

# Liam J. Johnson, MA

Department of Anthropology, University of Nevada, Las Vegas  
4505 S. Maryland Parkway Las Vegas, NV 89154-5003  
Phone: (321) 474-2282 Email: johnsl47@unlv.nevada.edu

## EDUCATION

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### Doctor of Philosophy, Expected May 2026

- Anthropology, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
- Dissertation Title: *Named and Unnamed: A Social Autopsy of Nevada's Missing and Unidentified*
- Advisor: Jennifer Byrnes, PhD, D-ABFA

### Master of Arts, May 2021

- Anthropology, Louisiana State University
- Thesis Title: *Mapping Louisiana's Missing: Spatiotemporal Profiling of Louisiana's Missing Persons, An Experimental Application of Geographic Information Systems and Forensic Anthropology*
- Advisor: Ginesse Listi, PhD, D-ABFA

### Bachelor of Arts, May 2019

- Anthropology, University of South Florida
- Thesis Title: *Testing a Computational Approach for Estimating Age-at-Death on a Modern Portuguese Population*
- Advisor: Jonathan Bethard, PhD, D-ABFA

### Study Abroad, Summer 2018

- Archaeotek, Adult Osteology Research on Medieval Transylvanian Crisis Population

### Study Abroad, Spring 2018

- Maynooth University

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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Forensic Anthropology	GIS	Community Engagement	Cold Cases
Bioarchaeology	Social Autopsy	Unmissed Persons	Public Health

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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2023- present     **Top Tier Doctoral Graduate Research Assistantship (TTDGRA)**- University of Nevada, Las Vegas. PI: Jennifer F. Byrnes, PhD, D-ABFA. Funded doctoral student: Liam J. Johnson, MA. Selected for the research project titled "Named and Unnamed: A Social Autopsy of Nevada's Missing and Unidentified"

- 2022-2023      **Forensic Anthropology Bioarchaeology (FAB Lab) Case Manager-** University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Director: Jennifer F. Byrnes, PhD, D-ABFA. Co-author forensic case reports for the Clark County Office of the Coroner/Medical Examiner (CCOCME). Duties include coordinating with CCOCME staff, managing cases, transferring chain of custody, intake/photography documentation, trauma/pathology analysis, biological profile estimation, reassociation, writing case reports.
- 2021- present      **Forensic and Biological Laboratory (FAB Lab) Assistant-** University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Director: Jennifer F. Byrnes, PhD, D-ABFA. Assisted on forensic cases for the Clark County Office of the Coroner/Medical Examiner (CCOCME). Duties included trauma/pathology analysis, estimation of a biological profile, and consulting on forensic cases.
- 2021-2022      **Professional Development Graduate Assistant-** University of Nevada, Las Vegas, Academic Success Center and Online General Education Academy  
Supervisor: Emily Shreve, PhD. Duties included building on existing curriculum to create a new version of the first-years seminar (COLA100E) that aligns with the shared practices of other courses within the Online General Education Academy. Redesigned the Global/Multicultural and Awareness module with a heavy focus on Land Acknowledgements. Developed skills in instructional design, learning analytics, and user experience testing with a heavy focus on developing virtual/distanced educational curriculum.
- 2019-2021      **Forensic Anthropology and Computer Enhancement Services (FACES) Laboratory Graduate Assistant-** Louisiana State University. Director: Ginesse Listi, PhD, D-ABFA. Logged an estimated 880 hours assisting in forensic casework, donation intake, documentation, maceration, and forensic anthropological analysis for various law enforcement agencies in addition to excavation during forensic field recoveries. Responsibilities also include public outreach, supervising student volunteers/workers, and updating the Louisiana Repository for Unidentified and Missing Persons. Separate responsibilities for the Forensic Taphonomy and Educational Research Facility (FTERF) include taphonomic data collection, GIS and drone mapping of the facility, as well as data management of game camera media.

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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### **Areas of Specialization:**

- Forensic Anthropology
- Taphonomy
- Osteology
- GIS
- Undergraduate Academic Success

### **Courses taught as instructor of record at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas:**

- 2023      College of Liberal Arts, First Year Seminar (COLA100E-1038)
- 2022      College of Liberal Arts, First Year Seminar (COLA100E-1039)

## **OTHER WORK & FIELD EXPERIENCE**

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- 2022-2023 **Department of Anthropology Social Media and Website Manager-** Supervisor(s): Barbara Roth, PhD. Manage and track metrics of all social media accounts affiliated with the UNLV Anthropology department including Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and Twitter. Assist with the organization of weekly invited lectures as well as create and distribute engaging promotional materials.
- Summer 2022 **Field Archaeologist-** Supervisor(s): Debra Martin, PhD & Pamela Stone, PhD. NSF funded project that involved the excavation and analysis of discrete Genizaros burials in Belen, New Mexico.
- 2022 **Research Assistant-** Supervisor(s): Jennifer Byrnes, PhD, D-ABFA. Duties included radiographic data processing, software interface development and testing for a grant titled “Reliability and Validity of Radiographic Comparisons for Positive Identification”, UNLV Faculty Opportunity Award.
- Fall 2020 **Disaster Mortuary Anthropology Volunteer-** Supervisor(s): Ryan Seidemann, JD, Christine Halling, MS, Dr. Ginesse Listi, PhD, D-ABFA. Assisted the Louisiana Attorney General’s Biological Anthropology/ Cemetery Division documenting cemeteries in Cameron Parish that were damaged from Hurricane Laura. After locating, moving, cleaning, and associating grave markers with their respective burial I photographed and documented the level of damage sustained so that survivors could apply for federal disaster assistance from FEMA.
- Fall 2020 **Volunteer Field Archaeologist-** Supervisor(s): Chip McGimsey, PhD. State historic site Los Adaes (16NA16) Louisiana salvage excavation after hurricane Laura uprooted several trees.
- 2017-2019 **GIS & Digital Humanities Student Assistant-** Supervisor(s): Lori Collins, PhD. Served as a liaison between the University of South Florida’s Digital Heritage and Humanities Collection (DHHC) and the Institute of Forensic Anthropology and Applied Sciences (IFAAS) collected GPS data and created map series with ArcGIS of the forensic facility. Additionally, created multiple time lapse videos from donor placement to retrieval that showed the complete taphonomic process, assisted during several professional development workshops for law enforcement agencies. Developed a best methods procedure for the USF 3D digital library of zooarchaeological specimens and its possible application for field identification of zooarchaeological faunal material.
- 2017-2019 **IFAAS & FIRST Forensics Student Volunteer-** Supervisor(s): Jonathan Bethard, PhD, D-ABFA & Erin Kimmerle, PhD. With IFAAS and the Florida Institute for Research, Security, and Tactical Training (FIRST), assisted in body donation processing at the Hillsborough Medical Examiner’s Office which involved the disarticulation and maceration of human remains at varying levels of decomposition. Aided staff and researchers with donor body placement and retrieval in addition to field documentation (photography and field notes) of the decomposition process. Also assisted in organizing the Art of Forensics event, a community-based exhibit highlighting missing and unidentified persons.

## SCHOLARSHIP

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### Manuscripts in Progress

- R&R Gaddis, Katherine., Woollen, Katharine C., **Johnson, Liam J.**, Lopez, Dayanira., & Byrnes, Jennifer F. “A structural vulnerability approach to older adult suicides (2017-2021): Trends and potential impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.”
- R&R Flaherty, Taylor., **Johnson, Liam J.**, Woollen, Katharine C., Lopez, Dayanira., Gaddis, Katherine., Horsley, SaMoura L., & Byrnes, Jennifer F. “Speaking of sex: Critical reflections for forensic anthropologists” *Humans*
- In Prep **Johnson, Liam J.**, Wilson, Teresa V., Leitner, Michael., & Listi, Ginesse A. “A spatial clustering analysis of missing persons data to generate spatially informed community outreach event locations in Louisiana” in *New Research in Crime Modeling and Mapping using Geospatial Technologies Vol II*.

## PROFESSIONAL MEETING PRESENTATIONS

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### International and National

- 2023 Byrnes, Jennifer F., Mirabal Torres, Silvio E., **Johnson, Liam J.**, Horsley, SaMoura L., Flaherty, Taylor M., & Lopez, Dayanira. 2023. “New Tricks, Old Bones: Reassessing Assigned Sex at Birth Estimations of the Erie County Poorhouse Cemetery using MorphoPASSE” poster presentation at the 92<sup>nd</sup> American Academy of Biological Anthropologists. Reno, NV.
- 2022 **Johnson, Liam J.**, Wilson, Teresa V., & Listi, Ginesse A. 2022. “Untangling Louisiana’s Unmissed: How Forensic Anthropologists can use Population Demographics to Aid in Identifications” (in-person and online) podium presentation at the 91<sup>st</sup> American Association of Biological Anthropologists. Denver, CO.
- 2022 **Johnson, Liam J** & Wilson Teresa V. 2022. “Last Seen Location: Using Missing Persons Data for Identification in Forensic Anthropology” poster presentation at the 74<sup>th</sup> American Academy of Forensic Science. Seattle, WA.
- 2019 **Johnson, Liam J** & Bethard, Jonathan D. 2019. “Testing a Computational Approach for Estimating Age-at-Death on a Modern Portuguese Population” poster presentation at the 88<sup>th</sup> American Association of Biological Anthropologists. Cleveland, OH.

### Regional

- 2023 Gaddis, Katherine C., Byrnes, Jennifer F., Woollen, Katharine C., **Johnson, Liam J.**, Flaherty, Taylor M. “A Structural Vulnerability Approach to Older Adult Suicides: Trends and Potential Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic in Clark County, NV (2017-2021)” podium presentation at the 41<sup>st</sup> annual Mountain Desert and Coastal Forensic Anthropology conference, May 31-June, 2023, Boulder City, NV.

- 2022 **Johnson, Liam J**, Byrnes, Jennifer F., & Woollen, Katharine C. 2022. “Unclaimed Persons: Becoming Object and their Distinction from Unidentified Persons” virtual oral presentation at the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Integrative Anthropology Conference. Orlando, FL.
- 2022 **Johnson, Liam J**, Flaherty, Taylor M., Lopez, Dayanira., Woollen, Katharine C., Gaddis, Katherine., & Byrnes, Jennifer F. 2022. “Blackjack! The UNLV FAB Lab’s 21 Forensic Anthropology Cases” podium presentation at the 40<sup>th</sup> annual Mountain, Desert, & Coastal Forensic Anthropologists conference, June1-June 3, Boulder City, NV.
- 2022 **Johnson, Liam J** & Wilson, Teresa V. 2022. “Last Seen Location: Using Missing Persons Data for Identification in Forensic Anthropology” poster presentation at the UNLV Graduate & Professional Student Research Forum. Las Vegas, Nevada.
- 2021 **Johnson, Liam J**. 2021. “Mapping Louisiana’s Missing: Spatiotemporal Profiling of Louisiana’s Missing Persons, An Experimental Application of Geographic Information Systems and Forensic Anthropology” lecture for FBI continuing education workshop, LA.
- 2019 **Johnson, Liam J** & Bethard, Jonathan D. 2019. “Testing a Computational Approach for Estimating Age-at-Death on a Modern Portuguese Population” podium presentation at the USF Department of Anthropology Undergraduate Honors Colloquium. Tampa, FL.
- 2019 **Johnson, Liam J** & Bethard, Jonathan D. 2019. “Testing a Computational Approach for Estimating Age-at-Death on a Modern Portuguese Population” poster presentation at the USF Undergraduate Research Colloquium. Tampa, FL
- 2019 **Johnson, Liam J** & Bethard, Jonathan D. 2019. “Testing a Computational Approach for Estimating Age-at-Death on a Modern Portuguese Population” poster presentation at the USF Anthropology in Action. Tampa, FL.
- 2018 Faulkner, Brittany., **Johnson, Liam J**., & Mockabee, Andrea. 2018. “Commingleed Remains and the Biological Profiles in Sir 140” podium presentation at the Bioarchaeology of Transylvania Symposium. Székelyudvarhely, Romania.

## INVITED LECTURES

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- 2022 “Forensic Anthropology.” Melbourne High School, Forensic Science

## AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS

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- 2022 Graduate and Professional Student Association (GPSA) Outstanding Presentation Recipient- Poster Presentation: \$400. University of Nevada, Las Vegas
- 2022 Forensic Sciences Foundation Student Travel Grant: \$1,500. American Academy of Forensic Sciences
- 2022 Research Travel Funding Award: \$629.92. Graduate & Professional Student Association, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

- 2018 Summer Research Grant: \$1,500. University of South Florida
- 2018 Howard Hughes Institute STEM Academy Undergraduate Scholarship: \$1,000. University of South Florida
- 2016-2017 School of Music's Musician Scholarship: \$3,000. University of South Florida

## **VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE**

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- 2022-present **Lambda Alpha Communications Liaison.** University of Nevada, Las Vegas
- 2022-present **Mentee.** Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, & Belonging (DEIB) Peer Engagement Program.
- 2021-present **Skype A Scientist.** ~ Three to four presentations annually to a range of middle and high school students on forensic anthropology
- 2021-present **Bassoonist.** Community Concert Band, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
- 2021 **Hostile Terrain 94 Exhibit Volunteer.** University of Nevada, Las Vegas
- 2021 **CSUN/ GPSA Mentorship Co-Op.** University of Nevada, Las Vegas
- 2020-2021 **Geography and Anthropology Society Secretary.** Louisiana State University
- 2020 **High School Mentor.** Louisiana State University
- 2019-2020 **Science Fair Judge.** Liberty Magnet High School
- 2018 **Anthropology Club Executive Board Member.** University of South Florida
- 2018 **Double Reed Consortium President.** University of South Florida
- 2017-2019 **Bassoonist.** South Shore Symphony Community Orchestra, Sun City, FL  
**Conference Volunteer.**

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

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- 2022-2023 **(G)A(Y)ABA Special events Co-coordinator.** American Association of Biological Anthropology
- 2022-2023 **Committee on Diversity Undergraduate Research Symposium Mentor.** American Association of Biological Anthropology
- 2020 **Anthropology Section's Diversity and Inclusion Committee Member.** American Academy of Forensic Sciences

## **WORKSHOPS, CERTIFICATIONS, ADDITIONAL TRAINING & SKILLS**

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- 2022 **Ethics in Forensic anthropology; Lets Talk about Death Certificates; Dental Anthropology in Forensic Anthropology; Radiographic Comparisons in Forensic Anthropology.** 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Chico Forensic Conference, Chico, CA

- 2021 **At-risk: identifying, supporting, and referring stressed or distressed students to support services on campus.** Academic Success Center, University of Nevada Las Vegas
- 2021 **Graduate Assistant Professional Development Program Certification.** Academic Success Center, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
- 2019-2020 **Basic Biosafety, Blood-borne Pathogens, Hazardous Waste, Hazard Communication.** Office of Environmental Health and Safety, Louisiana State University
- 2020 **DNA Sampling.** Department of Geography and Anthropology, Louisiana State University
- 2019 **Core Radiation Safety Certification.** Office of Environmental Health and Safety, Louisiana State University
- 2019 **NOMAD Pro 2 Portable X-Ray Unit & Forensic Photography.** Department of Geography and Anthropology, Louisiana State University

**Technology:**

- Professional social media management
- Canvas course design and development
- Microsoft and Adobe Suite products, ACDsee, Canva, MicroDicom viewer, FORDISC 3.1
- Esri GIS products including ArcMap, ArcGIS Pro, StoryMaps, ArcScene, ArcCatalog, ArcToolbox, as well as experience and knowledge with Trimble GPS units, manual and robotic total stations, and general GPS mapping equipment/software
- Extensive Experience with photogrammetry and multiple 3D imaging technologies including NextEngine, FaroArm, Artec Eva handheld 3D scanner, Artec Leo handheld 3D scanner, and the Artec Space Spider handheld 3D scanner

**PROFESSIONAL AND SCHOLARLY SOCIETIES**

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- 2022-present Mountain, Desert, & Coastal Forensic Anthropology, Student Member
- 2022-present Trans Doe Task Force, Professional Ally
- 2021-present Lambda Alpha National Honor Society
- 2020-present American Academy of Forensic Sciences, Student Member, Anthropology Section
- 2019-present American Association of Biological Anthropologists, Student Member
- 2018-present Dental Anthropology Association