

STUDENT RESEARCH WEEK

POSTERS · TALKS CREATIVE WORK

The Solutrean Hypothesis: an Examination of a Lesser Known Model for the Peopling of the Americas

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Abstract

The objective for this research project is to investigate the "Solutrean Hypothesis", which is often overlooked within the field of Anthropology (as well as the general populace as a whole). The basis of the hypothesis, is that based off of evidence that has been found, there is a possibility that humans had migrated from western Europe and into the Americas by crossing the North Atlantic Ocean by using a variety of methods, which would have been possible by using techniques such as walking across glacial ice or using small watercraft and ice flows when the people encountered water.

Challenges encountered with this hypothesis is that the Solutrean Hypothesis has only been around for a short period of time, which means that there is a relatively small amount of evidence has been found on the topic. The topic is also widely criticised by academics, because the majority of anthropologists and archaeologists believe that the Americas were populated by means of the land bridge in the Bering Strait.

This research can help provide a new perspective on the topic of human migration amongst people who specialise in the field of Anthropology, as well as those who are not experienced in looking at human ancestor theories from an anthropological view. By examining this research project, the audience could hopefully broaden their views on our ancient humans and their capabilities to migrate vast distances, as well as the technologies that the Solutrean people could have possibly employed in order to cross the North Atlantic Ocean. This research project could also promote interest in those who are in fields that deal with human genetics, for it could help provide information on where our human ancestors could have originated.