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When Did Humanity Emerge?

This contribution will suggest this question can be answered in several ways. First, and most inclusively, when did the twig of the Tree of Life that leads to modern humans split off from the branch that leads to modern humans *and* our closest living relatives, the bonobos and chimpanzees? Second, how do we define our own genus, *Homo*, and when in the hominin fossil record can we first unambiguously recognize members of our own genus *Homo*? Third, when in the hominin fossil record can we first unambiguously recognize fellow members of our own species, *Homo sapiens*? And fourth, when in the fossil and archeological records can we recognize behaviors that A) we have good reason to believe are, among living taxa, either exclusive to our species (e.g., recursion), or B) are more intensively expressed in our species than in any other contemporary species (e.g., tool manufacture)?