

CURRICULUM VITAE: *Sileshi Semaw*

Language: Amharic & English (and reading French and Spanish)

Address

Centro Nacional de Investigación sobre la Evolución Humana (CENIEH), Sierra de Atapuerca 3, 09002, Burgos, Spain ; sileshi.semaw@cenieh.es

EDUCATION

- 1997 Ph.D. In Anthropology. Department of Anthropology, Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, New Brunswick, NJ, USA.
- 1989 M.A. In Anthropology. Department of Anthropology, Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, New Brunswick, NJ, USA.
- 1982 B.A. In History. Department of History, Addis Ababa University, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

POSITION/ APPOINTMENTS

- 2011- Present *Senior Research Scientist*- Responsable Grupo Primeras Industrias Líticas. Centro Nacional de Investigación sobre la Evolución Humana (CENIEH), Sierra de Atapuerca 3, 09002, Burgos, Spain
- 2013- Present Co-Pi with M.J. Rogers since 09/2013, Gona Palaeoanthropological Research Project, Afar, Ethiopia.
- 1997- 2013 Principal Investigator/ Project Director, Gona Palaeoanthropological Research Project, Afar, Ethiopia.
- 2000- 2011 Research Scientist, CRAFT, Stone Age Institute, Indiana University, USA.
- 1998-2000 Postdoctoral Fellow, CRAFT Research Center, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN, USA.
- 1999-2000 Organized seminars on Lower Paleolithic Archaeology, CRAFT, Indiana University, IN, USA.
- 1997 Instructor, Summer session, Anthropology Department, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey, USA.
- 1996 Instructor, Summer session, Anthropology Department, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey, USA.
- 1982-1986 Historian, National Museum of Ethiopia, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Origin and evolution of stone tool technology, Palaeolithic Archaeology, Palaeoanthropology, African Prehistory, Origin and evolution of Humans.

PUBLICATIONS

- In press* **Sileshi Semaw** and Michael Rogers. Gona Paleoanthropology Research Project. International Encyclopedia of Biological Anthropology. The University of Chicago Press, USA.
- Accepted* Henry de Lumley, Deborah Barsky, Marie H el ene Moncel, Eudald Carbonell, Sileshi Semaw, Dominique Cauche, Vincenzo Celiberti, Olivier Notter, David Pleurdeau, Mi-Young Hong & Michael J. Rogers. First technical sequences in human evolution at East Gona (EG 10), Afar Region, Ethiopia. *Antiquity*.
- Dietrich Stout, Michael Rogers, **Sileshi Semaw**, and Adrian Jaeggi. Oldowan Imitation: High-fidelity cultural transmission in the Early Stone Age. *Current Anthropology*.
- Scott W. Simpson, Naomi E. Levin, Jay Quade, Michael J. Rogers, **Sileshi Semaw**. *Ardipithecus ramidus* Postcranial Fossils from the Gona Project Area, Afar Regional State, Ethiopia. Submitted to the *Journal of Human Evolution*.
- In prep.* **Semaw**, S., Rogers, M.J., Simpson, S.W., Levin, N., Quade, J., McIntosh, W. and Dunbar, N. Early *Homo erectus* crania and associated stone artifacts from Gona, Afar, Ethiopia. To be submitted to *Science*.
- 2018 **Semaw**, S., Rogers, M.J. C aceres, I., Stout, D. & A. Leiss. The Early Acheulian ~1.6-1.2 Ma from Gona, Ethiopia: Issues related to the emergence of the Acheulian in Africa. In R. Gallotti and M. Mussi (Eds.), *The Emergence of the Acheulean in East Africa and Beyond, Contributions in honor of John Chavaillon*. Vertebrate Paleobiology Series, Springer.
- 2017 Mohamed Sahnouni, Sileshi Semaw, Joseba Rios Garaizar (Eds.). *Proceedings of the II Meeting of African Prehistory*. Consorcio CENIEH.
- 2017 C aceres, I., Rogers, M.J., **Semaw**, S. & A. Leiss. Hominin exploitation of animal resources at the Gona Plio-Pleistocene archeological sites (Afar, Ethiopia). In M. Sahnouni, S. Semaw and J. R. Garaizar (Eds.) *Proceedings of the II Meeting of African Prehistory, CENIEH, Burgos, Spain*, pp. 197-217.
- 2015 Simpson, S.W., Kleinsasser, L., Quade, J., Levin N.E., McIntosh, W.C., Dunbar, N., **Semaw**, S. and M.J. Rogers. Late Miocene hominin teeth from the Gona Paleoanthropological Research Project area, Afar, Ethiopia. *Journal of Human Evolution*, **81**: 68-82.
- 2014 Simpson, S.W., Quade, J., Levin, N.E. and **Semaw**, S. The female *Homo erectus* pelvis from Gona: Response to Ruff (2010). *Journal of Human Evolution*, **68**:32-35.
- 2013 Bernor, R., Gilbert, H., Semprebon, G., Simpson, S., and **Semaw**, S. *Eurygnathohippus woldegarieli*, sp. nov. (Perissodactyla, Mammalia), from the middle Pliocene of Aramis, Ethiopia. *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology*, **33**:1472-1485.
- 2013 Sahnouni, M., **Semaw**, S., and Rogers, M.J. The African Acheulean: an archaeological summary. In P. Mitchell and P. Lane (Eds.) *The Oxford Handbook of African Archaeology*, pp. 307-323. Oxford University Press.
- 2013 **Semaw**, S., Rogers, M.J. and Stout, D. In *Proceedings of the International Symposium, Africa, cradle of humanity: Recent discoveries. The Gona Paleoanthropological Research Project (Afar, Ethiopia): Major discoveries and contributions to Early Palaeolithic studies in Africa*. Pp. 105-130. Setif, Algeria.
- 2010 **Semaw**, S. Gona Palaeoanthropological Research Project, Final grant report. *Anthroquest*. The Newsletter of the Leakey Foundation, Winter/Spring 2010.
- 2010 Stout, D., **Semaw**, S., Rogers, M.J., and Cauche, D. Technological Variation in the earliest Oldowan from Gona, Ethiopia. *Journal of Human Evolution* **58**:474-491.
- 2009 **Semaw**, S., Rogers, M. and Stout, D. Insights into Late Pliocene Lithic Assemblage

- Variability: The East Gona and Ounda Gona South Oldowan Archaeology (2.6 Million Years Ago), Afar, Ethiopia. In *The Cutting Edge: New Approaches to the Archaeology of Human Origins*. N. Toth and K. Schick (Eds.), CRAFT Press, Bloomington, pp. 213-246.
- 2009 **Semaw**, S., M.J. Rogers and Stout, D. The Oldowan-Acheulian Transition: Is there a 'Developed Oldowan'? In *Sourcebook of Paleolithic Transitions*. P. Chauhan and M. Camps (Eds.), Springer Press, pp. 173-193.
- 2009 Rogers, M.J. and **Semaw**, S. 2009. From Nothing to Something: The Appearance and Context of the Earliest Archaeological Record. In *Sourcebook of Paleolithic Transitions*. P. Chauhan and M. Camps (Eds.). Springer Press, pp.155-171.
- 2008 Quade, J., Levin, N., Simpson, S.W., Butler, R., McIntosh, W., **Semaw**, S., Kleinsasser, L., Dupont-Nivet, G., Renne, P. and Dunbar, N. The Geology of Gona, Ethiopia. *The Geological Society of America Bulletin*, Special Paper 446:1-31.
- 2008 Kleinsasser, L., Quade, J., Levin, N., Simpson, N., McIntosh, W.C. and **Semaw**, S. Geochronology of the Adu-Asa Formation, Gona, Ethiopia. *The Geological Society of America Bulletin*, Special Volume 446:33-65.
- 2008 Simpson, S.W., Quade, J., Levin, N., Butler, R., Dupont-Nivet, G., Everett, M. and **Semaw**, S.. A complete female *Homo erectus* pelvis from Gona, Ethiopia. *Science* 322:1089-1092.
- 2007 **Semaw**, S. The Gona Palaeoanthropological Research Project, Afar, Ethiopia. *Anthroquest*. The Newsletter of the Leakey Foundation, Summer 2007.
- 2006 **Semaw**, S. The oldest stone artifacts from Gona (2.6-2.5 Ma), Afar, Ethiopia: Implications for understanding the earliest stages of stone knapping. In *The Origins of Human Technology: Studies into the Early Stone Age (Oldowan)*. N. Toth and K. Schick (Eds.), CRAFT Press, Bloomington, IN.
- 2006 **Semaw**, S. The World's oldest stone artifacts from Gona, Ethiopia: Their implications for understanding stone technology and patterns of human evolution between 2.6-2.5 million years ago. In *Human Evolution Source Book*. R.L. Ciochon and J.G. Fleagle (Ed.), pp 256-271. Reprinted by permission from the *Journal of Archaeological Science* (2000).
- 2006 Stout, D. and **Semaw**, S. Knapping skills of the earliest stone-tool makers: Insights from the study of modern human novices. In *The Origins of Human Technology: Studies into the Early Stone Age (Oldowan)*. N. Toth and K. Schick, (Ed.), CRAFT Press, Bloomington, IN.
- 2006 Toth, N., Schick, K. and **Semaw**, S. A technological comparison of the stone tool-making capabilities of Australopithecus/early *Homo*, *Pan paniscus*, and *Homo sapiens*, and possible evolutionary implications. In *The Origins of Human Technology: Studies into the Early Stone Age (Oldowan)*. N. Toth and K. Schick (Eds.), CRAFT Press, Bloomington, IN.
- 2005 **Semaw** S. 2005. Les plus anciens artefacts lithiques (2,6-2,5 millions d'années) des sites archéologiques du Pliocène Final de EG-10 et EG-12 à Gona Est, Afar, Ethiopie. In (Sahnouni, Ed.) *Le Paléolithique en Afrique: L'histoire la plus longue*. Artcome/Errance, Paris.
- 2005 **Semaw**, S., Simpson, S.W., Quade, J., Renne, P.R., Butler, R.F., McIntosh, W. C., Levin, N., Dominguez-Rodrigo, M. and Rogers, M.J. Early Pliocene Hominids from Gona, Ethiopia. *Nature*, **433**:301-305.

- 2005 Domínguez-Rodrigo, M., Pickering, T.R., **Semaw**, S. and Rogers, M. Cutmarked bones from archaeological sites at Gona, Afar, Etiopía: Implications for the function of the world's oldest stone tools. *Journal of Human Evolution*, **48**:109-121.
- 2005 Stout, D., Quade, J., **Semaw**, S. and Rogers, M. Raw material selectivity of the earliest tool makers at Gona, Afar, Ethiopia. *Journal of Human Evolution*, **48**:365-380.
- 2004 Levin, N.E., Quade, J., Simpson, S.W., **Semaw**, S. and Rogers, M. Isotopic evidence for Plio-Pleistocene environmental change at Gona, Ethiopia. *Earth and Planetary Science Letters*, **219**:93-100.
- 2004 Quade, J., Levin, N., **Semaw**, S., Stout, D., Renne, P., Rogers, M. and Simpson, S.W. Paleoenvironments of the Earliest Stone Toolmakers, Gona, Ethiopia. *Geological Society of America Bulletin* **116**:1529-1544.
- 2003 **Semaw**, S., Rogers, M.J., Quade, J., Renne, P.R., Butler, R.F., Stout, D., Dominguez-Rodrigo, Hart, W., Pickering, T. and Simpson, S.W. 2.6-Million-year-old stone tools and associated bones from OGS-6 and OGS-7, Gona, Afar, Ethiopia. *Journal of Human Evolution*, **45**:169-177.
- 2000 **Semaw**, S. The World's oldest stone artifacts from Gona, Ethiopia: Their implications for understanding stone technology and patterns of human evolution between 2.6-2.5 million years ago. *Journal of Archaeological Science*, **27**:1197-1214.
- 1997 **Semaw**, S., Renne, P., Harris, J.W.K., Feibel, C., Bernor, R., Fesseha, N. and Mowbray, K. 2.5 million-year-old Stone tools from Gona, Ethiopia. *Nature*, **385**:333-338.
- 1993 Asfaw, B., Beyene, Y., **Semaw**, S., Suwa, G., White, T., and WoldeGabriel, G. Tephra from Fejej, Ethiopia. A reply. *Journal of Human Evolution*, **25**:519-521.
- 1992 Wolde-Gabriel, G., White, T., Suwa, G., **Semaw**, S., Beyene, Y., Asfaw, B. and Walter, R. Kesem Kebena: a newly discovered palaeoanthropological research area in Ethiopia. *Journal of Field Archaeology*, **19**:371-391.
- 1991 Asfaw, B., Beyene, Y., **Semaw**, S., Suwa, G., White, T. and WoldeGabriel, G. Fejej: a new paleoanthropological research area in Ethiopia. *Journal of Human Evolution*, **21**:137-143.
- 1989 Harris, J.W.K. and **Semaw**, S. Further archaeological studies at the Gona River, Hadar, Ethiopia. *Nyame Akuma*, **31**:19-21.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE GONA PROJECT (INCLUDING INVITED SCIENTISTS, OTHERS AND COMMENTARIES)

- 2010 Ruff, C. Body size and body shape in early hominins – implications of the Gona pelvis. *Journal of Human Evolution*, **58**:166-178.
- 2008 Levin, N., Simpson, S., Quade, J., Cerling, T. and Frost, S. Herbivore enamel carbon isotopic composition and the environmental context of *Ardipithecus* at Gona, Ethiopia. *The Geological Society of America Bulletin*, Special Paper **446**:215-234.
- 2009 López-Sa´ez, J.A., Domínguez-Rodrigo, M. Palynology of OGS-6a and OGS-7, two new 2.6 Ma archaeological sites from Gona, Afar, Ethiopia: insights on aspects of Late Pliocene habitats and the beginnings of stone tool use. *Geobios* **42**: 503–511.
- 2005 Hanson, B. Early Toolmakers. *Science*, **307**:18.
- 1997 Wood, B.A. The oldest whodunit in the world. *Nature*, **385**:392-393.

PUBLISHED ABSTRACTS

- 2013 Semaw, S., Rogers, M.J., Stout, D. and Caceres, I. Early Acheulian stone assemblages, ~1.7-1.6 million years ago from Gona, Afar, Ethiopia. 3rd Annual Meeting of the European Society for the Study of Human Evolution. 19-21 September, 2013, Vienna, Austria.
- 2013 Semaw, S., Rogers, M. and Stout, D. Plio-Pleistocene Archaeology of Gona Study Area, Afar, Ethiopia. ESF Earthtime-EU Scientific Meeting "The early-middle Pleistocene transition: Significance of the Jaramillo subchron in the sedimentary record." September 24-27, Burgos, Spain.
- 2013 Rogers, M.J., **Semaw**, S., Stout, D. & N. Levin. New excavations at the 2.6-million-year old OGS-7 site, Gona, Ethiopia. "Paleoanthropology Society Meetings Abstracts, Honolulu, HI, 2-3 April 2013" *PaleoAnthropology*, A33.
- 2010 **Semaw**, S. The emergence of stone tools at 2.6 Ma: The archaeological evidence from Gona, Afar, Ethiopia. Les premiers peuplements préhistoriques sur les different continents. *Colloque International dans le cadre du centre du cinetenaire de l'Institut de Paléontologie humaine (1910-2010)*. Institut de Paleontologie Humaine, June 2-6, 2010, Paris, France.
- 2008 **Semaw**, S., Rogers, M.J. and Stout, D. The Oldowan-Acheulian Transition: New Insights from Gona, Ethiopia. Paleoanthropology Society Annual Meeting, Vancouver, Canada, (*Paleoanthropology Society Website*).
- 2008 Stout, D., **Semaw**, S. and Rogers, M.J. Technological Variation in the Earliest Oldowan (2.6 Ma) from Gona, Afar, Ethiopia. Paleoanthropology Society Annual Meeting, Vancouver, Canada, (*Paleoanthropology Society Website*).
- 2007 Rogers, M. and **Semaw**, S. From Nothing to Something: The earliest appearance of the archaeological record. Paleoanthropology Society Meeting Abstracts. March 27-28, Philadelphia, PA, USA, (*Paleoanthropology Society Website*).
- 2006 **Semaw**, S, Rogers, M., Simpson, S., Quade, J. and Levin, N. Insights on the beginnings of early hominid stone technology, and recent archaeological and hominid discoveries from Gona, Afar, Ethiopia. Lucy, 30 ans après: Hominidés et environnements en Afrique de 7 à 1.5 million d'années: nouvelles decouvertes et voies recherche, 12-14 June, Aix en Provence, France.
- 2004 Simpson, S.W., Quade, J. Levin, N.E., Renne, P.R., Butler, R., McIntosh, W., and **Semaw**, S. Early Pliocene hominids and their environments at Gona, Ethiopia. AAPA 73rd Annual Meeting, April 16, Tampa, Florida (*AAPA Website*).
- 2004 Levin, N, Quade, J., **Semaw**, S., Schick, K., Toth, N., and Simpson, S.W. Plio Pleistocene environments of Gona, Ethiopia: the isotopic record for pedogenic carbonate and fossil teeth. Abstract, *The Geological Society of America*, Annual Meeting, November 5-8, **33** (6).
- 2003 **Semaw**, S., Rogers, M., Quade, J., Dominguez-Rodrigo, M., Simpson, S., Renne, P., Stout, D., Levin, N. and Butler, R. Recent archaeological discoveries from Gona, Afar, Ethiopia. Paleoanthropology Society annual meeting, Tempe, AZ (*Paleoanthropology Society Website*).
- 2003 Dominguez-Rodrigo, M., Pickering, T., **Semaw**, S. and Rogers, M. Cutmarked bones from Late Pliocene archaeological sites at Gona, Afar, Ethiopia: Implications for the function of the world's oldest stone tools. Paleoanthropology Society Annual

- Meeting, Tempe, AZ (*Paleoanthropology Society Website*).
- 2002 **Semaw**, S., Schick, K., Toth, N., Simpson, S., Quade, J., Rogers, M., Renne, P., Stout, D. and M. Dominguez-Rodrigo. Recent discoveries from Gona, Afar, Ethiopia. *Journal of Human Evolution*, **42**, A33.
- 2002 Toth, N., Schick, K. and **Semaw**, S. A technological comparison of the stone tool-making capabilities of Australopithecus/ early *Homo*, *Pan paniscus*, and *Homo sapiens*, and possible evolutionary implications. *Journal of Human Evolution*, **42**, A36.
- 2001 **Semaw**, S., Schick, K., Toth, N., Rogers, M.J., Quade, J., Simpson, S.W. and Dominguez-Rodrigo, M. Further 2.5-2.6 million year old artifacts, new Plio-Pleistocene archaeological sites and hominid discoveries of 1999 from Gona, Ethiopia. *Journal of Human Evolution*, **40**, A20.
- 2001 Simpson, S.W., **Semaw**, S., Schick, K., Toth, N., Quade, J., Dominguez-Rodrigo, M. and Rogers, M.J. Early Pliocene hominid remains from Gona, Ethiopia. *Journal of Human Evolution*, **40**, A21-22.
- 1994 **Semaw**, S., J.W.K. Harris, C.S. Feibel and R. Bernor. Archaeology of the Gona River, West-central Afar region of Ethiopia. *Nyame Akuma*, **42**, p. 56.

DIRECTED FIELD RESEARCH- GONA PALAEOANTHROPOLOGICAL RESEARCH PROJECT, AFAR, ETHIOPIA

- 2018/2015 Fieldwork, Gona Project, excavation of YAS1, Ya'alu, hominid and MSA site.
- 2013/15 Fieldwork, Gona Project – excavation of BSN70 in the Busidima North (with Co-Pi M. Rogers), >1.7 Ma, Gona, Ethiopia. Possible Oldowan-Acheulian transition site? Investigation of the Ya'alu Middle Stone Age site.
- 2013 Fieldwork, Gona Project – excavation of BSN70 in the Busidima North (with Co-Pi M. Rogers), >1.7 Ma, Gona, Ethiopia. Possible Oldowan-Acheulian transition site? Work in progress.
- 2012 Survey of 2.0-1.5 Ma deposits in the Busidima North, Ounda Gona North and South, Gona, Ethiopia. Survey for possible sites that may preserve traces of Oldowan-Acheulian archaeology.
- 2010 Fieldwork, Gona Project – excavated OGS-7, the 2.6 million year old archaeological site at Gona.
- 2009 Fieldwork, Gona Project, and Museum study of excavated Oldowan stone artifacts from the East and Ounda Gona South archaeological sites (EG-10/12 & OGS-6/7).
- 2008 Fieldwork, Gona Project, Excavation and museum study of the newly excavated Early Acheulian stone artifacts from the Ounda Gona South archaeological site (OGS-12) and the North Busidima Early Acheulian site of BSN-12.
- 2007 Fieldwork, Gona Project - Carried out systematic excavations at OGS-12 & BSN-17, Early Acheulian sites at Gona.
- 2006 Fieldwork, Gona Project - Carried out systematic excavations at OGS-12 & BSN-17, Early Acheulian sites at Gona.
- 2005 Directed the systematic survey of the Western Margin Early Pliocene deposits, and the Plio-Pleistocene artifact-bearing deposits at Gona.
- 2004 Directed the systematic survey of the Western Margin Early Pliocene deposits, and the Plio-Pleistocene artifact-bearing deposits at Gona.
- 2003 Directed the excavations at the newly discovered Early Acheulian site of Ounda Gona

- South 12 (OGS-12) and carried out paleoanthropological survey of the Plio-Pleistocene Gona deposits.
- 2002 Conducted data collection and analysis of the OGS-6 and OGS-7 excavated stone artifacts at the National Museum of Ethiopia, Addis Ababa.
- 2001 Directed the systematic survey of the Late Miocene/Early Pliocene Gona deposits – as well as survey of the entire study area for documenting paleontological and archaeological sites, and for understanding the geology/relative chronology of the deposits exposed in the study area.
-Directed the excavations and survey of the newly discovered Late Pliocene archaeological sites in the Dana Aoule North (DAN-1) at Gona.
- 2000 Carried out systematic excavations at the newly discovered archaeological sites of Ounda Gona South 6 and 7 (OGS-6 & OGS-7).
- 1999 Directed the systematic survey of the Gona deposits - first systematic survey of the entire study area for documenting paleontological and archaeological sites, and for understanding the geology/relative chronology of the deposits exposed in the study area.
- 1994 Fieldwork, palaeoanthropological survey of Kada Gona, Busidima and Talalak deposits, Afar, Ethiopia.
- 1993 Fieldwork, palaeoanthropological survey of the Kada Gona deposits.
- 1993-94 Analyzed the EG stone artifacts for Ph.D. dissertation research, National Museum of Ethiopia, Addis Ababa.
- 1992 Excavated the two archaeological localities- EG10 and EG-12 (East Gona), the oldest known archaeological sites in the world dated to 2.5-2.6 Million years old.
- 1987 Fieldwork, palaeoanthropological reconnaissance survey of the Gona Late Pliocene sites with J.W.K. Harris, discovered two Late Pliocene archaeological sites at West Gona.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE VISITS

- 2017 Mauer, Germany, site visit (excursion), following workshop.
- 2016 Dmanisi, Republic of Georgia, former Soviet Union.
- 2013 Atapuerca, earliest Western European site with *Homo antecessor* (0.8 Ma), Spain.
- 2013 Basque Country, Neandertal cave sites, Spain.
- 2012 Nihewan Basin Early-mid Pleistocene archaeological sites, China.
- 2011 Toumai, sites where the earliest hominins attributed *Sahelanthropus tchadensis* were discovered, Chad. PI, M. Brunet.
- 1997 Site visit, Bouri Peninsula and Herto, Middle Awash, Afar, Ethiopia. PI/PD, the late J.D. Clark and Professor Tim White.
- 1990 Participated in the survey of the Fejej deposits (Lower Omo) with the Rift Valley Palaeo-Inventory survey team Co-Directed by Dr. Berhane Asfaw and Professor Tim D. White, the University of California, Berkeley, California.
- 1990 Participated in the survey of the Bilate deposits, Southern Ethiopia, with the Rift Valley Palaeo-Inventory survey team Co-Directed by Dr. Berhane Asfaw and Professor Tim D. White, the University of California, Berkeley, California.
- 1990 Participated in the survey of the Burji-Soyoma area the Rift Valley Palaeo-Inventory survey team Co-Directed by Dr. Berhane Asfaw and Professor Tim D. White, the University of California, Berkeley, California.
- 1989 Participated in the survey of the Kesem- Kebena site with the Rift Valley Palaeo-survey

- team Co-Directed by Dr. Berhane Asfaw and Professor Tim D. White, the University of California, Berkeley, California.
- 1988 Museum study of the Gona materials excavated by J.W.K. Harris (1983) and the Middle Awash Oldowan artifacts in Addis Ababa for M.A. thesis (1989).
- 1987 Fieldwork and site visit of the Lokalalei-1 Late Pliocene archaeological site (West Turkana, Kenya); Co-Pis, H. Roche and M. Kibunjia.
- 1987 Field experience, Koobi Fora (East Turkana), Kenya with Academic Advisor Professor J.W.K. Harris.
- 1987 Participated in the excavation of the Kokiselei archaeological site at West Turkana, Kenya (co-PIs M. Kibunjia and H. Roche).
- 1987 Field experience, Olduvai Gorge and the Laetoli Plio-Pleistocene palaeoanthropological sites, Tanzania with Academic Advisor Professor J.W.K. Harris.
- 1984 Site visit of the Melka Kountore archaeological site, Ethiopia, with Dr. Berhane Asfaw.

RESEARCH GRANTS

- 2018 L.S.B. Leakey Foundation, for investigating YAS1, Gona, Afar, Ethiopia.
- 2017 L.S.B. Leakey Foundation, for investigating YAS1, Gona, Afar, Ethiopia.
- 2016 L.S.B. Leakey Foundation, for investigating YAS1, Gona, Afar, Ethiopia.
- 2014-2016 MINECO Grant (Co-Pi with M. Sahnouni), Spain for investigating early lithic technology, mode and tempo of ancestral human behavioral evolution, Oldowan/Acheulian.
- 2012-2015 Marie Curie Grant. The Oldowan-Acheulian transition and the emergence of the Acheulian industry. Field and laboratory investigations at the Gona Plio-Pleistocene archaeological sites, Ethiopia. ERC European Commission. FP7-PEOPLE-2011-Marie Curie CIG-Project. 303755.
- 2012 L.S.B. Leakey grant for the Gona Palaeoanthropological Research Project to M.J. Rogers, Co-Pi of the Gona Project, Southern Connecticut State University, Connecticut, USA.
- 2010 Leakey Foundation, research grant for palaeoanthropological research, Late Pliocene archeological sites, Gona Project.
- Wenner-Gren Foundation, research grant for palaeoanthropological research, Late Pliocene archeological sites, Gona Project.
- 2009 Wenner-Gren Foundation, research grant for palaeoanthropological research, Late Pliocene archeological sites, Gona Project.
-Leakey Foundation, research grant for palaeoanthropological research, Late Pliocene archeological sites, Gona Project.
- 2008 Researching Hominid Origins Initiative (RHOI), National Science Foundation research grant for fieldwork in the Mio-Pliocene Gona deposits, Afar, Ethiopia. RHOI/NSF grant made to the late Professor Clark Howell and Professor Tim White (co-PIs), Department of Integrative Biology and Laboratory for Human Evolutionary Studies, University of California, Berkeley.
- L.S.B. Leakey Foundation, grant for continuing fieldwork at Gona.
-Wenner-Gren Foundation grant for continuing fieldwork at Gona.
- 2007 Researching Hominid Origins Initiative (RHOI), National Science Foundation research grant for fieldwork in the Mio-Pliocene Gona deposits, Afar, Ethiopia. RHOI/NSF grant made to the late Professor Clark Howell and Professor Tim White (co-PIs), Department

- of Integrative Biology and Laboratory for Human Evolutionary Studies, University of California, Berkeley.
- L.S.B. Leakey Foundation, grant for continuing fieldwork at Gona.
 - Wenner-Gren Foundation grant for continuing fieldwork at Gona.
- 2006 Researching Hominid Origins Initiative (RHOI), National Science Foundation research grant for fieldwork in the Mio-Pliocene Gona deposits, Afar, Ethiopia. RHOI/NSF grant made to the late Professor Clark Howell and Professor Tim White (co-PIs), Department of Integrative Biology and Laboratory for Human Evolutionary Studies, University of California, Berkeley, CA, USA.
- L.S.B. Leakey Foundation, grant for continuing fieldwork at Gona.
 - Wenner-Gren Foundation grant for continuing fieldwork at Gona.
- 2005 Researching Hominid Origins Initiative (RHOI), National Science Foundation research grant for fieldwork in the Mio-Pliocene Gona deposits, Afar, Ethiopia. RHOI/NSF grant made to the late Professor Clark Howell and Professor Tim White (co-PIs), Department of Integrative Biology and Laboratory for Human Evolutionary Studies, University of California, Berkeley, CA, USA.
- L.S.B. Leakey Foundation, grant for continuing fieldwork at Gona.
- 2004 Researching Hominid Origins Initiative (RHOI), National Science Foundation research grant for fieldwork in the Mio-Pliocene Gona deposits, Afar, Ethiopia. RHOI/NSF grant made to the late Professor Clark Howell and Professor Tim White (co-PIs), Department of Integrative Biology and Laboratory for Human Evolutionary Studies, University of California, Berkeley, CA, USA.
- L.S.B. Leakey Foundation, grant for continuing fieldwork at Gona.
- 2003 L.S.B. Leakey Foundation, grant for continuing fieldwork at Gona.
- 2002 L.S.B. Leakey Foundation, grant for continuing fieldwork at Gona.
- 2001 National Science Foundation, research grant for fieldwork in the Early Pliocene-Late Pleistocene deposits, Gona Project.
- L.S.B. Leakey Foundation, grant for continuing fieldwork at Gona.
 - Wenner-Gren Foundation, research grant for fieldwork in the Late Pliocene- Late Pleistocene deposits, Gona Project.
- 2000 -National Science Foundation, research grant for fieldwork in the Late Pliocene-Late Pleistocene deposits, Gona Project.
- L.S.B. Leakey Foundation, major grant for continuing fieldwork at Gona.
 - Wenner-Gren Foundation, research grant for fieldwork in the Early Pliocene- Late Pleistocene deposits, Gona Project.
 - National Geographic Society, research grant for fieldwork in the Late Pliocene-Late Pleistocene deposits, Gona Project.
- 1999 National Science Foundation, research grant for fieldwork in the Early Pliocene-Late Pleistocene deposits, Gona Project.
- L.S.B. Leakey Foundation, major grant for the large scale multidisciplinary fieldwork initiated at Gona.
 - Wenner-Gren Foundation, research grant for fieldwork in the Early Pliocene- Late Pleistocene deposits, Gona Project.
 - National Geographic Society, research grant for fieldwork in the Late Pliocene-Late Pleistocene deposits, Gona Project.
- 1994 L.S.B. Leakey Foundation, research grant for fieldwork in the Late Pliocene-Late

- Pleistocene deposits, Gona Project.
- 1994 Boise Fund, research grant for fieldwork in the Late Pliocene deposits, Gona Project.
- 1993 L.S.B. Leakey Foundation, Dissertation Improvement Grant.
- 1991 National Science Foundation, Dissertation Improvement Grant.
- 1991 Gordon Getty Esq. Grant for Ph.D. Dissertation research entitled "Late Pliocene archeology of the Gona River deposits, Afar, Ethiopia."
- 1991 L.S.B. Leakey Foundation, Dissertation Improvement Grant.

PAPERS PRESENTED AT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES & INVITED LECTURES

- 2018 **Sileshi Semaw**, Michael J. Rogers, Isabel Caceres, Naomi Levin and Amanda Leiss. The Oldowan and the Acheulian Archaeological Records at Gona, Ethiopia. Paper presented at the 15th congress of PanAfrican Archaeological Association for Prehistory and Related Studies (PAA). Rabat, Morocco, 10-14 September, 2018.
- 2017 **Sileshi Semaw**, Michael Rogers, Isabel Caceres, Dietrich Stout, Naomi Levin, and Gary Stinchcomb. The Gona Archeological Investigations, Afar, Ethiopia: Overview of Major Research Results. Tarragona, Spain, 28-29 March, 2017.
- Sileshi Semaw**, Michael Rogers, Isabel Caceres, Dietrich Stout, Gary Stinchcomb, Jan van der Made, Henry Gilbert, Naomi Levin, Nelia Dunbar, and William McIntosh. The Gona Paleoanthropology Research Project: 6 Million Years of Human Biological and Behavioral Evolution. Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, July 31-August 2, 2017.
- Sileshi Semaw**, Michael Rogers & Travis Rohrer. The stone technology during the Middle Pleistocene Transition (MPT) at Gona, Afar, Ethiopia. April 24-27, Mauer, Germany.
- 2016 **Sileshi Semaw**, Michael J. Rogers, Isabel Caceres, Amanda Leiss & Dietrich Stout. The Early Acheulian from Gona, Ethiopia: implications for *Homo erectus* technological transitions and diet. *Homo erectus* 100+25: International Senckenberg Conference - Tbilisi, The Republic Georgia.
- Semaw, S.**, M. J. Rogers, I. Cáceres, , D. Stout and A. Leiss. The Early Acheulian from Gona, Ethiopia: implications for technological and hominin diet transitions. Paleoanthropology Society Annual Meeting, Atlanta, USA.
- 2015 **Semaw**, S., Rogers, M., Caceres, I., and Leiss, A. Early Acheulian: the archaeological evidence from Gona, Ethiopia. XIX INQUA Congress, Session: Pleistocene environments and bifacial technologies. Nagoya, Japan, 26 July - 2 August, 2015.
- 2015 **Semaw**, S., Rogers, M., Caceres, I., Stout, D., and Levin, N. The Gona Palaeoanthropological Investigations (Ethiopia), Major Research Results (199-2015). Paper presented at the II Meeting of African Prehistory, 15-16 April, 2015, Burgos, Spain.
- 2014 **Semaw**, S. Paleoanthropology Infrastructure, ICRI 2014, Research Infrastructures for Global Challenges, 2-4 April, Athens, Greece.
- 2013 **Semaw**, S., Rogers, M.J., Stout, D. and Caceres, I. Early Acheulian stone assemblages, ~1.7-1.6 million years ago from Gona, Afar, Ethiopia. 3rd Annual Meeting of the European Society for the Study of Human Evolution. 19-21 September, 2013, Vienna, Austria.
- 2013 **Semaw**, S. Early Acheulian from Gona, Ethiopia. International Workshop, The Emergence of the Acheulean in East Africa. In honor of the 50th Anniversary of

- the discovery of Melka Kunture (1963-2013). September 12-13, 2013, Rome, Italy.
- 2013 **Semaw**, S. Early Acheulian stone assemblages from Gona, Afar, Ethiopia. 4th East African Association for Palaeoanthropology and Palaeontology (EAAPP) Conference. 28th July -2nd August, 2013, Mombasa, Kenya.
- 2012 **Semaw**, S. The earliest stone tools at 2.6 Ma from Gona, Ethiopia. Sino-African Forum of Paleanthropology, organized by Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleanthropology, Chinese Academy of Sciences. May 29-31, Beijing, China.
- 2011 **Semaw**, S. Invited lecture at the 'international congress in N'Djamena,' and four days excursion visit to the Djurab's Toumaï sites (North Chad). Conference organized by the Département de Paléontologie, Université de N'Djamena, CNAR N'Djamena, IPHEP UMR 6046 CNRS Université de Poitiers, Collège de France – Chaire de Paléontologie Humaine – Mission Paléoanthropologique Franco-Tchadienne, with the collaboration of Coopération Française. October 31st - November 5th 2011, N'Djamena, Chad.
- 2010 **Semaw**, S. The emergence of stone tools at 2.6 Ma: The archaeological evidence from Gona, Afar, Ethiopia. Paper presented at the conference entitled « Les premiers peuplements préhistoriques Sur les différents continents, » Institut de Paléontologie Humaine, June 2-6, 2010, Paris, France.
- 2010 **Semaw**, S. Early Pliocene hominids from Gona, Ethiopia. Paper presented at the conference entitled "Early Hominids." Organized by CARTA & Professor T. White, University of California, San Diego, La Jolla, CA. October 1-2, 2010.
- 2009 **Semaw**, S. The earliest Archaeology from Gona at 2.6 Ma: Its implications for Late Pliocene Human behavior in East Africa. Paper presented at the American Museum of Natural History, 'Darwin's Legacy,' Early Human Evolution in Africa, February 27-March 1, 2009. New York, USA.
- 2009 **Semaw**, S. The earliest stone artifacts at 2.6 million years ago, and overview of the major Hominid discoveries from Gona, Afar, Ethiopia (1999-2008). Colloque International: « L'Afrique, Berceau de l'Humanité: Découvertes Récentes » International Symposium: « Africa, Cradle of Humanity: Recent Discoveries » Sétif, 26-28 October 2009, Algeria.
- 2008 **Semaw**, S., Rogers, M.J., Stout, D., Simpson, S., Quade, J., Levin, N., Renne, P. and Kidane, T. Archaeological and hominid discoveries (1999-2008) from the Gona Palaeoanthropological Research Project Study Area, Afar, Ethiopia. Paper presented at the International Conference on Paleanthropology, Paleontology and Archaeology in Ethiopia, "*Transforming the Might of a Century Long Research Output into Development*," January 2008. Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
- 2008 **Semaw**, S., Rogers, M.J., Stout, D., Quade, J., Levin, N., Renne, P.R., Simpson, S.W. and Kidane, T. The Oldowan-Acheulian transition: New insights from Gona, Ethiopia. Paper presented at the Paleanthropology Society Annual Meeting (Abstract), 25-26 March. Vancouver, B.C., Canada.
- 2008 Rogers, M.J, **Semaw**, S. and Stout, D. The earliest archaeological record: Expanding our knowledge of the first toolmakers at Gona, Ethiopia. Paper presented at the International Conference on Paleanthropology, Paleontology and Archaeology in Ethiopia, "*Transforming the Might of a Century Long Research Output into Development*," January 2008. Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

- 2008 Stout, D., **Semaw**, S., and Rogers, M., 2008, Technological Variation in the Oldowan (2.6 Ma) from Gona, Afar, Ethiopia. Paper presented at the Paleoanthropology Society Annual Meeting, 25-26 March. Vancouver, B.C., Canada.
- 2007 **Semaw**, S. The major hominid discoveries from Gona, Afar, Ethiopia (1999-2007). A conference organized to honor R. Holloway. Organized by the Stone Age Institute, Bloomington, IN, USA.
- 2007 Rogers, M. and **Semaw**, S. From Nothing to Something: The earliest appearance of the archaeological record. Paleoanthropology Society Meeting. March 27-28, Philadelphia, PA, USA.
- 2006 **Semaw**, S. The earliest stone tools from Gona (2.6 Ma): insights on Late Pliocene hominid technology and raw material selectivity. Paper presented at the 71st Annual SAA meeting, April 27, 2006. San Juan, Puerto Rico.
- 2006 **Semaw**, S, Rogers, M., Simpson, S., Quade, J. and Levin, N. Insights on the beginnings of early hominid stone technology, and recent archaeological and hominid discoveries from Gona, Afar, Ethiopia. Lucy, 30 ans après: Hominidés et environnements en Afrique de 7 à 1.5 million d'années: nouvelles découvertes et voies recherche, 12-14 June, Aix en Provence, France.
- 2006 **Semaw**, S. Insights on the Beginnings of Hominid Stone Technology and Recent Archaeological and Hominid Discoveries from Gona, Afar, Ethiopia. Department of Integrative Biology and Laboratory for Human Evolutionary Studies. Invited Talk, University of California, Berkeley, CA, USA.
- 2006 **Semaw**, S. Insights on the Beginnings of Hominid Stone Technology and Recent Archaeological and Hominid Discoveries from Gona, Afar, Ethiopia. Invited Talk, Department of Anthropology, Stanford University, CA, USA.
- 2005 **Semaw** S. The oldest stone technology (2.6 Ma), and recent hominid discoveries from Gona, Afar, Ethiopia. Invited Talk, University of Tarragona, Spain.
- 2005 **Semaw**, S. The earliest stone technology (2.6 Ma) from Gona, Afar, Ethiopia: Insights on the technology and raw material selectivity of the first toolmakers. Paper presented at the conference, "New Approaches to the Earliest Stone Age," Stone Age Institute, Bloomington, IN, USA.
- 2005 K. Schick, Toth, N. and **Semaw**, S. Measuring the levels of skill in Oldowan Tool-making: Insights from *Pan*, *Australopithecus* and *Homo sapiens*. Paper presented at the conference, "New Approaches to the Earliest Stone Age," Stone Age Institute, Bloomington, IN. USA.
- 2004 Simpson, S.W., Quade, J., Levin, N.E., Renne, P.R., Butler, R., McIntosh, W. and **Semaw**, S. Early Pliocene hominids and their environments at Gona, Ethiopia. AAPA 73rd Annual Meeting, April 16, Tampa, Florida, USA.
- 2004 Levin, N, Quade, J., **Semaw**, S., Schick, K., Toth, N., and Simpson, S.W. Plio Pleistocene environments of Gona, Ethiopia: the isotopic record for pedogenic carbonate and fossil teeth. The Geological Society of America, Annual Meetings, November 5-8, Boston, USA.
- 2003 **Semaw**, S., Rogers, M.J., Quade, J., Dominguez-Rodrigo, M., Simpson, S.W., Renne, P.R., Stout, D., Levin, N. and Butler, R.F. Recent archaeological discoveries from Gona, Afar, Ethiopia. Paper presented at the Paleoanthropology Society Annual Meeting. April 22-23, Tempe, AZ, USA.
- 2003 **Semaw**, S. The earliest stone tools from Gona and new hominid discoveries. Paper

- presented at the conference organized by the Middle Awash Project. January, 2003, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
- 2003 **Semaw**, S. Moderator, presentations in honor of Louis Leakey. L.S.B. Leakey bicentennial. Organized by the L.S.B. Leakey Foundation. October, 2003, Chicago, USA
- 2003 **Semaw**, S. The earliest stone tools from Gona, Afar, Ethiopia and recent hominid discoveries. Lecture at a community high school. Outreach organized by the L.S.B. Leakey Foundation. October, 2003, Chicago, USA.
- 2002 **Semaw**, S., Schick, K., Toth, N., Simpson, S., Quade, J., Rogers, M., Renne, P., Stout, D. and Dominguez-Rodrigo. Recent discoveries from Gona, Afar, Ethiopia. Paper presented at the Palaeoanthropology Society Annual Meeting, 19-20 March. Denver, Colorado, USA.
- 2002 Toth, N. Schick, K. and **Semaw**, S. A technological comparison of the stone tool-making capabilities of *Homo*, *Pan paniscus*, and *Homo sapiens*, and possible evolutionary implications. Paper presented at the Paleoanthropology Society Annual Meeting, Denver, Colorado, USA.
- 2000 **Semaw**, S. The earliest stone tools from Gona, Afar, Ethiopia and new hominid discoveries (1999). Paper presented at the L.S. Leakey Leakey Foundation. Invited Talk, San Francisco, USA.
- 2000 **Semaw**, S. The earliest stone artifacts and recent hominid discoveries from Gona, Afar, Ethiopia (1999 field season). L.S.B. Leakey Foundation annual meeting hosted by the University of Minnesota. Invited talk, Minneapolis, USA.
- 1997 **Semaw**, S. The earliest stone tools dated to 2.6 Ma from Gona, Afar, Ethiopia. Lecture at Cornell University. Invited Talk, Ithaca, New York, USA.
- 1997 **Semaw**, S. The earliest stone tools dated to 2.6 Ma from Gona, Afar, Ethiopia. Lecture at Montclair State University. Invited Talk, Montclair, New Jersey, USA.
- 1995 **Semaw**, S., Harris, J.W.K., Renne, P.R. and Feibel, C.S. The oldest stone tools in the world dated to 2.5 Ma from Gona, Afar, Ethiopia. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the palaeoanthropological Society, Oakland, CA, USA.
- 1994 **Semaw**, S., Harris, J.W.K. and Feibel, C.S. The Gona stone tools, recent field investigations at Gona, Afar, Ethiopia. Paper presented at the Society of Africanist Archeologists (SAFA) meeting. Organized by N. Toth and K. Schick, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN, USA.
- 1990 **Semaw**, S. and Harris, J.W.K. The Gona stone tools. Paper presented at the Society of Africanist Archeologists (SAFA) meeting. Organized by P. Schmidt and S. Brandt, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, USA.

JOURNAL & GRANT REFEREE

Nature, Science, PNAS, Journal of Human Evolution, Marie Curie (EU), the National Science Foundation, L.S.B. Leakey Foundation

FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS & HONORS

- 1997-99 Postdoctoral Fellowship, CRAFT Research Center, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana, USA.
- 1997 Postdoctoral Fellowship, Rutgers University, Department of Anthropology, New

- Brunswick, New Jersey, USA.
- 1994 Graduate Fellowship, Rutgers University, Department of Anthropology, New Brunswick, New Jersey, USA.
- 1986 Graduate Fellowship, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA.
- 1986 Graduate Scholarship, Institute of Human Origins, California, Berkeley (currently in AZ), USA.
- 1984 Gold Mercury International, certificate for participating in organizing the cultural exhibit for the 25th Anniversary of the Economic Commission for Africa (United Nations), Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

GRADUATE STUDENTS WITH PH.D. DISSERTATIONS & M.A. THESIS WRITTEN ON MATERIALS FROM GONA

- 2009 Everett, M., The Paleoecology of the Pleistocene Upper Busidima Formation, Gona, Afar Depression, Ethiopia. Ph.D. Indiana University, Bloomington, IN.
- 2008 Levin, N. *Isotopic Records of Plio-Pleistocene Climate and Environments in Eastern Africa*. PH.D. dissertation, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT.
- 2008 Kleinsasser, L. M.A. thesis was written on the geology of the Late Miocene deposits at Gona. (Advisor, J. Quade), the Department of Geosciences, University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona, 85721-0077, USA.

AFFILIATIONS/MEMBERSHIPS

National Museum of Ethiopia; Ethiopian Academy of Sciences; European Society for Human Evolution (EU); Palaeoanthropology Society (USA); Society of Africanist Archaeologists (SAFA); Society of American Archaeology (SAA); East African Association of Paleontology and Paleoanthropology (EAAPP)

GRADUATE (THESIS) ADVISORS

- Professor J.W.K. Harris, Rutgers the State University of New Jersey, Department of Anthropology, New Brunswick, NJ, USA
- Professor Robert Blumenschine, Rutgers the State University of New Jersey, Department of Anthropology, New Brunswick, NJ, USA
- Professor Susan Cachel, Rutgers the State University of New Jersey, Department of Anthropology, New Brunswick, NJ, USA
- The late Professor Clark Howell (external advisor), Integrative Biology, the University of California, Berkeley, CA, USA.