

Georgian National Museum Continues Hosting Talks by Well-Known Professors

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On October 2, the Georgian National Museum hosted a talk by Lorenzo Ruki, a professor of paleontology at the University of Florence, about the "Dynamics of fossil mammal assemblages and our knowledge of human history."

For the last seven years, Ruki has been working alongside Georgian scientists in Dmanisi, an archeological excavation site in South-Eastern Georgia. There, a group of scientists headed by David Lordkipanidze, the director of the Georgian National Museum, found the oldest known human remains outside of Africa. An article by Ruki in the September 19, 2007 issue of *Nature* announced the most recent in a string of discoveries. "A trove of the oldest human skeletal bones is discovered outside Africa — a find that will help researchers to improve their understanding of the biology of the 1.8-million-year-old hominids," *Nature* wrote. The discovery was widely discussed in magazines and newspapers all over the world.

As David Lordkipanidze told *Georgia Today*, the talk by professor Ruki is part of a series of lecturers aiming to popularize science in society. "Prof. Ruki has been a partner of ours for a long time. He works in the scientific field, and he also helps our Georgian scientists to improve their qualifications and invites them to Italy. We plan to continue this lecture series and invite famous professors to our auditorium every month."

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