

COLORADO

Café Scientifique

TUESDAY 22 FEBRUARY 2005

at the Wynkoop Brewing Company

<http://www.wynkoop.com/>

Corner of 18th and Wynkoop in LoDo, Denver

About a block from Light Rail. Thirteen minutes by foot from Auraria.

—What Happened to the Neanderthals?—

A Working Memory Hypothesis

Thomas Wynn, Professor of Anthropology
Frederick Coolidge, Professor of Psychology
University of Colorado at Colorado Springs

One of the greatest anthropological mysteries is the cause for the extinction of Neanderthals. Tom Wynn and Fred Coolidge have recently proposed a new solution based on paleoanthropological and neuropsychological evidence. Although Neanderthals had larger brains than modern humans (about 9% larger), Wynn and Coolidge suggest that a genetic mutation, about 100,000 years ago, rewired the frontal lobes of modern humans, which may have enhanced their working memory capacity. This resulted in their ultimate success in competition with Neanderthals to the point of the latter's extinction approximately 27,000 years ago.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME. Come before 6 PM to leave yourself time to get something to eat, or stay and eat afterwards. We end around 8 PM.

There's no charge. The Wynkoop is generously providing the facility; we buy our own food and drinks. It will be first come, first seated, and **seating is limited** so that everyone who wants to can be part of the discussion.

The Colorado Café Scientifique is organized by an informal group of President's Teaching Scholars and other faculty from CU and institutions up and down the Front Range, as well as science types from industry and government. We welcome your input, including ideas for speakers and topics. Bring them with you to the next Café, or e-mail them and any questions to John.Cohen@UCHSC.edu

Further essential information is on our Web site at <http://cafescicolorado.org>