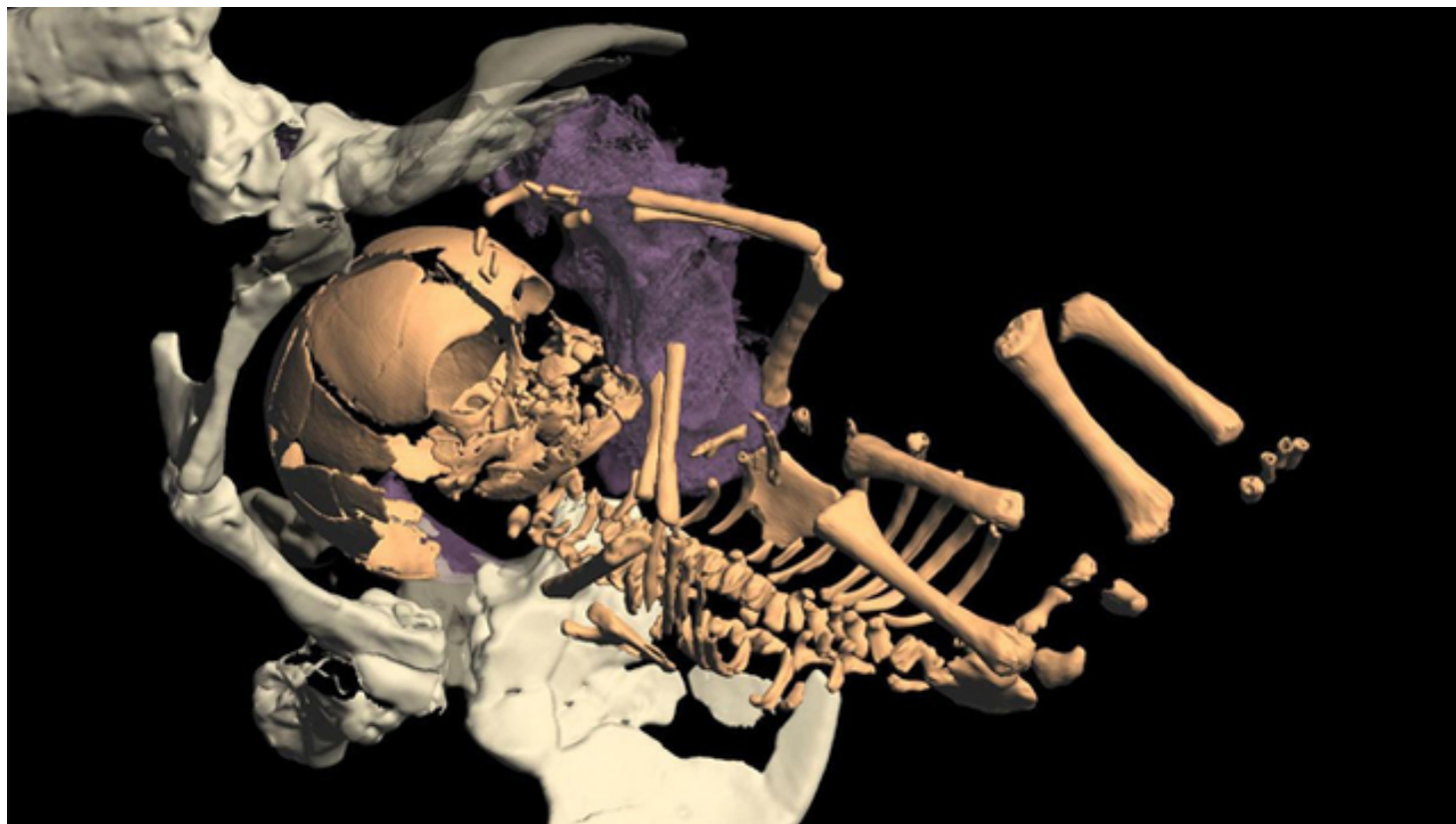


Syndicate



Are you an adventurous human woman? Adventurous enough to be a surrogate mother for the first Neanderthal baby to be born in 30,000 years?

Harvard geneticist George Church [recently told *Der Spiegel* he's close to developing the necessary technology to clone a Neanderthal](#), at which point all he'd need is an "adventurous human woman" — *einen abenteuerlustigen weiblichen Menschen* — to act as a surrogate mother.

It's not out of the question at all. As *MIT Technology Review's* Susan Young points out, scientists cloned an extinct subspecies of ibex in 2009. It died immediately, sure. But they still cloned it.

What would that entail? [According to a 2008 study of a Neanderthal infant skeleton](#) (from which the above image is taken), "the head of the Neanderthal newborn was somewhat longer than that of a human newborn because of its relatively robust face," and Neanderthal women generally had a wider birth canal than human women. Neanderthal birth [was simpler than human birth](#), because Neanderthal infants didn't have to rotate to get to the birth canal, but otherwise the processes were very similar. (Even so, I imagine all but the *most* adventurous of human women would opt for a C-section in this case.)

Once the baby's out, though, you're in good shape — Neanderthal babies are thought to have grown much more quickly than their human counterparts. And Church seems to think that there'll be a Neanderthal craze, [as he told Bloomberg Businessweek last year](#):

"We have lots of Neanderthal parts around the lab. We are creating Neanderthal cells. Let's say someone has a healthy, normal Neanderthal baby. Well, then, everyone will want to have a Neanderthal kid. Were they superstrong or supersmart? Who knows? But there's one way to find out."

[[Der Spiegel](#) via [MIT Technology Review](#)]