

1 **Title: Allelic bias when performing in-solution enrichment of ancient human DNA**

2 **Running title: Allelic bias in ancient DNA enrichment**

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23

24 **Abstract**

25 In-solution hybridisation enrichment of genetic variation is a valuable methodology in  
26 human paleogenomics. It allows enrichment of endogenous DNA by targeting genetic  
27 markers that are comparable between sequencing libraries. Many studies have used  
28 the 1240k reagent—which enriches 1,237,207 genome-wide SNPs—since 2015,  
29 though access was restricted. In 2021, Twist Biosciences and Daicel Arbor  
30 Biosciences independently released commercial kits that enabled all researchers to  
31 perform enrichments for the same 1240k SNPs. We used the Daicel Arbor  
32 Biosciences Prime Plus kit to enrich 132 ancient samples from three continents. We  
33 identified a systematic assay bias that increases genetic similarity between enriched  
34 samples and that cannot be explained by batch effects. We present the impact of the  
35 bias on population genetics inferences (e.g., Principal Components Analysis,  $f$ -  
36 statistics) and genetic relatedness (READ). We compare the Prime Plus bias to that  
37 previously reported of the legacy 1240k enrichment assay. In  $f$ -statistics, we find that  
38 all Prime-Plus-generated data exhibit artefactual excess shared drift, such that within-  
39 continent relationships cannot be correctly determined. The bias is more subtle in READ,  
40 though interpretation of the results can still be misleading in specific contexts. We expect  
41 the bias may affect analyses we have not yet tested. Our observations support previously  
42 reported concerns for the integration of different data types in paleogenomics. We also  
43 caution that technological solutions to generate 1240k data necessitate a thorough  
44 validation process before their adoption in the paleogenomic community.

45

46 **Keywords**

47 Bias, enrichment, 1240k, ancient DNA

48

49 **INTRODUCTION**

50 One of the major challenges faced when working with ancient DNA is the high  
51 proportion of exogenous DNA contamination present in the DNA extract. This  
52 contamination is mostly from microbes that invade the organism post-mortem or are  
53 present in the soil where the specimen was buried. It can also be introduced during  
54 laboratory experiments. To address this challenge, one method that has become popular in  
55 paleogenomic studies is the in-solution enrichment of target genomic regions using pre-  
56 designed oligonucleotides as molecular “probes” or “baits”. This technique increases the  
57 proportion of endogenous DNA of interest in a sequencing library, reducing sequencing  
58 cost and leading to larger quantities of comparable data across individual samples  
59 compared to using shotgun sequencing. Ultimately, the increase in analytical power  
60 resulting from target enrichment has enabled large-scale ancient human population  
61 genetic (i.e., paleogenomic) studies (Fumagalli, 2013).

62

63 In human paleogenomic studies, in-solution enrichment assays can be designed to target  
64 complete mitochondrial genomes (Briggs et al., 2009; Brotherton et al., 2013; Llamas et al.,  
65 2016; Maricic et al., 2010), the non-recombining portion of chromosome Y (Cruz-Dávalos

66 et al., 2018; Rohrlach et al., 2021), genome-wide SNPs (Fu et al., 2015; Haak et al., 2015;  
67 Mathieson et al., 2015), exomes (Castellano et al., 2014), autosomes (Fu et al., 2013), or  
68 complete genomes (Ávila-Arcos et al., 2015; Carpenter et al., 2013). In 2012, Patterson  
69 and colleagues proposed a molecular bait design that used a specific ascertainment strategy  
70 to enable unbiased population genetics studies of global human populations through time  
71 (Patterson et al., 2012). The first baits using this design were applied in a handful of  
72 landmark paleogenomic studies of European populations (Fu et al., 2015; Haak et al., 2015;  
73 Mathieson et al., 2015). These bait sets were subsequently restricted to 1240k genome-  
74 wide SNPs, which paved the way for the generation of thousands of individual datasets  
75 and launched the paleogenomic era (Marciniak & Perry, 2017; Olalde & Posth, 2020;  
76 Skoglund & Mathieson, 2018). Hereafter, we will refer to this set of baits as the ‘legacy  
77 1240k reagent’.

78  
79 Since the initial publication of the molecular baits sequences in 2015, the legacy 1240k  
80 reagent was only available to a handful of laboratories through a commercial agreement.  
81 Subsequently, in 2021 two biotechnology companies—Daicel Arbor Biosciences and Twist  
82 Bioscience—released commercial in-solution enrichment kits that target the same set of  
83 1240k SNPs (Rohland et al., 2022). In particular, the release of the suite of myBaits Expert  
84 Human Affinities kits by Daicel Arbor Biosciences aimed to make the 1240k enrichment  
85 assay accessible to all research groups worldwide, including those with limited human  
86 resources and funding. Importantly, the molecular design of both the new bait sets differs

87 from the legacy 1240k design, with the differences specific to the Twist reagents described  
88 in a recently published study (Rohland et al., 2022). While the bait design used in the  
89 myBaits Expert Human Affinities kits is also known to differ from both the legacy 1240k  
90 and Twist assays (Daicel Arbor Biosciences, personal communication), it is a proprietary  
91 product and the specific details are unknown to the present authors. The bait design and  
92 associated laboratory protocol steps of any enrichment reagent are key to its efficacy to  
93 enrich endogenous DNA and to achieve an unbiased enrichment that respects the true  
94 proportions of reference and alternate alleles at heterozygous sites.

95

96 Here, we report genomic data from 132 ancient human individuals from western Eurasia,  
97 South and Central America (from periods preceding the colonial contact period between  
98 these populations), which were generated using myBaits Expert Human Affinities Kit  
99 “Prime Plus” (Daicel Arbor Biosciences) for various independent studies. In addition to  
100 the standard set of 1240k SNPs, the Prime Plus (PP) probes target 46,218 Y Chromosome  
101 SNPs, as well as human, Neanderthal and Denisovan whole mitochondrial genomes.  
102 Notably, when performing routine population genetic analyses on the PP-generated  
103 dataset using *f*-statistics (Patterson et al., 2012), we observed a significant excess of  
104 shared genetic drift between any two populations enriched with the PP bait set, compared  
105 with published data generated with the legacy 1240k reagent or shotgun sequencing.  
106 These unexpected affinities could not be explained by batch effects or previously reported  
107 demographic events.

108

109 In the following sections, we outline our investigation and characterisation of the bias  
110 observed in PP-enriched ancient DNA data via principal components analyses,  
111 genetic relatedness analyses and *f*-statistics. In total, we attempted 20 strategies to  
112 reduce or negate the observed bias, which included two wet-lab protocol adjustments  
113 and 18 bioinformatic techniques, but we were unable to correct the *f*-statistics scores  
114 to a satisfactory standard. We conclude by recommending a series of principles for  
115 researchers to apply when co-analysing PP-enriched data with 1240k legacy and  
116 shotgun (SG) data, which mitigate the assay bias by adjusting the construction of *f*-  
117 statistics. These guidelines may also be useful for reviewers and general readers when  
118 assessing the robustness of studies that have used data generated with the myBaits Expert  
119 Human Affinities Kit “Prime Plus”.

120

## 121 MATERIALS AND METHODS

122 The data used in this study were initially generated for various studies intended by the  
123 authors. However, we collated all independent datasets into one overarching dataset after  
124 identifying some problems with Prime Plus data, resulting in the present study.

125

### 126 Samples

127 We generated PP-enriched data for a total of 132 ancient samples, sourced from Spain,  
128 Mesoamerica, Peru, Bolivia and Chile. All samples from the Americas pre-date 16th-  
129 century European contact (see Table S2 for sample metadata). In our analyses, we use a

130 comparative dataset of 115 shotgun data samples and 428 legacy 1240k samples  
131 (Bergström et al., 2020; Bongers et al., 2020; de la Fuente et al., 2018; González-Fortes et  
132 al., 2019; Günther et al., 2015; Lindo et al., 2018; Lipson et al., 2017; Mallick et al., 2016;  
133 Martiniano et al., 2017; Mathieson et al., 2015; Moreno-Mayar et al., 2018; Nakatsuka,  
134 Lazaridis, et al., 2020; Nakatsuka, Luisi, et al., 2020; Olalde et al., 2018, 2019; Popović et  
135 al., 2021; Posth et al., 2018; Prüfer et al., 2014; Raghavan et al., 2015; Salazar et al., 2023;  
136 Valdiosera et al., 2018; Villalba-Mouco et al., 2019). A complete list of the comparative  
137 samples used in this study and relevant citations are provided in Table S3.

138

### 139 **Data generation**

#### 140 *DNA extraction*

141 For the samples from Spain, DNA was extracted from tooth root powder using a method  
142 optimised to retrieve highly degraded ancient DNA fragments (Dabney et al., 2013) at the  
143 Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB). For some Mesoamerican samples, the same  
144 methods were undertaken at the Australian Centre for Ancient DNA (ACAD) at the  
145 University of Adelaide. For the rest of the samples from the Americas, DNA was extracted  
146 similarly, but with a modification to the protocol that includes a bleach pre-wash step  
147 (Boessenkool et al., 2017; Dabney et al., 2013), at the University of California, Santa Cruz  
148 (UCSC) Human Paleogenomics Lab. Table S2 provides a full summary of which lab  
149 processed which samples at each step.

150

151 *Library preparation*

152 For the Spanish and some Mesoamerican samples, partially UDG-treated double-stranded  
153 DNA libraries (Rohland et al., 2015) were generated at ACAD. For the Bolivian, Peruvian,  
154 Chilean and the rest of the Mesoamerican samples, partially UDG-treated single-stranded  
155 DNA libraries (Kapp et al., 2021) were prepared at UCSC. Note that the difference in  
156 library structures should not impact the enrichment bias as libraries are first denatured  
157 and then hybridised to the baits.

158

159 *Library enrichment*

160 Before enrichment, libraries were over-amplified in order to reach the minimum required  
161 DNA input of 500 ng per sample. Library enrichment was then performed according to  
162 the suggested myBaits protocol of two enrichment rounds with hybridisation temperature  
163 at 70°C and 20 amplification cycles in the first enrichment followed by 10 cycles in the  
164 second round. Samples were grouped in pools of 2–4 libraries according to the endogenous  
165 DNA proportions obtained from screening of the initial shotgun sequences. Samples were  
166 processed at UCSC or at ACAD (see Table S2 for a breakdown of which lab processed  
167 which samples at each step).

168

169 Additionally, two experiments that examined the utility of adjustments to standard  
170 enrichment protocols were performed on a subset of libraries at UCSC (Table 1). In  
171 experiment A, a single round of hybridisation at 70°C was performed with 12 cycles of

172 amplification. A single round of hybridisation was also used in Experiment B but at 62.5°C  
173 and with 13 cycles of amplification.

174

175 *Sequencing*

176 Libraries enriched at UCSC were paired-end sequenced on a HiSeq 4000 at Fulgent  
177 Genomics (Los Angeles, USA). Paired-end sequencing using an Illumina NovaSeq 6000  
178 (200 cycles) was performed by the Kinghorn Centre for Clinical Genomics (Sydney,  
179 Australia) for libraries enriched at ACAD (Table S2).

180

181 *Data processing and genotype calling*

182 Data were processed either using nf-core/eager (Fellows Yates et al., 2021), or UCSC's in-  
183 house processing pipeline, Batpipe (<https://github.com/mjobin/batpipe>). The terminal 2bp  
184 at either end of each read were trimmed to remove ancient DNA damage and then  
185 mapped to the GRCh37d5 reference genome using bwa-aln with parameters -l 1024 -n  
186 0.01 -o 2 (Oliva et al., 2021). Other mapping parameters vary slightly between different  
187 datasets used in this study, such as mapping quality threshold 20-30 and minimum read  
188 length 20-30 (see Table S2 for details of processing parameters for each population).

189 Pseudo-haploid genotypes were called at the enrichment target sites using the random  
190 haploid mode within pileupCaller (<https://github.com/stschiff/sequenceTools>).

191

192 **Population genomics assessment of capture bias**

193 *PCA*

194 We computed principal components analyses using both EMU (Meisner et al., 2021) and

195 smartPCA version 18140 in EIGENSOFT 8.0.0 (Patterson et al., 2006; Price et al., 2006)

196 with and without projection to test how the data bias affected each type of PCA.

197

198 *f*-statistics

199 *Outgroup-f*<sub>3</sub> and *f*<sub>4</sub> statistics were computed using the ADMIXTOOLS package

200 (Patterson et al., 2012).

201

202 *READ*

203 We tested the impact of the enrichment bias on genetic relatedness using READ, i.e.

204 Relatedness Estimation for Ancient DNA (Monroy Kuhn et al., 2018), which is a widely

205 used PMR-based estimator for genetic relatedness for ancient DNA data.

206

207 **Filters and strategies to resolve bias**

208 In order to estimate the effect of various bioinformatic approaches to mitigate the bias

209 observed in *f*<sub>4</sub> statistics, we calculated *f*-statistics in the following four forms:

210 1) *f*<sub>4</sub>(Mbuti, Spain.PP.2rnd; Target, Peru.Shotgun)

211 2) *f*<sub>4</sub>(Mbuti, Spain.PP.2rnd; Target, Peru.1240k)

212 3) *f*<sub>4</sub>(Mbuti, Spain.1240k; Target, Peru.Shotgun)

213 4) *f*<sub>4</sub>(Mbuti, Spain.1240k; Target, Peru.1240k)

214 In each, the target population was the Peru.PP population after application of one of the  
215 20 strategies to reduce bias detailed below. These strategies are also summarised in Table  
216 S5.

217

218 *SNP Missingness*

219 Amongst the set of 1240k SNPs assayed by the PP probes, each SNP was missing at least  
220 once in our dataset. Hence, we used the full data matrix with missing genotypes and  
221 reported the number of overlapping SNPs included in each *f*-statistic comparison where  
222 relevant.

223 To the target population (Peru.PP), we applied two data missingness filters using the --  
224 *geno* flag in PLINK 1.9 (Chang et al., 2015)—namely, 0.0 and 0.5, which correspond to  
225 removing SNPs with >0% or >50% missingness, respectively.

226

227 *Minor allele frequency*

228 We tested some simple filters for minor allele frequency (i.e., 0.3, 0.1 and 0.01) using the -  
229 *-maf* flag in PLINK 1.9 (Chang et al., 2015).

230

231 *Linkage disequilibrium*

232 We filtered for linkage disequilibrium (LD), with the intention to remove potential  
233 artefactual linkage introduced by one bait targeting multiple SNP sites. We used the  
234 PLINK 1.9 LD pruning parameter *--indep-pairwise* with a window size of 3 variants,

235 sliding in 1 variant steps and tested correlation threshold values of  $r^2 = 0.1, 0.3, 0.5, 0.7$   
236 and 0.9 (Chang et al., 2015). These filters resulted in datasets of 300,838, 346,428, 379,345,  
237 388,038, and 388,678 SNPs, respectively.

238

239 Given that each  $r^2$  threshold produced approximately 300,000 SNPs, to assess if the  
240 improvement in  $f_4$ -value was driven by the reduction in bias attributable to artefactual  
241 linkage, rather than changes to other statistical properties of the data (such as decreased  
242 power due to a reduced number of SNPs), we repeated our analyses with random sub-  
243 samples of 300,000 SNPs, replicated five times, using the PLINK 1.9 flag *--thin-count*  
244 (*Chang et al., 2015*).

245

246 *Transversions*

247 Sequencing libraries were partially treated with UDG (Kapp et al., 2021) and the terminal  
248 two nucleotides at either end of all mapped reads were trimmed when processing the data  
249 with nf-core/eager (Fellows Yates et al., 2021). Therefore, we did not expect to observe a  
250 strong impact of ancient DNA damage in the analyses. Nevertheless, we filtered out  
251 transitions to minimise the potential impact of ancient DNA damage, which is typically  
252 characterised by C-to-T substitutions at the 5' end of sequencing reads and C-to-T or G-  
253 to-A substitutions at the 3' end of sequencing reads when using single-stranded or double-  
254 stranded libraries, respectively (Krause et al., 2010; Meyer et al., 2012).

255

256 *Application of Rohland et al. 2022 filter*

257 We applied the filter suggested by Rohland and colleagues (Rohland et al., 2022) to extract  
258 SNPs that will allow co-analysis between 1240K data generated with shotgun sequencing,  
259 or the legacy 1240k, Prime Plus or Twist enrichments.

260

261 *Read length and mapping quality threshold*

262 We filtered out reads that were shorter than 50 bp and/or with mapping quality less than  
263 20, as suggested by Günther & Nettelblad to reduce reference bias when mapping  
264 paleogenomic data (Günther & Nettelblad, 2019).

265

266 *Off-target genotypes*

267 Given the hypothesis that the bias is caused by bait-target interactions and that the  
268 enriched library efficacy is not 100%, we called off-target (non-specific) genotypes on the  
269 assumption that they would not be impacted by any bait-mediated mechanism driving the  
270 bias. The genotyping of off-target sites was performed using a standard pseudo-haploid  
271 pileupCaller call with the dbSNP set 138 (Sherry et al., 2001) after filtering out all PP  
272 target sites. Additionally, we called genotypes that were at least 100 bp away from target  
273 sites to eliminate SNPs that may have been covered by a bait but were not the target  
274 locus.

275

276 *Majority call pseudo-haploid and random diploid genotypes*

277 In addition to standard pseudo-haploid calls based on the random selection of a single  
278 allele at prespecified SNPs, majority allele pseudo-haploid genotypes were also called at  
279 sites with greater than 5X depth-of-coverage using the majority call mode in pileupCaller.  
280 Finally, diploid genotypes were called using the random diploid call mode in pileupCaller,  
281 where one read is chosen at random, followed by a second chosen at random without  
282 replacement, and sites covered by only one read are considered missing.

283

#### 284 **Investigation of allele call bias**

285 We investigated the rate of each allele call at heterozygous SNP sites for the most  
286 common substitutions: (A/C, T/G, A/G, T/C), where the inverse substitution was also  
287 included such that i.e., A/C and C/A SNPs are collated together. The relative allele call  
288 frequencies were calculated per SNP (ignoring missing SNPs) in aggregate across all  
289 population datasets for shotgun-, legacy-1240k- and PP-enriched genotypes. SNP  
290 missingness was quantified across 100 bins with equal numbers of SNPs, and the mean  
291 allele frequency per bin was plotted against SNP missingness.

292

## 293 **RESULTS**

### 294 **Global bias assessment**

295 To quantify the extent of the PP-associated bias in outgroup- $f_3$  statistics, we  
296 calculated statistics of the form  $f_3(\text{Mbuti}; \text{Target}, \text{X})$ , where Target refers to samples that  
297 were enriched using PP and originate either from ancient Spain (Spain.PP.2rnd;

298 unpublished) or Peru (Peru.PP.2rnd; unpublished), and X denotes a set of South American  
299 and European ancient reference populations either generated from shotgun sequencing or  
300 enriched with the PP or legacy 1240k kits.

301

302 For  $f_3$  statistics that use Spain.PP.2rnd as the Target population (Fig 1A), all non-PP  
303 European populations (shotgun or legacy 1240k data) exhibit more shared drift with the  
304 Spain.PP.2rnd population than do the South American populations of either enrichment  
305 type (Fig 1A). However, the three South American PP populations share more genetic  
306 drift with the Spain.PP.2rnd target population relative to other non-PP South American  
307 populations. Similarly, the inter-continental relationship is preserved when Peru.PP.2rnd  
308 is used as the target population, as all South American populations have substantially more  
309 shared drift with the Peru.PP.2rnd target population than with European populations, yet  
310 the intra-continental relationships appear to be violated by the biased shared drift  
311 between PP populations (Fig 1B). Further, Spain.PP.2rnd exhibits a strong attraction  
312 toward Peru.PP.2rnd samples relative to the other Spanish non-PP populations.

313

314 We also observe variance between 1240k and shotgun datasets, which is likely due to a  
315 combination of different ancestries and 1240k bias (Rohland et al., 2022), however in most  
316 cases the shotgun and 1240k error bars overlap, whereas the Prime Plus bias is more  
317 pronounced. Clearly, the bias observed in PP-generated data is not unique to South

318 American populations but is ubiquitous across the highly diverged populations of Europe  
319 and South America, strongly suggesting that the bias affects all global populations.

320

321 **Principal Components Analysis**

322 We tested the impact of PP bias on multiple PCA approaches, including the widely used  
323 smartPCA (Patterson et al., 2006; Price et al., 2006) and EMU, which is reported to handle  
324 data missingness well (Meisner et al., 2021). For each approach, we computed PCAs at  
325 continental and global scales to investigate how missingness and the PP bias manifested at  
326 different geographical scales.

327

328 *Continental PCA*

329 Initially, we performed a PCA using EMU on 362 ancient genome-wide datasets from  
330 South America including shotgun (n = 38), legacy 1240k (n = 223) and PP-enriched  
331 (n = 101) data (see Table S1 for a detailed list of samples). Sample clustering in the first  
332 three principal components of the PCA is driven by population structure (Fig 2A and  
333 there is no apparent bias exhibited by the data source type (Fig 2A). When we used  
334 smartPCA on the same 362 ancient genome-wide datasets (without projection onto  
335 modern diversity, due to lack of sufficient modern data), the resulting PCA produced  
336 sample clustering along PC2 that was mildly separated by the assay type for Chilean  
337 samples, though this may be driven by local ancestries (Fig 2B). Note that no individual  
338 samples were assayed with all three methods investigated, but many samples of different

339 data types derive from the same localised ancestry groups. This result concurs with a  
340 recent study (Rohland et al., 2022), which also reported that PCA is robust to  
341 combinations of these three data types.

342

343 *Global PCA*

344 Subsequently, we performed another PCA testing both EMU and smartPCA without  
345 projection on a merged dataset of 399 ancient South American and European genome-  
346 wide datasets including shotgun (n = 38), legacy 1240k (n = 282) and PP-enriched (n = 79)  
347 data. In both the EMU and smartPCA outputs, PC1 is driven by the ancestral difference  
348 between South American and European populations, PC2 is driven by the diversity within  
349 South America and PC3 by the diversity represented in Iberia (Fig 2C and 2D).

350

351 *Global PCA with smartPCA projection*

352 To assess the effect of the enrichment bias on a global scale, we applied both EMU and  
353 smartPCA with projection methods to 436 ancient genome-wide datasets from South  
354 America, Mesoamerica and Europe, either generated by shotgun sequencing or enriched  
355 using the PP or legacy 1240k kits, onto a PCA of modern diversity that used 1,071  
356 individuals from the HGDP dataset (Bergström et al., 2020) (Fig 3). Both PCAs look very  
357 similar, the ancient individuals are clustering with similar modern ancestries.

358

359 **Genetic relatedness**

360 We ran READ for pairwise combinations of four individuals from Peru for which we had  
361 generated shotgun data and single round PP-enriched data as a part of Experiment B (see  
362 Methods). These individuals represent the only samples for which both shotgun data and  
363 PP-enriched data were available. Given that only a single round of enrichment was used  
364 in these PP assays, technical bias is expected to be reduced relative to double-round  
365 enrichments.

366 The four artefactual “true twins” pairs (i.e., the same individual assayed with different  
367 methods; e.g., IndA.PP.1rnd.B and IndA.Shotgun) were the most related of all  
368 combinations with all average P0 values  $<0.4$  (Fig S1). The remaining “non-twin” pairs all  
369 had a P0 value of close to 0.5, with small increments between them. Notably, PP-enriched  
370 pairs (e.g., Ind1.PP.1rnd.B and Ind2.PP.1rnd.B) were always more closely related (lower  
371 P0) than the respective shotgun pairing (e.g., Ind1.Shotgun and Ind2.Shotgun) (Fig S1).  
372 This suggests that the PP bias effects READ inferences, although it is subtle in this  
373 instance.

374

### 375 **Comparison of strategies to reduce bias**

376 We conducted two wet-lab experiments with altered enrichment protocols and applied a  
377 total of 18 bioinformatic strategies, aiming to find a strategy that best reduced the Prime  
378 Plus bias. All strategies are detailed in Table S5. Bioinformatic strategies are categorised  
379 according to whether they 1) reduce mapping reference bias, 2) reduce the impact of  
380 ancient DNA damage, 3) remove specific “biased” SNPs, 4) employ statistical filters based

381 on allele frequencies or 5) call genotypes with alternate methods. Our test population  
382 comprised the ancient Peruvian samples, the only population for which we generated  
383 both Prime Plus and shotgun data (Bongers et al., 2020). This allowed us to compare the  
384 effect of bias-reduction strategies in an  $f_4$  test using statistics of the form  $f_4(\text{Mbuti},$   
385 Spain.PP.2rnd; Target, Peru.Shotgun), where the target rotates between each of the  
386 different bias reduction strategies applied to the Peruvian population. We chose  
387 Spain.PP.2rnd for this assessment for the following reasons: i) the Spanish dataset was  
388 generated in a different lab, by different individuals, and was sequenced on a different  
389 sequencing machine, than the Peruvian dataset (Table S2), thereby ruling out batch  
390 effects and isolating the Prime Plus enrichment kit as the underlying cause of any bias;  
391 and ii) the Spanish and Peruvian populations are sufficiently divergent and lack evidence  
392 of recent admixture (the Peruvian data date to pre-colonial times) such that the impact of  
393 Prime Plus bias is readily observable, but is not stronger than the population affinities, as  
394 would be the case if we were comparing two more closely related groups (such as  
395 populations from the same continent). To quantify the impact of Prime Plus bias relative  
396 to population affinity between the Spanish and Peruvian samples, we included  
397 Spain.1240k and Spain.Shotgun from publicly available data as target populations.  
398  
399 In total, we calculated  $f_4$  statistics in the following four configurations to robustly  
400 estimate the Prime Plus bias and determine the best strategies to reduce it (Fig 4):  
401 1)  $f_4(\text{Mbuti}, \text{Spain.PP.2rnd}; \text{Target}, \text{Peru.Shotgun})$

402 2)  $f_4$ (Mbuti, Spain.PP.2rnd; Target, Peru.1240k)

403 3)  $f_4$ (Mbuti, Spain.1240k; Target, Peru.Shotgun)

404 4)  $f_4$ (Mbuti, Spain.1240k; Target, Peru.1240k)

405 The reason for using the first two configurations is that by comparing the target  
406 populations with Peruvian shotgun data, we are measuring our attempts to resolve the  
407 Prime Plus bias against the least biased data currently available. However, this may be an  
408 unreasonable standard to meet, given that it is known that legacy 1240k data also has  
409 some biases (Rohland et al., 2022), and the bulk of published ancient DNA data is  
410 legacy 1240k data. Therefore, while this comparison may not be a perfect estimation  
411 of total bias reduction, it will provide more useful insights for researchers given that  
412 most projects will leverage large proportions of 1240k reference data. Following the  
413 same logic, in the third and fourth configurations, we also computed  $f_4$  statistics with  
414 Spanish legacy 1240k data (Fig 4), to gain a deeper understanding of the merits of  
415 alternate strategies for reducing bias in different combinations of PP, legacy 1240k and  
416 shotgun data. The full list of  $f_4$  statistics computed in this study are detailed in Table S6.

417

418 As a positive control, we included a different set of ancient shotgun genomes from  
419 Peru (Peru.other.Shotgun) as a Target population, which resulted in  $f_4$  results that  
420 were not significantly different from zero ( $Z < 3$ ), as expected. The main aim of this  
421 process was to identify a strategy that would behave like the positive control, i.e., that  
422 would reduce the enrichment bias (Peru.PP.2rnd; dashed vertical line, Fig 4) so the  $f_4$   
423 values are not significantly different from 0. In the first configuration  $f_4$ (Mbuti,

424 Spain.PP.2rnd; Target, Peru.Shotgun), a result not statistically different from 0 would  
425 indicate the bias was alleviated, and in the second configuration  $f_4$ (Mbuti,  
426 Spain.PP.2rnd; Target, Peru.1240k), the same result would suggest that the PP data is at  
427 least co-analysable with 1240k data under specific configurations. Importantly, the third  
428 configuration  $f_4$ (Mbuti, Spain.1240k; Peru.PP.2rnd, Peru.Shotgun) (Fig 4) resulted in an  
429  $f_4$  result that was not significantly different from zero, indicating that there was no  
430 significant bias between these PP and legacy 1240k datasets. Finally, for the fourth  
431 configuration  $f_4$ (Mbuti, Spain.1240k; Peru.PP.2rnd, Peru.1240k) (Fig 4) the  $f_4$  result is  
432 significantly positive, providing further evidence for the previously reported bias in the  
433 legacy 1240k enrichment (Rohland et al., 2022). Therefore, the purpose of including  
434 Spain.1240k among our tested configurations is to find a bias-reduction strategy that  
435 does not significantly impact these  $f_4$  statistics, and that allows the confident  
436 application of bias reduction strategies to different combinations of the Prime Plus  
437 and other data types and under alternate  $f_4$  statistic configurations.

438

439 *Ancient DNA damage or reference bias*

440 The filter for minimum read length (Peru.PP.2rnd.>50bp) suggested by (Günther &  
441 Nettelblad, 2019) to reduce mapping reference bias had minimal effect on the  $f_4$   
442 statistics, suggesting that the observed assay bias is not strongly impacted by very short  
443 reads.

444

445 Filtering out transition SNPs (A/G and C/T), thus removing any possible ancient DNA  
446 damage (Peru.PP.2rnd.transversion) had a negligible effect on the  $f_4$  statistics scores.  
447 Indeed, because all libraries were half-UDG treated and the ends of sequencing reads  
448 trimmed, we did not anticipate that ancient DNA damage would have a large impact.

449

450 *SNP-set based filters*

451 Strategies to reduce bias by removing certain SNPs included filtering to include only the  
452 Human Origins SNP set (Peru.PP.2rnd.HO; 593,120 SNPs retained) and a filter previously  
453 reported (Rohland et al., 2022) to enable the co-analysis of legacy 1240k and Prime Plus  
454 data (Peru.PP.2rnd.Rohland; 803,662 SNPs retained). Retaining only the Human Origins  
455 SNPs had minimal effect on the  $f_4$  results. Notably, the application of the Rohland filter  
456 did not alleviate bias in any of the configurations of the  $f_4$  statistics that we tested. In  
457 some cases application of the Rohland filter resulted in the  $f_4$  values shifting slightly  
458 toward zero, but in other cases slightly away, which is likely due to an increase in  
459 uncertainty from the approximately 2-fold reduction in the number of SNPs. Overall, this  
460 indicates the Rohland filter does not work as reported on the present dataset, suggesting  
461 that it is not a universally applicable solution for capture bias.

462

463 *Allele frequency-based filters.*

464 We further examined the bias reduction efficacy of a series of filters based on allele  
465 frequencies, including filters for SNP missingness, minor allele frequency and linkage  
466 disequilibrium. Of the SNP missingness filters, a strategy that excluded sites missing

467 in >50% of individuals (Peru.PP.2rnd.miss0.5) did not notably shift the  $f_4$  value  
468 towards zero. However, excluding all SNPs exhibiting any missingness  
469 (Peru.PP.2rnd.miss0) did move the value toward zero, but it also reduced the number of  
470 SNPs so drastically that this strategy would probably not be suitable for most  
471 paleogenomic studies. For SNP filters based on minor allele frequency  
472 (Peru.PP.2rnd.MAF0.3, Peru.PP.2rnd.MAF0.1 and Peru.PP.2rnd.MAF0.01),  $f_4$  results  
473 were shifted toward zero as the stringency of the filter increased, but this also led to  
474 increasingly large reductions in the number of analysable SNPs. Interestingly, in the  
475  $f_4$  configurations with Spain.1240k, the minor allele frequency filters produced  
476 positive  $f_4$  values indicating a bias towards the Peruvian data regardless of whether  
477 shotgun or legacy 1240k are used.

478  
479 When applying LD-based filters, we identified that the shared drift with Spain.PP.2rnd  
480 reduces as the stringency of the filter increases, though this once again came at the cost  
481 of increasingly fewer retained SNPs. In the configuration  $f_4$ (Mbuti, Spain.PP.2rnd;  
482 Target, Peru.Shotgun), the  $f_4$  result for  $r^2 = 0.1$  was very close to 0 (Peru.PP.2rnd.LDr0.1).  
483 Filters for less stringent  $r^2$  values filtered out fewer SNPs but did not improve  $f_4$  results to  
484 the same degree (Fig 4). In the configuration  $f_4$ (Mbuti, Spain.PP; Target, Peru.1240k), the  
485 less stringent  $r^2 = 0.3$  produces an  $f_4$  value not significantly different from 0, with the  
486 retention of more SNPs than the  $r^2 = 0.1$  filter. The use of this filter to alleviate PP bias  
487 could be considered by users in specific cases with high sequencing depth to accommodate  
488 the expected SNP loss. Randomly downsampling the Peru.PP data to an equivalent

489 number of SNPs (300,000) yielded  $f_4$  values with additional variance around the value of  
490 the unfiltered Peru.PP data (dashed lines, Fig 4) and higher absolute  $Z$ -scores (Fig 4). This  
491 suggests that the bias may in fact be creating artificial “linkage” among neighbouring  
492 SNPs, but that sufficiently stringent LD pruning to “correct” the value to zero requires  
493 discarding the majority of targeted SNPs. Accordingly, the value of linkage disequilibrium  
494 pruning may be considered as a potential solution to the PP bias on a case-by-case basis,  
495 with the caveat that improved bias correction will be offset to some degree by the loss of  
496 precision from reduced statistical power, and consideration will need to be given to the  
497 effect of LD pruning on the results of various analyses.

498

#### 499 *Alternative genotyping*

500 We considered several genotyping approaches alternative to the standard random pseudo-  
501 haploidisation, including calling random diploid genotypes, using majority call pseudo-  
502 haploid genotypes at sites with  $> 5X$  coverage, genotyping off-target SNPs, and genotyping  
503 ‘out-of-range’ SNPs that were  $> 100$  bp from the target sites. Calling off-target genotypes  
504 (Peru.PP.2rnd.OffTarget) and out-of-range genotypes  
505 (Peru.PP.2rnd.>100bpOffTarget) both resulted in a small shift of the  $f_4$  values toward  
506 zero. Majority call genotypes (Peru.PP.2rnd.>5X.maj) behaved very differently between  
507 configurations. In configurations with Spain.1240k, the filter had a minimal effect, but  
508 with Spain.PP.2rnd, the majority call genotyping drastically shifted the  $f_4$  results  
509 towards negative values, indicating that this approach increases the artefactual  
510 “shared drift” between PP data from Spain and Peru. Random diploid genotyping

511 produced an  $f_4$  value that was even more biased (Peru.PP.2rnd.diploid), mildly so when  
512 compared with Spain.1240k, but much more strongly for Spain.PP.2rnd. In fact, the  
513 latter value is close to the  $f_4$  result where the target dataset is Spain.Shotgun. This  
514 means that using random diploid genotype calls exacerbates the artefactual shared  
515 drift driven by the PP enrichment bias to approximately the same magnitude as true  
516 shared drift between Spanish populations (Fig 4).

517

518 *Laboratory experiments*

519 In our final set of bias reduction strategies, two non-standard lab experiment protocols  
520 that used a single round of enrichment (Peru.PP.1rnd.A and Peru.PP.1rnd.B) both led to  
521 minor bias reductions. Protocol B, which lowered the hybridisation temperature  
522 performed slightly better than Protocol A. While the overall improvement exhibited by  
523 both methods was minor, the bias remained considerably greater than the bias observed in  
524 the legacy 1240k data (Peru.1240k).

525

526 **Allele calls**

527 We observe strong GC bias amongst the data generated with the legacy 1240k baits,  
528 whereas the PP data display comparatively lower levels of bias that are broadly  
529 comparable with shotgun datasets (Fig 5). It is important to note that the bias apparent in  
530 the legacy 1240k data was not a concern prior to the release of alternate enrichment kits,  
531 simply because all the data generated using the legacy 1240k baits are comparable. We  
532 observe that across all three methods, the GC bias is stronger for transitions—i.e., allele

533 pairs A/G and C/T where both alleles are either purines or pyrimidines, respectively—  
534 which represent the majority of target sites (80%). Though our understanding of the  
535 biochemical mechanisms underlying the PP bias is limited by a lack of knowledge of the  
536 bait design, our data clearly demonstrate a systematic difference in the pattern of allelic  
537 biases between the legacy 1240k and PP assays.

538

## 539 DISCUSSION

540 Results presented in this study support the previous report of a bias when enriching SNPs  
541 at  $\sim$ 1240k sites using the Daicel Arbor Biosciences Expert Human Affinities Prime Plus  
542 enrichment kit, and extend the previous findings to ancient Indigenous American (i.e.,  
543 non-Eurasian) populations. In accordance with (Rohland et al., 2022) we find that the  
544 biased data strongly affect *f*-statistic calculations, where the shared genetic drift (i.e.,  
545 the evolutionary history) between groups is explicitly estimated. Note that we  
546 consider the effect strong, not because of the magnitude of any quantitative  
547 measurements, but due to the corruption of expected demographic relationships  
548 between populations that is driven by this bias. In accordance with results reported by  
549 (Rohland et al., 2022), we find that the assay bias does not strongly affect PCA at least in  
550 the first three principal components. Additionally, for the first time, we observe a (in this  
551 case mild) bias effect on the predicted relatedness between individuals using the ancient  
552 DNA relatedness test READ.

553

## 554 Batch effects

555 The initial observation that PP data had an unexpected excess of shared drift with other  
556 PP-generated data in *f*-statistics prompted us to investigate if this artefact was due to a  
557 batch effect arising from certain samples, specific labs having done the work, DNA  
558 sequencing machines, or resulted from the distinct demographic history of populations in  
559 question. We can confidently rule out each of these hypotheses, as the lab work was  
560 performed on numerous sample sets, in different labs, by multiple individuals, sequenced  
561 in different facilities using different sequencers (Table S2), with the only common factor  
562 to all biased samples being the PP enrichment. Our outgroup-*f*<sub>3</sub> statistics calculated  
563 between European and South American populations (Fig 1) confirmed that the bias  
564 affected these two highly diverged populations suggesting that it is most likely a  
565 systematic bias that affects all human ancestries. However, we did not have access to the  
566 appropriate shotgun data to determine if the enrichment bias has differential effects by  
567 ancestry source, and this hypothesis requires additional testing.

568

569 ***Describing the Prime Plus bias***

570 *PCA*

571 We performed principal components analysis in several ways with the aim of addressing  
572 multiple analytical approaches that researchers might take. To accommodate differing  
573 geographical scales, we computed separate PCAs at continental and global scales. While  
574 the approach of using smartPCA with projection has long been considered the gold  
575 standard, it should be noted that this method works best with high-quality ancient

576 samples that have low missingness and a well-developed reference database of modern  
577 diversity that captures the genetic variation present in the ancient populations, therefore  
578 enabling the most accurate projection. Hence, the PCA published by Rohland et al. 2022  
579 could be expected to show good results as they projected 15 high-quality ancient genomes  
580 onto the modern diversity of western Eurasia, the most studied region of the world.  
581 However, this is generally less achievable in understudied regions where modern  
582 reference data is lacking and/or when working with low-quality samples. This is what  
583 motivated the simultaneous use of EMU (designed to handle data missingness and does  
584 not use projection) (Meisner et al., 2021) and smartPCA both with and without projection  
585 onto modern diversity.

586  
587 At both the continental and global scale, both EMU and smartPCA without projection  
588 produced PCAs that reflects South American population structure in accordance with  
589 previous results ([Posth et al. 2018](#); [Nakatsuka et al. 2020](#); [Nakatsuka et al. 2020](#);  
590 [Martiniano et al. 2017](#); [Olalde et al. 2019](#); [Valdiosera et al. 2018](#)) and patterns  
591 suggesting assay bias are not evident within the first three principal components (Fig  
592 2). However, we caution that the results of smartPCA are variable by the version used and  
593 the data inputted, therefore these results do not preclude the emergence of assay bias in a  
594 lower principal component or within a different dataset.

595  
596 At a global scale, both smartPCA with projection onto the modern diversity of the HGDP  
597 data (Bergström et al., 2020) and EMU performed similarly. Note that EMU does not have

598 projection functionality and instead includes all individuals in the calculation of  
599 eigenvectors while imputing sites with missing data (Meisner et al., 2021). There does not  
600 seem to be any obvious assay bias in either PCA output, although this might still be  
601 present in a lower-level PC. Furthermore, discrepancies between the PCA methods, and  
602 the effect of assay bias may become more impactful on results and interpretations at finer-  
603 scales.

604

605 Overall, we suggest constructing PCAs using smartPCA, projecting ancient genomes onto  
606 modern diversity where possible. However, in the case that modern reference data is  
607 lacking, PCA plots from smartPCA and EMU should be produced and compared,  
608 especially in cases where PP data, or data with high rates of missingness are included.

609

#### 610 *Genetic relatedness*

611 We assessed the effect of PP bias on results from the genetic relatedness estimation  
612 software READ (Monroy Kuhn et al., 2018). We found that pairwise estimations between  
613 PP libraries were always more closely related than shotgun library pairs of the same four  
614 samples (Fig S1). Given that these PP libraries were only enriched for a single round, we  
615 would expect this bias to be even stronger in PP libraries that follow the standard two-  
616 round enrichment protocol (reflecting patterns observed in the  $f_4$  statistics; Fig 4). In  
617 the present case, the bias is subtle and unlikely to lead to, for example, a false-positive  
618 first-degree relationship from an unrelated pair. While our ability to make more general

619 conclusions is clearly limited by the sample set, our results tentatively suggest that READ  
620 inferences should be reasonably robust if run on a dataset of only PP data, but users  
621 should exhibit caution when combining different data types.

622

623  $f$ -statistics

624 Our analyses of the PP bias in both outgroup- $f_3$  and  $f_4$  statistics showed that the bias is  
625 strong enough to corrupt expected relationships between populations from the same  
626 continent (Fig 1). We reproduced the legacy 1240k bias that has been previously reported  
627 (Rohland et al., 2022) and showed that it is relatively subtle compared to the PP bias,  
628 indicating that it is less impactful on population genetic inferences.

629

630 Importantly, our analyses suggest that it should be possible to use Prime Plus data in  
631 a comparative outgroup- $f_3$  if the target population is the only one enriched with Prime  
632 Plus, that is statistics of the form  $f_3(\text{Outgroup.notPP}; \text{target.PP}, \text{X.notPP})$  where both  
633 the outgroup and population X are not enriched with Prime Plus. This is suggested by  
634 our  $f_3$  statistics (Fig 1A) where Peru.PP.2rnd is the Target population, as the other non.PP  
635 South American populations reproduce the expected relative relationships previously  
636 reported (Nakatsuka, Lazaridis, et al., 2020; Nakatsuka, Luisi, et al., 2020; Posth et al.,  
637 2018) despite none having been enriched with the Prime Plus baits. However, the  
638 limitation is that a population enriched with Prime Plus could not be split into  
639 subpopulations, such as Peru\_A.PP.2rnd and Peru\_B.PP.2rnd, and rotated in the X

640 population position, or in scenarios where one is X and the other Test, but then  
641 compared to  $f_3$  statistics of a different form. Presumably, an  $f$ -statistic would also be  
642 viable if all X groups were PP-enriched because the enrichment bias would be shared by  
643 all data and should not corrupt demographic interpretations of the results. See Table S4  
644 for a comprehensive list of acceptable outgroup- $f_3$  and  $f_4$  statistic forms and, though not  
645 directly investigated here, using the same logic we also list qpWave and qpAdm  
646 configurations and their relative reliability under PP bias.

647

648 ***Strategies to reduce bias***

649 The bias observed in  $f$ -statistics is both persistent and systematic, which allowed us to  
650 test a total of 20 experimental and analytical protocols to characterise the bias and  
651 alleviate its disruptive impact on inferences from common population genetic analyses.  
652 Many of these analytical protocols produced marginal improvements, but no protocol was  
653 sufficient to remove all biases ( $Z$ -score remained such that  $|Z| > 3$ , and/or resulted in low  
654 SNP retention).

655

656 ***Ancient DNA damage or reference bias***

657 Neither ancient DNA damage nor reference bias appeared to contribute to the bias, as  
658 removing transition sites (all SNPs that could potentially be ancient DNA damage)  
659 and removing reads shorter than 50 bp had little impact on bias in the  $f_4$  statistics (Fig  
660 4).

661

662 *SNP-set based filters*

663 Next, we investigated if a subset of the 1240k SNPs was driving the bias and could  
664 therefore be removed to allow safe co-analysis of PP enriched samples with other data  
665 types. This idea was initially suggested by Rohland and colleagues (Rohland et al., 2022),  
666 who published a list of SNPs that they suggested should be suitable for co-analyses of  
667 shotgun, legacy 1240k, Twist, and PP data. However, our tests of the Rohland et al. filter  
668 produced no notable improvement on the  $f_4$  statistics when co-analysed with 1240k or PP  
669 data (Peru.PP.2rnd.Rohland, Fig 4). Note that to build this filter Rohland and colleagues  
670 looked for improved  $Z$ -scores, i.e., closer to zero, but did not report the  $f_4$  statistics that  
671 are informative to estimate the effect on population relatedness. When using any SNP  
672 filter, the removal of SNPs will likely increase the standard error of the  $f_4$  statistic,  
673 leading to decreased statistical power and precision. However, it is not possible to  
674 predict the deviation from the true  $f_4$  statistic. Therefore  $Z$ -scores alone do not serve as a  
675 measure of the bias-reduction of a filtering strategy. This emphasises the importance of  
676 testing hypotheses in the context of the study and understanding the expected  
677 relationships of the populations in question.

678

679 Subsetting our data to include only the ~600k SNPs in the Human Origins set had a  
680 similar effect to the Rohland filter. This may be related to the overlap between the two  
681 sets, 61% of the Human Origins SNPs are also present in the Rohland filter set. (367,332  
682 intersecting SNPs).

683

684 In summary, none of these filtering strategies corrected the PP bias satisfactorily.  
685 Furthermore, while Rohland et al. acknowledge there is room for improvement in their  
686 filtering approach, it is possible that their filter is well-calibrated for the Eurasian  
687 ancestries present in their dataset but does not represent a universal filter to mitigate  
688 Prime Plus capture bias in all ancestries. In any case, it is less than ideal to have  
689 enrichment kits on the market that would require discarding a subset of target SNPs when  
690 combining multiple data types. This will negatively affect not only users of the Daicel  
691 Arbor Biosciences Human Affinities kits — and potentially other commercial kits — but  
692 also impact subsequent analyses by other researchers that incorporate published PP  
693 datasets.

694

695 *Alternative genotyping*

696 Genotype calling in paleogenomic studies typically involves randomly sampling one read  
697 covering a targeted SNP site, known as ‘pseudo-haploidisation’, making it possible to  
698 generate allele calls at sites with low coverage (Morris et al., 2011). Given that our  
699 experiments with SNP filtering did not produce a universal solution and following the  
700 assumption that every targeted SNP site may be affected by the bias, we investigated the  
701 efficacy of alternate genotype calling for bias reduction. In our first assessment, we called  
702 pseudo-haploid genotypes at off-target SNPs, which we hypothesised would be equivalent  
703 to shotgun data and therefore unbiased if the bias was driven by the bait design. Similarly,

704 we also called random pseudo-haploid genotypes at sites more than 100 bp away from a  
705 target locus to mitigate the possibility of an “off-target” site being covered by a probe that  
706 had correctly hybridised to a nearby target locus. The  $f_4$  statistic for both off-target and  
707 out-of-range genotypes did improve compared to the on-target results, producing  
708 values that were not significantly different from zero (Fig 4). Interestingly, the  $f_4$   
709 statistic for the out-of-range genotypes was not notably different from the off-target  
710 estimation. Given that all non-bound DNA fragments are theoretically washed away  
711 during the enrichment protocol, the off-target bait bias is likely due to an as-yet-  
712 unknown biochemical bias that systematically affects bait binding to DNA at non-target  
713 locations, but it is unlikely this is caused by on-target hybridised baits covering nearby  
714 SNPs within a 100 bp range.

715  
716 Additionally, we used an alternate pseudo-haploid calling approach which requires  
717 target SNPs to have a higher minimum coverage (5X) and takes the allele  
718 represented by the majority of reads as the final call. This experiment  
719 (Peru.PP.2rnd.>5X.maj, Fig 4) yielded a dramatic shift of the  $f_4$  results towards large  
720 negative values, further exacerbating the artefactual shared drift and bias. This is strong  
721 evidence that the bias is conferred by the bait design, and results in the persistent  
722 overrepresentation of one allele over the other at heterozygous sites. Concordantly, our  
723 random diploid genotype test produced even more biased  $f_4$  statistics, such that the  
724 estimated levels of shared drift observed between the Spanish PP data and Peruvian PP  
725 data that used random diploid genotype calls is of a similar magnitude to the true shared

726 drift between Spanish PP generated and Spanish shotgun data. This is evidence of a  
727 remarkably strong systematic bias that has the potential to corrupt all paleogenomic  
728 studies combining PP with other data types if not handled carefully. These two results are  
729 strongly suggestive of a systematic allelic bias that impacts all heterozygous SNPs and is  
730 potentially caused by the molecular design of the PP baits.

731

732 *Laboratory protocol experiments*

733 Our two experiments with single-round PP enrichment yielded  $f_4$  values closer to zero  
734 than those produced by the standard two-round enrichment. This improvement is likely  
735 because whatever bias occurs during the first round of bait–DNA binding becomes  
736 amplified during the second hybridisation step because it is acting on an already biased set  
737 of DNA fragments. This interpretation is supported by the sequencing statistics (Fig S3)  
738 showing that repeated capture rounds result in an increased endogenous DNA percentage  
739 but decreased library complexity (observed as fewer unique reads when sequenced).  
740 Additionally, any biased sampling that has occurred during the initial binding will be  
741 exponentially amplified during the PCR step, so we would expect a reduction in PCR  
742 cycles to improve this. The reduced hybridisation temperature should also decrease the  
743 specificity of hybridisation and thus reduce allelic bias, but simultaneously increase off-  
744 target binding, thus reducing the percentage of endogenous DNA enriched.

745

746 *Characterising the bias*

747 Given the evidence that the bias affects all targeted SNPs, we investigated whether this  
748 effect was independent from the SNP transition, hoping that we might be able to apply  
749 some relatively simple statistical scaling of the genotype calls that would provide co-  
750 analysable genotypes. However, our investigations of allelic bias (Fig 5) clearly show that  
751 the capture bias produces complex effects on allele calls. We can only confidently observe  
752 that the pattern of GC bias in PP data is different to the 1240k and shotgun data. Further,  
753 the patterns of missingness evident in the PCA analyses consistently differ between data  
754 types (Fig S2), indicating that there may be several layers of biochemical bias at play  
755 including that each assay preferentially captures certain SNPs, and/or favours the capture  
756 of different alleles at heterozygous sites, with allelic preference being more exacerbated in  
757 PP data.

758

### 759 ***Study limitations***

760 The main limitation of this study is that we did not have samples for which data was  
761 generated in all of the three methods addressed. This is due to the opportunistic nature of  
762 the study in that we collated this dataset when the PP bias was initially observed, after the  
763 data generation process. However, we have made every effort to combat this limitation by  
764 maximising the size of the dataset and explicitly stating assumptions where we've made  
765 them.

766

767 In our READ analyses we were limited to a dataset of only four individuals for which we  
768 had shotgun and PP data, and a further limitation is that this PP data was from one of our  
769 single-round enrichment experiments and thus does not fully represent the PP bias under  
770 investigation. To further understand the impact on READ, both shotgun and two-round  
771 PP enriched data would need to be generated for a larger number of samples, from a more  
772 diverse set of relationships to test the impact of bias on truly related individuals.

773

774 The main outstanding hypothesis to investigate is whether this bias has differential effects  
775 on different ancestries. This would require a large dataset of PP and shotgun data from the  
776 same individuals across more ancestries than in the present study. While an interesting  
777 question, we believe this study presents sufficient evidence that the PP assay is biased.

778

### 779 *Implications*

780 For the past decade in-solution hybridisation enrichment has been a go-to method for  
781 obtaining affordable, high-quality, and informative data for paleogenomic studies.  
782 However, irrespective of the bait design, the biochemistry of DNA hybridisation means  
783 that one bait will always have a higher binding affinity with its targeted allele than any  
784 other. Greater differences in these affinities result in increased allelic biases in the  
785 generated datasets. This is evidenced by our assessment of alternative enrichment  
786 protocols, where the single-round enrichments have less endogenous DNA (Fig S3), but

787 also appear to be less biased (Fig 4). Therefore, we hypothesise that the enrichment  
788 efficiency of the PP reagent is in direct trade-off with the biochemical allelic bias.

789

790 It is worth reiterating here that all capture methods used in paleogenomic studies will lead  
791 to ascertainment bias, meaning that one must carefully consider both the selection of  
792 methods and the use of comparative published data. Previously, the monopoly on data  
793 generation by labs with access to the legacy 1240k enrichment protocol somewhat  
794 insulated the community from this compatibility issue. However, now that data can be  
795 generated using different enrichment kits, researchers face a new set of challenges  
796 whenever they integrate data generated with new capture assays with previously  
797 published data generated using the legacy 1240k—the most comprehensive dataset to date  
798 that underpins many of the findings in paleogenomics. Additionally, researchers utilising  
799 the Twist reagent should benchmark the data similarly to the present study to establish its  
800 co-analysability with other data types.

801

802 Here, we have tested some of the most used analyses in paleogenomic studies,  
803 though not an exhaustive list. Principal Components Analysis is a standard way to  
804 understand population structure, and outgroup- $f_3$  and  $f_4$  statistics, along with their  
805 more complex derivatives, are integral to reconstructing population relationships and  
806 evolutionary history, while READ is a standard for genetic relatedness analysis. We have  
807 found that PP-enriched data bias the results of READ and  $f$  statistics when used in  
808 combination with other non-PP datasets, and therefore we caution potential PP users that

809 analyses of such multi-assayed datasets may lead to erroneous conclusions if not  
810 interpreted carefully.

811

812 Having comparative shotgun data for a subset of samples in a study, or from samples  
813 expected to have a very similar ancestry should allow researchers to estimate and control  
814 for the PP bias in the specific methods they wish to utilise. Further, while we explicitly  
815 test PP data, we advise researchers to exhibit similar caution when using the Daicel Arbor  
816 Biosciences Expert Human Affinities “Complete” and “Ancestral Plus” enrichment kits, as  
817 the bait chemistry and enrichment protocol is the same as the PP kit, and only the  
818 number of target loci differ.

819

820 ***Guidelines***

821 • When calculating  $f$ -statistics only compare Prime-Plus-generated data with other  
822 Prime-Plus-generated data; OR

823 • Only compare one Prime-Plus-generated target population/individual with other  
824 non-Prime-Plus-generated populations/individuals (See Table S4 for a full  
825 description).

826 • Beware that Prime-Plus-generated data attract each other and that this may  
827 artificially confirm/reject your hypothesis depending on the study design.

828 • Explicitly assess the impact of Prime-Plus bias in your data when running analyses  
829 that have not yet been investigated.

830     ● Recommend to shotgun sequence a subset of enriched libraries as a control set if  
831           possible, ideally select libraries to represent a range of ancestries.

832     ● Always annotate your data as Prime-Plus-generated when publishing, sharing with  
833           other researchers, or incorporating into any publicly accessible database.

834     ● Always annotate the data type of both newly generated and published data used in  
835           your study so this can be factored into interpretations.

836     ● For best results compute PCAs using smartPCA with projection where possible and  
837           otherwise with EMU to compare results; if clustering appears driven by capture  
838           assay, pursue alternative analyses.

839     ● In general, pursue multiple lines of evidence to support your findings.

840

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1070

## 1071 Author Contributions

1072 R.D., B.L., L.F-S., M.P.W. and X.R-R. conceptualised the study. R.D., L.F-S., K.K., M.P.W.  
1073 and X.R-R. performed laboratory work. R.D. and L.F-S. performed computational  
1074 analyses. R.T., B.L., and L.F-S. funded the study. All authors contributed to manuscript  
1075 writing and revisions.

## 1076 Data Accessibility and Benefit-Sharing Section

1077 Genomic Data:

1078 The newly generated genotype data in this study are available with DOI:  
1079 10.25909/24004665. We recommend against the inclusion of this data in other population  
1080 genomic analyses due to the bias present.

1081

1082 Code Availability:

1083 Code used for analyses and plot generation is available at [https://github.com/roberta-davidson/Davidson\\_etal\\_2023-Capture-bias-paper](https://github.com/roberta-davidson/Davidson_etal_2023-Capture-bias-paper).

1085

1086 **Tables and Figures**

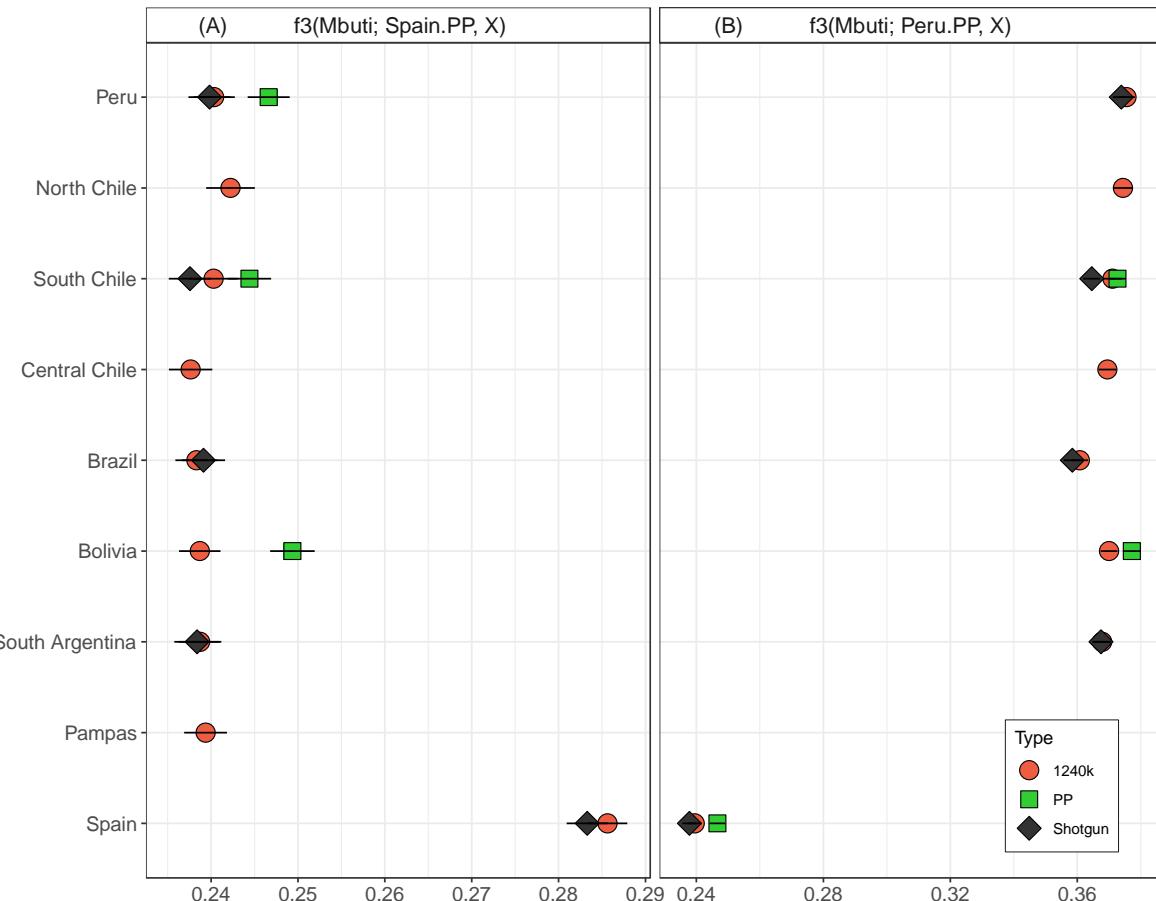
1087 **Table 1:** Relevant modified variables for each of the laboratory experiments.

Variable	Standard Protocol	Experiment A	Experiment B
Enrichment rounds	2	1	1
Hybridisation temperature	70°C	70°C	62.5°C
Amplification cycles	20 (1 <sup>st</sup> round) + 10 (2 <sup>nd</sup> round)	12	13

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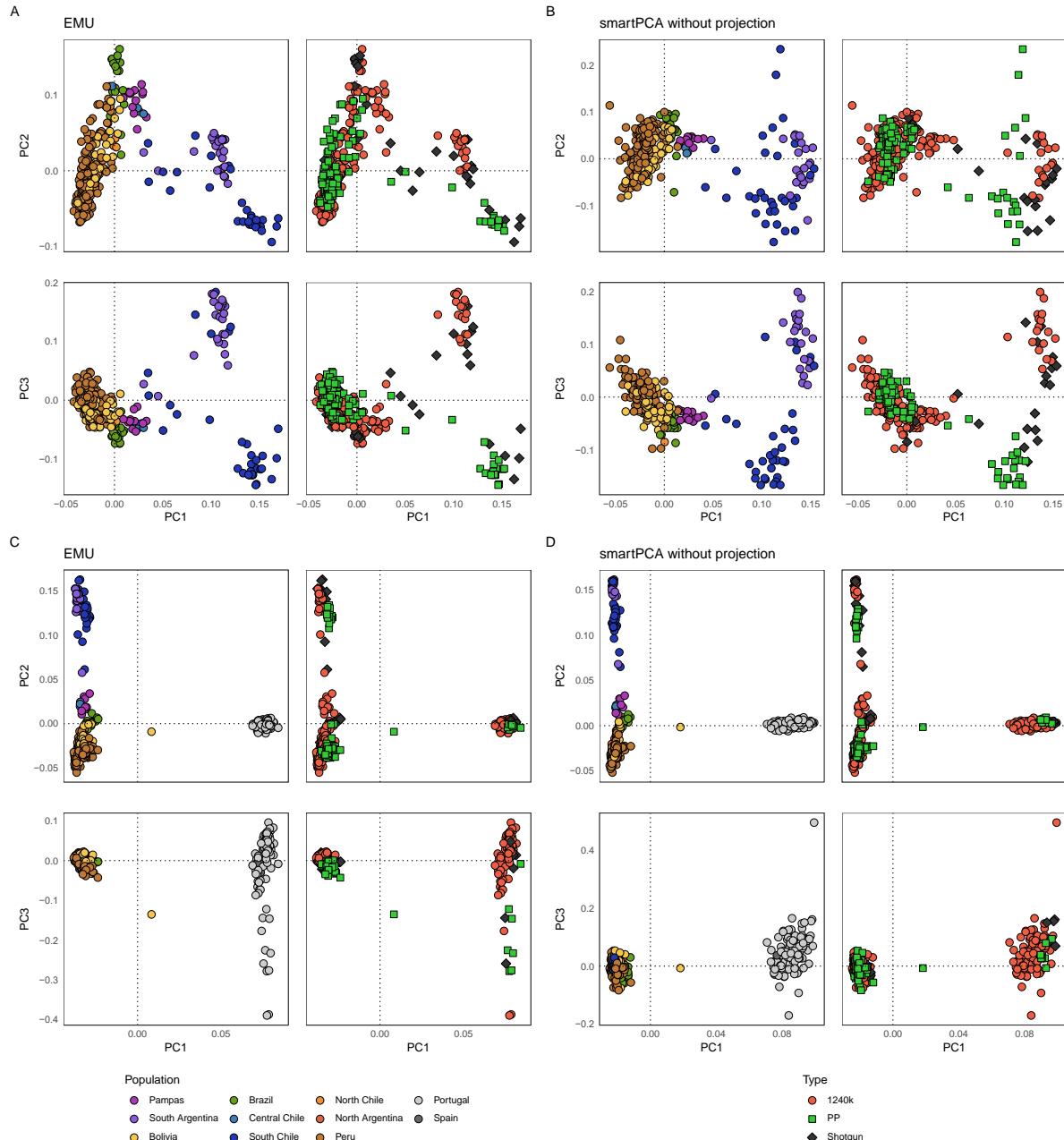
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1092 **Figure 1: Outgroup  $f_3$  statistics comparing ancient South American and Spanish**  
1093 **populations by data type. Panels (A) and (B) show results for Spain.PP.2rnd and**  
1094 **Peru.PP.2rnd as the target population, respectively. Note that not all regions have data of**  
1095 **every type and different data types from the same region are not the same individuals but**  
1096 **are expected to share broadly similar ancestries.**

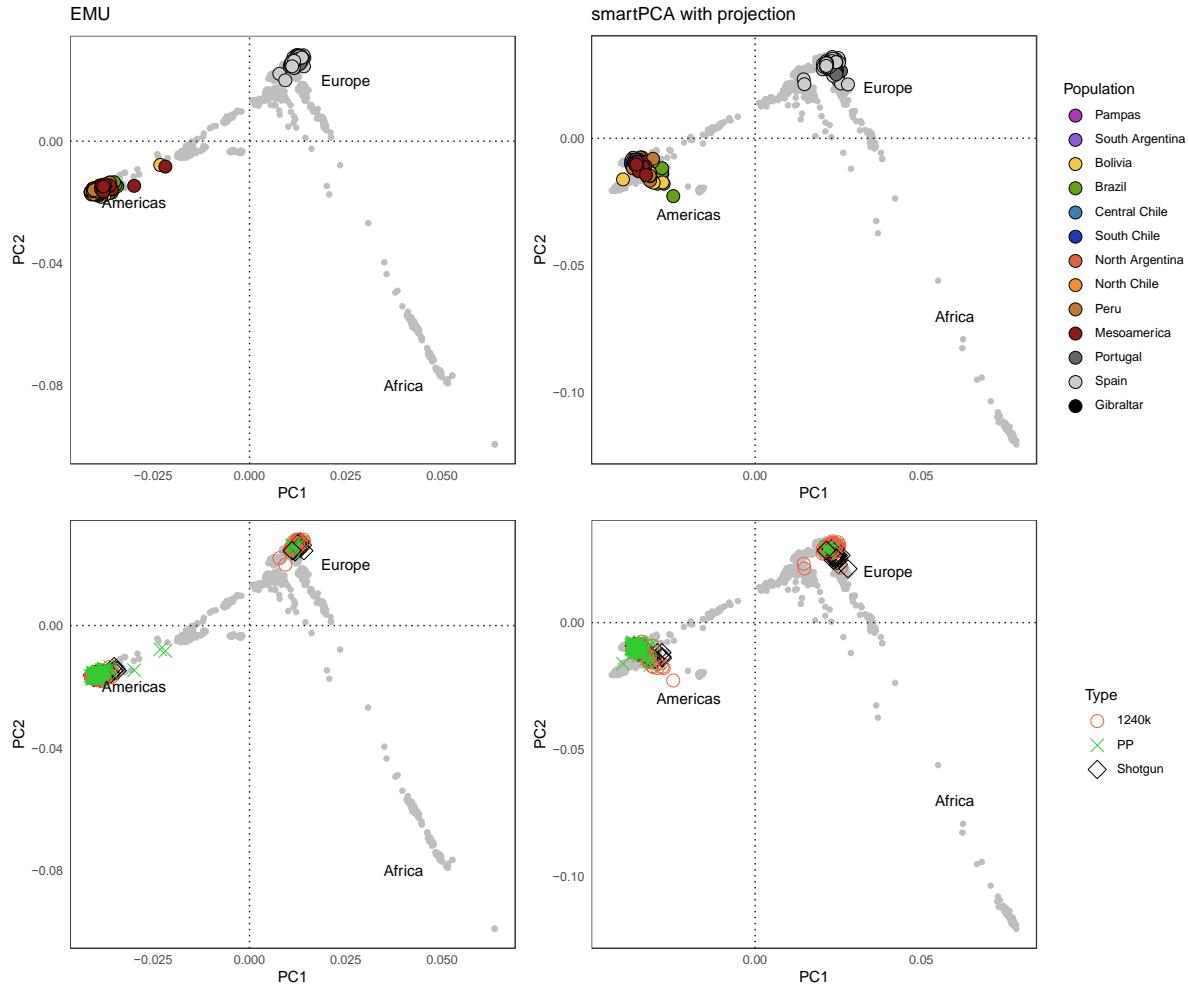
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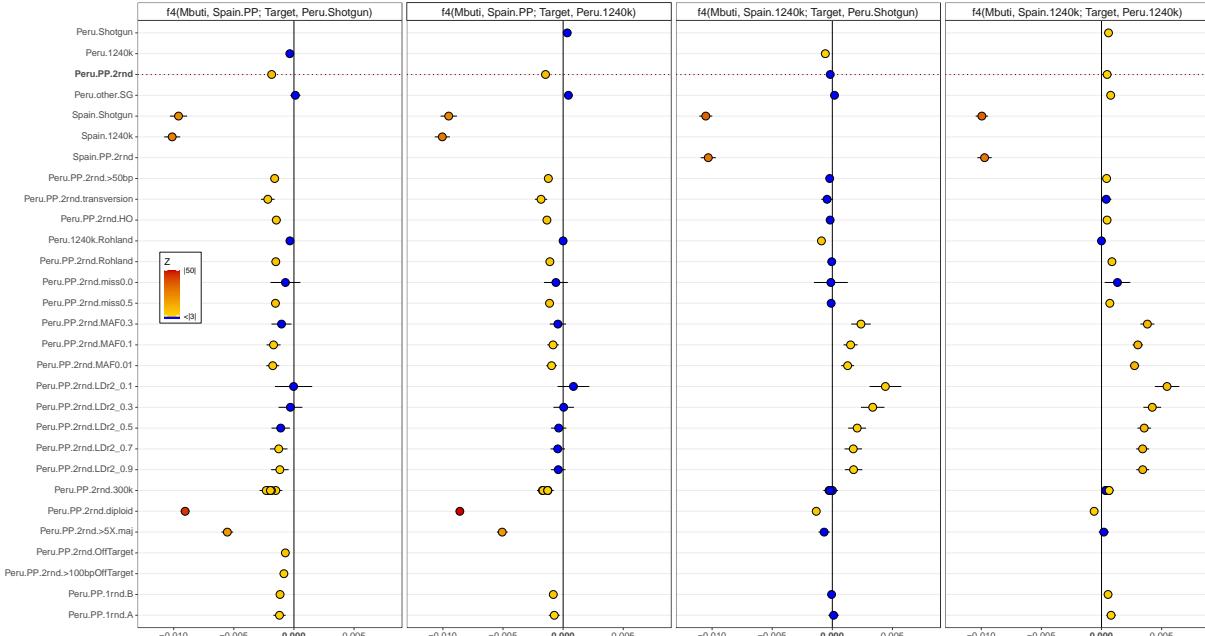
1099 **Figure 2: Comparing PCA methods at continental and global scales.**

1100 Continental PCA (A and B) uses a collated dataset of 362 ancient genomes from South  
 1101 America. Global PCA (C and D) uses a collated dataset of 399 ancient genomes from South  
 1102 America and Iberia. Samples are coloured by region (left column of each panel) or data  
 1103 type (right column of each panel). (A) Continental PCA computed with EMU (Meisner et  
 1104 al., 2021). (B) Continental PCA computed with smartPCA, no projection (Patterson et al.,  
 1105 2006; Price et al., 2006). (C) Global PCA computed with EMU (Meisner et al., 2021). (D)  
 1106 Global PCA computed with smartPCA, no projection (Patterson et al., 2006; Price et al.,  
 1107 2006).

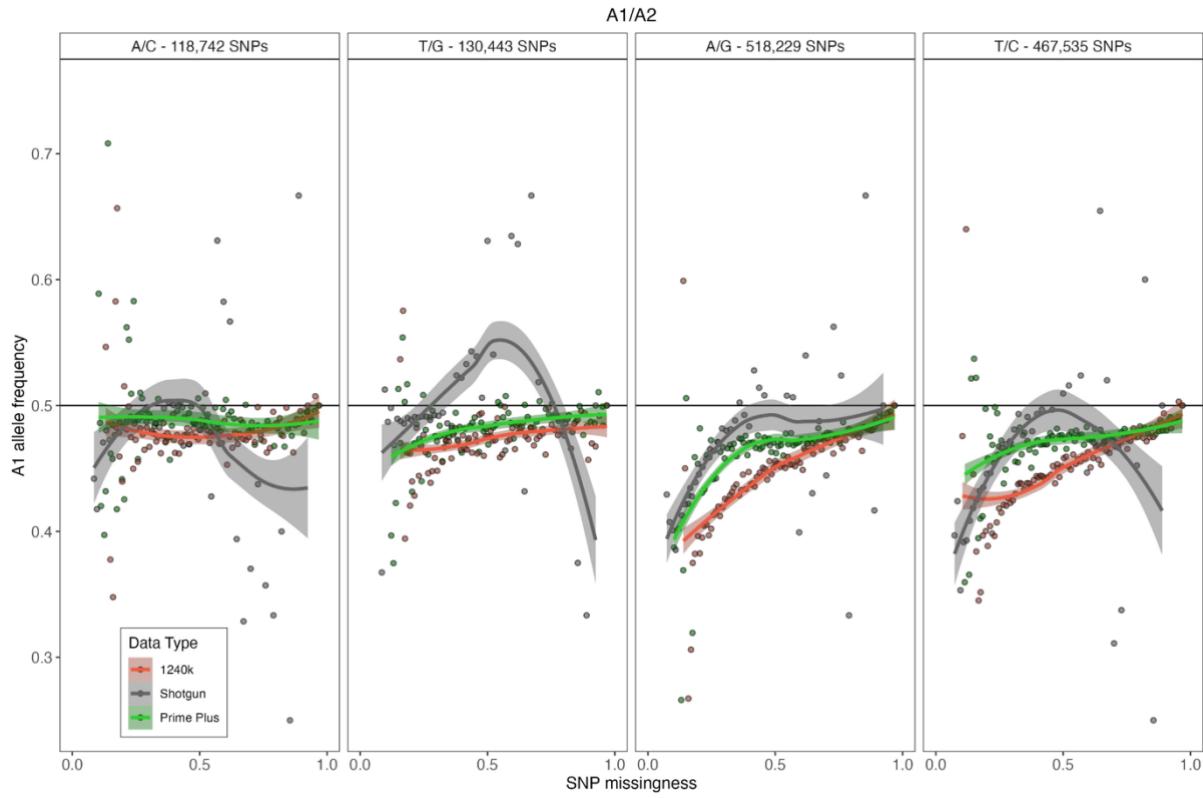


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1109 **Figure 3:** PCAs computed with EMU (left) and smartPCA (right) of ancient genomes from  
1110 South America, Central America, and Iberia coloured by region (top row) or data type  
1111 (bottom row). Ancient samples are projected by smartPCA onto the modern diversity of  
1112 the HGDP shown in grey (Bergström et al., 2020).



1113  
1114 **Figure 4:**  $f_4$  statistics showing the effectiveness of 20 bias-reduction strategies. Test  
1115 configurations are, from left to right:  $f_4$ (Mbuti, Spain.PP.2rnd; Target, Peru.Shotgun),  
1116  $f_4$ (Mbuti, Spain.PP.2rnd; Target, Peru.1240k),  $f_4$ (Mbuti, Spain.1240k; Target,  
1117 Peru.Shotgun),  $f_4$ (Mbuti, Spain.1240k; Target, Peru.1240k). “Target” groups are  
1118 shown along the y-axis, being either one of the 29 strategies used to resolve the Prime  
1119 Plus bias, or shotgun or 1240k data from Peru or Spain. Z-scores and the number of  
1120 SNPs used in each test are recorded in Table S6. Non-significant Z-scores ( $|Z| < 3$ ) are  
1121 shown in blue, and significant Z-scores ( $|Z| > 3$ ) are indicated with a yellow-red gradient.  
1122 Error bars represent  $\pm 2$  se. The vertical dashed line represents the observed  $f_4$   
1123 statistic in each configuration when Peru.PP.2rnd was the Target group. Note that  
1124 bias-reduction strategies are only applied to the target population and the  $f_4$  statistic is  
1125 calculated from SNPs overlapping between the target and the other populations that  
1126 remain unchanged between tests. Note that in the  $f_4$  statistics where the target population  
1127 is off-target or out-of-range genotypes (Peru.PP.2rnd.OffTarget,  
1128 Peru.PP.2rnd.>100bpOffTarget), all four populations were genotyped in the respective  
1129 alternative way to ensure overlapping SNPs, and therefore these are not exactly  
1130 comparable.  
1131



1132

1133 **Figure 5:** Mean frequency of A1 allele calls in different data types as a function of SNP  
1134 missingness. Results for the four different A1 allele pairs are provided in separate panels,  
1135 with inset data points showing the mean allele frequencies calculated across all individuals  
1136 in successive SNP missingness bins. SNPs that are fixed within each dataset were removed  
1137 to avoid skewing the mean A1 calls. The header of each panel shows the number of target  
1138 SNPs of the corresponding A1/A2 pair observed in the Prime Plus assay.