



What is **Origins @ UB**?

Origins @ UB is a first-of-its-kind interdisciplinary symposium for the Arts, Sciences, and Humanities, featuring 30-40 minute lectures by invited faculty speakers from a wide range of disciplines and perspectives, loosely organized around one Big Question:

Where did we come from?

The question of Origins is one that unites the Physical Sciences, Social Sciences, Arts, and Humanities in a way that few other basic questions do: Where did the Universe come from? Where did life come from? What is the origin of human consciousness? Human culture? **Origins @ UB** is predicated on the idea that researchers from diverse backgrounds and disciplines have much to learn from each other, and aims to bring those people together to teach each other, the university community, and the public.

Inspired by the [Kavli Frontiers of Science Symposium](#) series, the format for **Origins @ UB** is a one-day symposium, consisting of 30-40 minute colloquium-level talks by UB faculty from across all of the disciplines in the College of Arts and Sciences. The theme of “Origins” is a jumping-off point, not a strait jacket: each speaker is challenged to ask how his or her research, or field as a whole, contributes to understanding where we, as individuals or as a society or as a species or as an ecosystem or as a cosmos, came from. Then discuss, in a way that crosses boundaries.

Origins @ UB is scheduled for 8:30 am – 5:30 pm on 16 December 2013 in Clemens 120. The event is free and open to the UB community and the public.

We hope that you are interested in joining the conversation!

Will Kinney
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Origins @ UB Talk Schedule

Session 1 Chair: Kinney

8:30 - 8:45: Coffee

8:45 - 8:50: Welcome (Kinney)

8:50 - 9:30 Chuck Mitchell (Geology):

How did we get here? The influence of species selection and mass extinction on the path of evolution.

9:30 - 10:10: Omer Gokcumen (Biology):

Tracking the “Wise Man of Africa”: Signatures of culture, demography and evolution in our genomes.

10:10 - 10:30 Coffee Break

Session 2 Chair: Mitchell

10:30 - 11:10 David Braun (Philosophy):

Physicalism, Representation, and Consciousness.

11:10 - 11:50: Paige Sarlin (Media Study):

Documentary Interview-Work: Consciousness-Raising and the Origins of the Personal is Political.

11:50 - 12:30: Phil Stevens (Anthropology):

Origins: Some Old and Some New Inquiries in Cultural Anthropology.

12:30 - 2:00 Lunch

Session 3 Chair: Braun

2:00-2:40: Tracy Gregg (Geology):

On the origins of planetary surfaces.

2:40-3:20: Will Kinney (Physics):

Time as an emergent property in the Big Bang.

3:20 - 3:40 Coffee Break

Session 4 Chair: Sarlin

3:40-4:20: Craig Colder (Psychology):

Developmental pathways to substance abuse.

4:20-5:00: Sal Rappoccio (Physics):

The origin of mass : breaking a symmetry.

5:00-5:30: Informal discussion