

What we know and what still do not know about the early peopling of America

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Since the end of the XIX century when archaeology reached a scientific status, the early peopling of the Americas has been a subject of intense debate. In this period a great amount of data has been obtained and some consensus has been reached, such as the Asiatic origin of the first population and the lack of any pre-sapiens evidence in the continent. Also, the improvement of the ancient DNA studies allowed a new approach and generated high-quality data. However, and despite the long tradition of inter-disciplinary research, there are still some unsolved problems and every few years new sites, which are supposed to totally change our view about this issue showed up. In this lecture, I will present the results of the new research of the peopling of South America and how they fix, or not, with the current models. I will summarize what we know about the peopling of the continent and which are the remaining uncertainties and the future challenges