

## OPEN LECTURE

Thurston Cleveland Hicks  
***Explorations of a Threatened  
Chimpanzee Culture in Northern DR Congo***

30th November 2015, 17:30

Conference room, Collegium *Artes Liberales*,  
University of Warsaw, Dobra 72



Cleve Hicks has always been fascinated in the evolution of *Homo sapiens*. His passion for the subject led him to spend over 6 years living in the Congo Basin with two of our closest living relatives, western lowland gorillas (*Gorilla gorilla gorilla*) and chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes*). His particular specialty is in chimpanzee material culture, and over the course of his research he has described two chimpanzee cultures new to science, in the Ngotto Forest of Central African Republic and the Bili-Gangu landscape of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Hicks will recount for us his explorations of these forests, and describe not only the tool use cultures of these chimpanzees but the exciting results of his surveys, which revealed a vast and previously unknown population of the apes inhabiting the Congo forests. These chimpanzees are, however, under increasing threat from human activities: a bushmeat crisis which is leaving a growing number of baby chimpanzees in desperate need of help. Finally, Hicks will describe how his increasing appreciation of the diversity of chimpanzee material culture has shaped his ideas on how human beings fit into the Great Tree of Life.

**After the lecture we invite all participants to join the on-line discussion  
with Frances Bartkowski and her students from Rutgers University-Newark.**