

# ARCHE Seminar Series 2023

Prof. Hongbo Zheng presents

## “A Tale of Rice”

*Australian Research Centre for Human  
Evolution Seminar Series 1.*

**Abstract:** Origin and development of rice agriculture have been one of the core topics in archaeology. Much recent studies suggested that domestication of rice (or the rice agriculture) initiated in the lower Yangtze River about 10, 000 years ago, which has fundamentally shaped the course of Neolithic cultures of China even of the world ever since. In the Yangtze River Delta, Neolithic cultures have experienced several episodes of rising and fall, the cause of which has been a puzzle for decades. This talk will approach the Neolithic cultures in the Yangtze River Delta mainly through using geological methodologies (sedimentology, stratigraphy, geochronology, geomorphology, and so on), trying to comprehend the environmental background under which ancient people settled and farmed, with focus on the extreme climatic and environmental events (e.g. mega tides, storm surges, flooding) which might have caused the fall of the cultures in this venerable coastal region.



**BIO:** Hongbo Zheng is currently a Professor and Director of Yunnan Province Key Laboratory of Earth System Science, Yunnan University, China and an Honorary Professor at Queensland University. Trained as a geologist (BSc, Nanjing University; MSc, Chinese Academy of Sciences; PhD, UWA), Hongbo’s career research interests mainly concern the latest episode of the Earth’s history-the Cenozoic Era, which can be clustered into paleoclimatology, geomorphology, Earth environments and geo-archaeology. These fields have major implications for understanding Earth history, and the history of human evolution and civilization.

*Date/Time – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February, 2023: Seminar from 2 pm, followed by networking at the Unibar*

*Room – N29\_0.03 (Nathan Campus)*