

## Environment News Futures

### Mystery of How Early Animals Survived Ice Age

#### New findings further our understanding of extreme climate change and evolution

McGill University—December 2, 2019

How did life survive the most severe ice age? A team has found the first direct evidence that glacial meltwater provided a crucial lifeline to eukaryotes during Snowball Earth, when the oceans were cut off from life-giving oxygen, answering a question puzzling scientists for years.

### Global Levels of Biodiversity could be Lower than We Think, New Study Warns

University of Sussex—December 2, 2019

Biodiversity across the globe could be in a worse state than previously thought, as assessments fail to account for long-lasting impact of land change, a new study has warned.

### Facial Deformity in Royal Dynasty was Linked to Inbreeding, Scientists Confirm

#### First study to indicate a direct relationship between inbreeding and facial morphology

Taylor & Francis Group—December 2, 2019

The “Habsburg jaw”, a facial condition of the Habsburg dynasty of Spanish and Austrian kings and their wives, can be attributed to inbreeding, according to new results published in the *Annals of Human Biology*.

### How does Language Emerge?

#### New study provides insights into the first steps

Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology—December 3, 2019

How did the almost 6000 languages of the world come into being? Researchers from the Leipzig Research Centre for Early Childhood Development at Leipzig University and the Max Planck

Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology have tried to simulate the process of developing a new communication system in an experiment—with surprising results: even preschool children can spontaneously develop communication systems that exhibit core properties of natural language.

## **Babies in the Womb may See More than We Thought**

### **Light-sensitive cells in immature retina are networked, suggesting bigger role in developing brain**

University of California, Berkeley—November 25, 2019

Light-sensitive cells active in the retina even before the fetus can distinguish images may play a larger role in the developing eye and brain than previously thought. Intrinsically photosensitive retinal ganglion cells seemingly help establish blood supply to the retina, circadian rhythms and the pupillary light reflex. Researchers have now discovered that these cells are electrically connected in a network that is able to detect light intensity, suggesting a bigger role in development.

## **New Device Enables Battery-free Computer Input at the Tip of Your Finger**

University of Waterloo—December 2, 2019

Computer scientists at the University of Waterloo have created a device for wearable computer input suitable for many situations, just by touching your fingertips together in different ways. The device, called Tip-Tap, is inexpensive and battery-free through the use of radio frequency identification (RFID) tags to sense when fingertips touch. The device could, therefore, be added to disposable surgical gloves, allowing surgeons to access preoperative planning diagrams in an operating room.

## **‘There are more than 60,000 tree species in the world & my book had room for only 80!’**

Jonathan Drori, author of *Around the World in 80 Trees* tells S S Jeevan about the phylogeny, ecological services, and the sociological importance of trees. The book unveils untold linkages between trees and history as well as culture.

Could you share some experiences of your research journey?

Uncovering the entanglements between plant science, history and culture has been a joy. From the cork oak forests of the Iberian peninsula, to the link between the Eastern White Pine and the push for American independence, and from the birch trees of northern Finland and their association with hallucinogenic fungi, to the “resin rush” that attracted prospectors from all over the world to

seek their fortunes in the Kauri forests of New Zealand, the bizarre antics of trees are second only to the strange things that human beings get up to!

## **Eight-year Old Girl Petitions PM**

*See snapshot*

## **India Ranks 5th in Global Climate Risk Index**

Read more at:

[http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/articleshow/72367505.cms?utm\\_source=contentofinterest&utm\\_medium=text&utm\\_campaign=cppst](http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/articleshow/72367505.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst)

## **Bei Bei Panda Born in Washington now in China**

*See snapshot*