00 Welcome and introduction**

*Dr. Donatella Cannova*, Director, Italian Institute of Culture, Sydney

**18:05 Why bother to study the past?**

*Prof. Oscar Moze*, Science Attaché, Embassy of Italy, Canberra

**18:10 Who is *Homo Sapiens*?**

*Dr. Claudio Tuniz*, International Centre for Theoretical Physics Trieste, Italy

**18:20 Who was *Neanderthal Man*?**

*Dr. Luca Fiorenza*, School of Earth Sciences, University of New England, Armidale

**18:30 Who was *Homo Floresiensis (the Hobbit)*?**

*Prof. Richard "Bert" Roberts*, Centre for Archaeological Studies, University of Wollongong

**18:40 Neutron imaging: revealing the secrets of ancient technology**

*Dr. Floriana Salvemini*, ANSTO (Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organization), Lucas Heights

**18:50 ANSTO's unique tools to study the past**

*Dr. Paolo Imperia*, ANSTO

19:00 Questions & Answers

20:00 Reception