

Best of Last Week – Neutrino mountain experiment, solving the knuckle-pop puzzle and impact of parental conflict on kids

2 April 2018, by Bob Yirka



Researchers working on the cryostat. Credit: CUORE Collaboration

It was an interesting week for physics as an international team of researchers [reported their first results from the neutrino mountain experiment](#)—they are attempting to prove that the neutrino may be its own antiparticle, explaining why there appears to be so much more matter than antimatter in the universe. And a team led by Pieter van Dokkum of Yale University reported on the discovery of [dark matter 'missing' from a galaxy far, far away](#)—the ultra-diffuse galaxy is an oddity, they found, and its discovery calls into questions theories surrounding galaxy formation.

It was also an interesting week for human history and behavior as a team of archaeologists with the University of Exeter found that [parts of the Amazon thought to be uninhabited were actually home to up to a million people](#)—their study fills in major gaps in the history of the Amazon. Also, researchers from Northeastern Illinois University and UC Berkeley found that [poor grades could be tied to](#)

[class times that don't match student biological clocks](#)—students out of sync with their circadian rhythm, they found, were more likely to have lower grades. And a joint team from Paris' Ecole Polytechnique and Stanford University made headlines when [they found the answer to the knuckle-popping puzzle](#).

In other news, a team of researchers from several institutions in France made headlines when [they reconstructed the face of a Cro-Magnon man, warts and all](#). The team came to believe that the Cro-Magnon man had a type of neurofibromatosis. Also making headlines was a report by a team of researchers from the U.S. and Israel describing [a newfound 'organ' missed by the standard method for visualizing anatomy](#). And an international team of researchers wondered [whether life could be adrift in the clouds of Venus](#). They suggested it might be possible and worthy of study. Also, a team at the University of California announced that they had found [a virus that is able to adapt through a newly discovered path of evolution](#), and suggest their findings may explain how other viruses such as Ebola and Zika evolve so quickly.

And finally, if you are an adult with a history of social problems, you might be able to blame it on your parents, as a team at the University of Vermont found evidence that suggested [parental conflict can do lasting damage to kids](#).

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