

Alesha Pettit M.A. Department of Anthropology, UNLV 4505 Maryland parkway, Las Vegas NV, 89154 (209) 663-0413 pettia2@unlv.nevada.edu

Education

Doctorate of Philosophy in Anthropology

anticipated completion Spring 2024

University of Nevada Las Vegas

Dissertation Prospectus Defense

April 2021

May 2015

Master of Arts in Biological Anthropology

California State University, Sacramento

GPA: 3.8

Master's Thesis:

A fitness cost warning among nulliparous human females

Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology

May 2013

California State University, Sacramento

GPA: 3.5

Professional Experience

Dental Anatomy Lab Assistant

09/2021-Present

- School of Dental Medicine at UNLV
- Worked with colleagues to organize hands-on anatomy lessons and demonstrations
- Responsible for extensive plastinated model collection

Anatomy Lab Instructor

05/2020-Present

- Kirk Kerkorian School of Medicine
- Worked with Anatomy Lab team to create virtual anatomy table teaching modules, lesson plans, dissection worksheets, assessments, quizzes, and anatomy and physiology electronic Apple books for student
- Worked with Anatomy Lab team to organize and lead hands-on anatomy lessons and demonstrations
- Coordinated with other faculty regarding curriculum guidelines and implementation

Graduate Assistant/Anatomy Lab Instructor

08/2017-05/2020

- University of Nevada Las Vegas, School of Medicine
- Worked with Anatomy Lab team to create virtual anatomy table teaching modules, lesson plans, and anatomy and physiology electronic Apple books for student iPad modules
- Worked with Anatomy Lab team to organize and lead hands on anatomy lessons and demonstrations

Instructor (Adjunct Faculty)

08/2016-Present

- College of Southern Nevada
- Introduction to Biological and Cultural Anthropology,
- Taught students multiple introductory topics in Anthropology including the scientific method, the history of science and anthropology, primate phylogeny and adaptations, and Hominin phylogeny and morphology
- Taught students the concepts of culture, evolution, ethnocentrism, cultural relativism, family structure, and social/gender stratification, all from a bio-cultural perspective

Part Time Instructor 06/2016-08/2019

- Biological Anthropology 110 Lab, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
- Taught students multiple introductory topics in Anthropology including evolutionary theory, osteology, non-human primates, and Hominin phylogeny and morphology

Sectra Virtual Anatomy Presenter

11/2016-Present

- University of Nevada Las Vegas, School of Medicine
- Demonstrated the virtual dissection tables to prospective medical school students
- Demonstrations included discussions on the multiple functions and portals of the tables, associated curriculum, and hands-on instruction of the tables to the students

Teaching Assistant 06/2016-07/2016

- For Dr. Brian Villmoare
- Assisted with lab setup, student instruction, and grading for Osteology

Research Assistant 04/2016-Present

- Gathered data for multiple projects involving human and non-human primates
- Worked under the guidance of my academic advisor on projects and publishable papers
- Experience working with CT analysis software Analyze Pro

Graduate Assistant/Instructor

09/2015-05/2016

- Biological Anthropology 110 Lab, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
- Taught students multiple introductory topics in Anthropology including evolutionary theory, osteology, non-human primates, and Hominin phylogeny and morphology

Professor (Adjunct Faculty)

01/2015-07/2015

- Folsom Lake Community College
- Introduction to Biological Anthropology and Cultural Anthropology
- Taught students multiple introductory topics in Anthropology including the scientific method, the history of science and anthropology, Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium, primate phylogeny and adaptations, Hominin phylogeny and morphology, culture, ethnocentrism, cultural relativism, family structure, kinship, and social/gender stratification

Graduate Instructor 09/2014-07/2015

- Biological Anthropology 1A Lab, California State University, Sacramento
- Taught students multiple introductory topics in Anthropology including cell biology, osteology, non-human primates, and hominin phylogeny and morphology

Reader/Grader 10/2014-12/2014

- For Dr. Roger Sullivan, Dr. Elizabeth Strasser, Dr. Samantha Hens, and Dr. Biskowski
- Introduction to Biological Anthropology lecture, Evolution of Human Behavior, and Archaeology of Mesoamerica
- Read, evaluated, and graded essays and term papers for four professors

Teaching Assistant

01/2014-06/2014

- For Dr. Curtis Nelson
- Biological Anthropology 1A Lab, California State University, Sacramento
- Aided professor in lab set up and student instruction, graded lab work, presented original class lectures

Guest Lecturer 04/2014

- For Dr. Samantha Hens
- Introduction to Biological Anthropology lecture
- Presented Professor's lecture presentation

Reader/Grader 04/2014-012/2014

- For Dr. Elizabeth Strasser, Dr. Samantha Hens, and Dr. Martin Biskowski
- Introduction to Biological Anthropology lecture and Archaeology of Mesoamerica
- Read, evaluated, and graded essays and term papers for three professors

Teaching Assistant 09/2013-12/2013

- For Dr. Samantha Hens
- Human Osteology, California State University, Sacramento
- Aided professor in lab set up and student instruction involving techniques in bone identification, sexing, aging, and disease recognition

Reader/Grader 04/2013-06/2013

- For Dr. Elizabeth Strasser and Dr. Samantha Hens
- Introduction to Biological Anthropology lecture
- Read, evaluated, and graded essays and term papers for two professors

Reader/Grader 10/2012-12/2012

■ For Dr. Samantha Hens

\$150

- Introduction to Biological Anthropology lecture
- Read, evaluated, and graded essays and term papers for one professor

Awards	
Friends of World Anthropology Scholarship	12/11/2019
\$1000	
Graduate and Professional Student Association Travel Scholarship	12/10/2019
\$397	
Graduate and Professional Student Association Travel Scholarship	10/15/2019
\$275	
Graduate and Professional Student Association Travel Scholarship	12/15/2016
\$460	
College of Liberal Arts Student Summer Faculty Research Stipend	05/06/2016
\$3000	
Anthropology Society (UNLV) Graduate Scholarship	03/02/2016

Publications

Powell V, B Esteve-Altava, J Molnar, B Villmoare, A Pettit, and R Diogo. 2018. Primate modularity and evolution: first anatomical network analysis of primate head and neck musculoskeletal system. Nature Scientific Reports 8:2341 doi: 10.1038/s41598-018-20063-3.

Conference Presentations

American Association of Physical Anthropologists Conference (AAPAs)

04/2020

- Covariance among the zygomatic bone, frontal bone, and the zygomaticotemporal space
- Submitted an abstract on the morphology of the upper face among primates, with a specific on the frontal bone and zygomatic bone
- Data were collected indicating the relationship between the zygomatic bone and the neuro-cranium in primate and hominin species

Southwestern Association of Biological Anthropologists (SWABA)

11/2019

- Pedagogical approaches to merging anatomy & physiology with anthropology (poster title)
- Presented a poster on medical school curriculum and how it relates to Anthropology
- Presented data on how often certain evolutionary concepts were taught in multiple medical school courses and how these topics can be expanded in further lessons

Southwestern Association of Biological Anthropologists (SWABA)

11/2019

- Covariance among the zygomatic bone, the frontal bone, and the zygomaticotemporal space (poster title)
- Presented a poster on zygomatic and frontal shape differences among 4 primate species, including humans, chimpanzees, and gorillas, as well as 8 hominin specimens
- Geometric morphometrics were used to analyze these shape differences, including XYZ data collection, Procrustes Analysis, and Principle Components Analysis.
- AnalyzePro, Morphologika, MorphoJ, and Excel were all used to complete the analyses

Western Group of Educational Affairs

03/2019

Using virtual anatomy to foster clinical competencies in the first year of medical school

Poster presentation on the utility of learning anatomy in a virtual setting. This includes the strengths and limitations, the feedback that was received from the medical students after completion of their first year, the design of the lesson plans and modules, and the supportive technologies such as medical imaging and iBook readers

American Association of Physical Anthropologists Conference (AAPAs)

03/2019

- Covariance among zygomatic bone shape, eye orbit shape, and the zygomaticotemporal space
- Presented original poster on the morphology of the upper face among primates, with a specific focus on the zygomatic bone
- Data were collected and presented showing the relationship between the zygomatic bone, the eye orbit, and the neuro-cranium in primate and hominin species

Southwestern Association of Biological Anthropologists (SWABA)

11/2018

- Utility of Virtual Anatomy Based Learning
- Presented original podium lecture on the virtual anatomy tables that are currently in use at the University of Nevada Las Vegas School of Medicine
- Specific topics included portal access, human variation in virtual anatomy, virtual dissection, integration of systems, isolation of systems, histology, surgical training, and problem-based learning

American Association of Physical Anthropologists Conference (AAPAs)

04/2018

- Zygomatic shape among primates
- Presented original poster on the morphological complexities of the zygomatic bone as related to the eye orbit in primates. Data from the craniofacial region of multiple primate species were collected to examine the possibility of constraints and/or covariance between the different features
- Specific hypotheses included that the zygomatic and orbit shape covary, and that zygomatic thickness, orientation, and breadth covary with orbit shape

Southwestern Association of Biological Anthropologists (SWABA)

10/2017

- Zygomatic, eye orbit, and maxilla shape among primates (poster title)
- Presented a poster on zygomatic, and maxilla shape and orientation differences among five primate species, including humans, chimpanzees, bonobos, gorillas, and orangutans
- Geometric morphometrics were used to analyze these shape differences, including XYZ data collection, Procrustes Analysis, and Principle Components Analysis.
- Checkpoint, Morphologika, MorphoJ, and Excel were all used to complete the analyses

American Association of Physical Anthropologists Conference (AAPAs)

04/2017

- Brain Size as an Evolutionary Constraint on Facial Form
- Presented original poster on evolutionary constraints on brain size and facial form.
 Specifically, post orbital constriction, eye orbit size, facial prognathism, basicranial flexion, and maxillary form were examined as possible correlates to brain shape/size.

Graduate and Professional Student Association Spring Convocation

04/2017

- Brain Size as an Evolutionary Constrain on Facial Form
- Presented original research on possible evolutionary constrains and modularity in three primate species. Computed Tomography scans and geometric morphometric analyses were used to evaluate possible morphological relationships

Rebel Grad Slam 3 Minute Thesis Competition

11/2015

 Presented original master's thesis research in a timed competition among other UNLV graduate students

Sacramento Anthropological Society Annual Spring Conference

05/2015

- The Adaptive Nature of Psychopathy
- Presented original research paper and analysis on the evolutionary basis for understanding psychopathy, including its frequency dependence, Game Theory, and the adaptive nature of sexual assault

Social Science Student Symposium (S4) Conference

05/2015

- A Fitness Cost Warning Among Nulliparous Human Females
- Presented original Master's thesis research on evolutionary reasons why some females choose to remain childfree, including the concept of free will and choice, alloparenting strategies, kin recognition and selection, and fitness costs associated with chronic or long term medical conditions. Original statistical data and results were also presented including chi square and logistic regression in support of the research hypothesis

Sacramento Anthropological Society Annual Spring Conference

04/2014

- Early Menarche in Modern Populations
- Presented original research paper and analyses on the evolutionary reasons and implications of early menarche among young females, including adaptive processes, health and reproductive risks, and cultural implications

Community Involvement/Projects

Summer Research Mentorship

Summer 2022

- Mentored an undergrad interested in applying to graduate school
- Taught him how to use 3D analysis software and 3D printer

YouTube channel on Biological and Cultural Anthropology

03/2020-Present

- Created a YouTube channel with Anthropology discussion and lessons
- Engagement from students as well as non-students

Women in Science Las Vegas Pod leader

07/2020-Present

- Nominated and promoted to leader of the Las Vegas pod for Women in Science
- WIS is a national collective of females in STEM.

Guest Lecture Paleoanthropology

03/2020

- Guest lecturer for an Intro to Biological Anthropology course at UNLV
- Presented an introduction of Paleoanthropology, specifically, information on the hominin lineage, current and past debates in the field, the use of Geometric Morphometrics in data collection, and my current work on the zygomatic bone

3D scanner and Printer Instructor

01/2020

- Traveled to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- Delivered a 3D scanner, 3D printer, and other related equipment to the National Museum of Ethiopia
- Wrote lessons and training documents for the museum employees
- Trained the National Museum employees on the entire 3D scanning and printing process including equipment set-up, scanner calibration, item scanning, software applications for printing preparations, and printing an item

STEMpowerment Workshop

04/2019

- Organized by Women in Science
- Participated as a panel member of women in STEM
- Provided mentoring to young females (high school and undergraduates) in STEM fields or those considering going into STEM fields
- Participated in multiple workshops throughout the day, including a panel discussion, mock interviews, and mentoring sessions

Durango High School Tour of UNLV Anthropology Labs

05/2019

Assisted other graduate students with a tour of the multiple Anthropology lab rooms.
 Presented hominin skulls, described the evolutionary process, and answered questions about my research

Guest Lecture Paleoanthropology

02/2019

Guest lecturer for an Intro to Archaeology course at The College of Southern Nevada

 Presented an introduction of Paleoanthropology, specifically, information on the hominin lineage, current and past debates in the field, the use of Geometric Morphometrics in data collection, and my current work on the zygomatic bone

Women in Science Pod Member

11/2018-Present

- A collective of females in STEM fields
- Monthly meeting include networking events, collaborative projects, and general advice and support for female scientists

Guest Lecture Paleoanthropology

11/2018

 Did two guest lectures on Paleoanthropology for introductory students. Presented PowerPoint and lab material on the evolutionary processes of the hominin lineage with topics including bipedalism, speciation, phylogeny, and craniofacial morphology

Durango High School Tour of UNLV Anthropology Labs

05/16/2017

Assisted other graduate students with a tour of the multiple Anthropology lab rooms.
 Presented hominin skulls, described the evolutionary process, and answered questions about my research.

AANAPISI Summer Research Mentorship

06/2016-08/2016

 Mentored an Anthropology undergraduate student with a summer project involving craniometric analyses of multiple Neanderthal and Human skulls.

KNPR "Decision to be Childfree on the Rise"

09/03/2015

 Participated as a member of panel for a radio broadcast. The discussion included cultural, social, and biological reasons to remain childfree. My Master's research was discussed.

Expanding Your Horizons Conference

10/2013 and 10/2014

- Workshops for young girls, emphasizing the importance of mathematics and science in secondary school and future careers, as well as alleviate the isolation of young girls with interests in these fields
- Presented information in workshops and assisted other volunteers in workshop procedures involving osteological techniques including sexing, aging, and identification