

# Contingency, Chance and Determinism in Deep History



**Abstract:**

The roles of contingency, chance and determinism have long been of interest to historians, evolutionary biologists, paleontologists, economists and specialists in many other fields. Erwin will discuss these issues in the context of events from the fossil record; his paper will be followed by comments designed to invite a cross-disciplinary audience discussion of these major themes.

**Tuesday, October 11th, 2016**  
**5:30pm - 7:00pm**

**Robinson Hall, Lower Library**  
**35 Quincy Street, Cambridge, MA**

**Douglas H. Erwin,**

Curator of Paleozoic Invertebrates,  
Smithsonian Institution

**Discussants:**

**Joyce Chaplin,**

James Duncan Phillips Professor of Early  
American History

**Edward J. Hall,**

Norman E. Vuilleumier Professor of  
Philosophy

**Jonathan Losos,**

Monique and Philip Lehner Professor for  
the Study of Latin America, Professor of  
Organismic and Evolutionary Biology, Curator  
in Herpetology, Museum of Comparative  
Zoology.

 **SoHP**

The Initiative for the Science of the Human Past at Harvard

Harvard University

Department of History

Department of  
Organismic & Evolutionary Biology

Department of  
 Philosophy

