Fall 2016 SOAN Colloquium
Presenting: Jill Scott

Homo naledi and the (Dinaledi) Chamber of Secrets:
A New Addition to the Human Family Tree

Homo naledi is a recently announced extinct species of ancestral human (hominin) discovered in the Dinaledi Chamber of the Rising Star cave system in the Cradle of Humankind, South Africa. To date, more than 1700 specimens have been recovered, making it the largest assemblage of a single hominin species yet discovered in Africa. The H. naledi assemblage represents at least 15 individuals ranging in age from infants through adults. The species is characterized by a stature and body mass similar to small-bodied human populations but with a small, australopith-like brain volume. Overall, H. naledi displays a unique mosaic of australopith-like and Homo-like morphology not previously seen in the hominin fossil record. Jill Scott is part of the team analyzing and describing the material recovered from the Dinaledi Chamber. Her talk will describe the discovery, excavation, and analysis of the H. naledi material, leading to the initial publication announcing the species in the open access journal eLife in September 2015, as well as additional forthcoming research.

DATE/TIME: SEP. 21 3:30-4:30PM @ CN 103
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