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"Climate and Culture Change in Siberia and Other Northern Regions:
Deep-Time and Today"

Unlike most of Western Eurasia and North America, Eastern Eurasia had a different late Quaternary and Holocene climatic and environmental regime due to the absence of continental glaciation. In particular, this region warmed rapidly after 12,000 years ago and was much warmer for the first half of the Holocene than other circumpolar regions. Consequently human habitation was earlier and cultural development progressed more rapidly. Recent excavations at sites like Yana (27,000 BP) and Zhokhov (8,000 BP) provide surprising insights, as does the recent discovery of a mammoth refugia on Wrangel Island, which lasted until 3500 years ago. This presentation will also review the later prehistory including the development of Neolithic culture, impact of reindeer breeding, origin of Eskimo and sea mammal hunting technologies, and how climate changes have affected cultural development in the past, and might in the future.