

Eric Delson

Prof. Delson's basic research interest is in unraveling the evolutionary history of humans and our close relatives. The inherently interdisciplinary nature of paleoanthropology led him to study human fossils and their archeological record and the interrelationships of living and extinct Old World monkeys and apes (and to a lesser degree that of other primates). He has used the patterns of Old World monkey evolution to clarify the chronological framework for human evolution in Africa and also to approach general questions of evolutionary processes and patterns. Current projects include the description and analysis of fossil monkeys from Africa, Europe, India and China, as well as the clarification of systematic relationships among all Catarrhini. A continuing interest is the integration of human paleontological, archeological and paleoenvironmental evidence bearing on the evolutionary history of humans.

The goal of synthesis and integration of diverse data has drawn him into a variety of editorial ventures. He is a former Editor in Chief (and permanent Associate Editor) of the *Journal of Human Evolution*, former International News Editor of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology *News Bulletin* and Co-Editor of the *Vertebrate Paleobiology & Paleoanthropology Book Series* (Springer Publishers), as well as Secretary of the Paleoanthropology Society. He is also collaborating with colleagues on a text for courses in primate evolution.

Along with a group of colleagues and grad students (the NYCEP Morphometrics Group), he is working on several projects in the broad field of geometric morphometric analysis and 3D morphology. The major current project is to reconstruct the shape of the cranium at various points along the evolutionary tree of Old World monkeys, combining digitizer and laser-scan data on modern and fossil skulls in a framework of statistical analysis and computer-graphic visualization. He worked for several years in collaboration with French colleagues Claude Guérin and Martine Faure (Lyon) to re-study the late Pliocene (2 million year old) fossil mammal site of Senèze, located inside an extinct volcano in the Massif Central. They sought to collect new fossil specimens of rare species belonging to a well-known fauna, obtain more precise estimates of the fauna's age and to better understand how the site was formed and what the environment was like at the time the mammals lived there; an edited volume is in process for the book series Eric edits.

In addition to being Professor of Anthropology at Lehman College and the Graduate Center, Eric is a Research Associate in Vertebrate Paleontology at the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH) and a Research Affiliate of the Institut Català de Paleontologia Miquel Crusafont (ICP), Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain. Since its founding in 1991, he has been Director of NYCEP, the New York Consortium in Evolutionary Primatology, an interinstitutional graduate program combining faculty, students and resources of CUNY, NYU, Columbia, the AMNH and the Wildlife Conservation Society. He has supervised 13 PhD dissertations, with 4 more in progress. He received his BA in Physics from Harvard College in 1966 and his PhD in Geology (Vertebrate Paleontology) from Columbia University (through the AMNH) in 1973. He was a member of the US National Academy of Sciences Paleoanthropology Delegation to the

People's Republic of China in 1975. He held a John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Fellowship in 1981-1982, was elected a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 2003 and was invited to present the 10th annual G. H. R. von Koenigswald Lecture, at the Senckenberg Museum, Frankfurt, Germany, in 2011. He is a member of 20 international scientific societies. He has (co-)organized numerous scholarly and public meetings and lecture series, especially "ANCESTORS: Four Million Years of Humanity", an exhibition of original specimens of human (and primate) fossils, held at the AMNH from April to September, 1984.

He is the (co-)author or (co-)editor of 8 books or monographs, including *Evolutionary History of the Primates* (Szalay & Delson, 1979); *Ancestors: the Hard Evidence* (edited, 1985); *Encyclopedia of Human Evolution and Prehistory*, 2nd ed (Delson et al., editors, 2000); and "Body mass in Cercopithecidae (Primates, Mammalia): estimation and scaling in extinct and extant taxa" (Delson et al., 2000). He has also written 47 peer-reviewed journal articles, 30 book chapters (20 peer-reviewed), 130 encyclopedia entries (most in volumes he has co-edited) and 12 *Nature News & Views* reports, as of September 2019. His research has been supported by grants from the Leakey Foundation, the Wenner-Gren Foundation, and the National Science Foundation (for independent research, collaborative research and for NYCEP graduate training).