

Beringian Archaeology, Genetics, and Northeast Asian - North American Connections.

Ben A. Potter

Department of Anthropology at the University of Alaska Fairbanks

Recent Beringian archaeological and genetic data have converged in ways that illuminate long-held problems of biogeographic expansions of humans into Siberia and the Americas. From a Beringian standpoint, archaeogenetic patterning and adaptive strategies across the region are explicated in the context of models of the peopling of the Americas. Models of metapopulation formation, admixture events, and geographic locations based on genetic anchor points provide a framework to investigate adaptation to and movement through Beringia. Of special interest is shifting subsistence strategies, including predation on mammoth, bison, elk, caribou and fish. Specific routes from Beringia into North America south of continental ice sheets are considered under the light of current evidence.