

RACHEL LEE JOHNSON

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EDUCATION

- 2018 **M.A. Anthropology, Tulane University, New Orleans, LA**
- 2016 **B.S., B.A. University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA** *Summa Cum Laude*
B.S. in Geology, with honors
B.A. in Anthropology, with honors
Minor: Chemistry; Concentration: Latin American Studies
Honors Thesis: *Households and Empire: a pXRF study of metal artifacts from Cerro la Virgen*,
Chair: Dr. Elizabeth Arkush

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Political Economy, Identity, Ceramic Petrography and Provenance, Ceramic Analysis, the Formative Andes, Upper Amazon, and Ceja de Selva, Museum and Collections-Based Research

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

External

- 2022 Collections Study Grant, American Museum of Natural History
2021 Rust Family Foundation Archaeology Grant
2016 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship

Internal

- 2024 Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Tulane University
2024 Tulane Graduate Studies Student Association Conference Travel Grant
2023 SLA Graduate Student Summer Research Fellowship
2022 Tulane Graduate Studies Student Association Conference Travel Grant
2022 Land Fund for School of Liberal Arts Graduate Student Travel, Tulane University
2021 SLA Graduate Student Summer Research Fellowship
2020 Tulane Anthropology Graduate Student Summer Research Grant
2020 Tulane Graduate Studies Student Association Conference Travel Grant
2019 Tulane Anthropology Graduate Student Summer Research Grant
2019 Tulane Graduate Studies Student Association Conference Travel Grant
2018 Land Fund for School of Liberal Arts Graduate Student Travel, Tulane University
2018 Stone Center for Latin American Studies Tinker Foundation Grant, Tulane University
2018 Tulane Graduate Studies Student Association Conference Travel Grant
2017 Stone Center for Latin American Studies Summer Research Grant, Tulane University
2015 International Studies Fund Summer Research Grant, University of Pittsburgh
2014 Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship, Kichwa, University of Pittsburgh

AWARDS AND HONORS

2020	Graduate Research Assistantship and Tuition Waiver, Tulane University
2019	Graduate Research Assistantship and Tuition Waiver, Tulane University
2016	Norman K. and Margaret Flint Memorial Field Scholarship, University of Pittsburgh
2016	University Scholar, University of Pittsburgh, <i>top 2% of senior class</i>
2015	Corrado Undergraduate Research Award, University of Pittsburgh, Department of Anthropology
2014	University Scholar, University of Pittsburgh, <i>top 2% of junior class</i>
2012	Cincinnati-Columbus-Dayton Pitt Alumni Association Scholar
2012	University Honors College Scholar Scholarship, University of Pittsburgh

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

In Preparation

Rachel Johnson, Patrick Mullins, Brian Billman and Jesús Briceño Rosario

Metallurgy and Imperial Economy in the Chimú Heartland: an application of pXRF to metal artifacts from the hinterland site of Cerro la Virgen. To be submitted to *Journal of Archaeological Science: Reports*, Spring 2025.

Rachel Johnson, Jason Nesbitt, MinJoo Choi, Julia Sjødhal, and Bebel Ibarra Asencios

Pots and People on the Move: New Geochemical and Petrographic Evidence from Canchas Uckro (1100-800 BCE), Ancash, Perú. To be submitted to *Archaeometry*, Winter 2024.

Jason Nesbitt, Bebel Ibarra Asencios, **Rachel Johnson**, Alana Garvey, Carlos Escobar, and Fuyuki Tokanai

Investigaciones arqueológicas en Reparín (750 BCE–200 CE), en el Valle de Conchucos. To be submitted to *Chungara: Revista de Antropología Chilena*.

Peer Reviewed Publications

Jason Nesbitt, Yuichi Matsumoto, Richard L. Burger, Yuri Cavero Palomino, **Rachel Johnson**, Edison Mendoza, and Michael Glascock. *In Press*

New Observations on the Puzolana Obsidian Source and its Ancient Exploitation in the South-Central Highlands of Peru. Accepted by *Archaeometry*, September 4, 2021.

Jason Nesbitt, **Rachel Johnson**, and Bebel Ibarra Asencios

2021 Connections Between the Chavín Heartland and the Upper Amazon (1100-850 BC): New Perspectives from Canchas Uckro. In *The Archaeology of the Upper Amazon: Complexity and Interaction in the Andean Tropical Forest*, edited by R. Clasby and J. Nesbitt. University Press of Florida, Gainesville.

Jason Nesbitt, **Rachel Johnson**, and Rachel A. Horowitz

2019 Was Obsidian used for Camelid Shearing in Ancient Peru? An Experimental and Usewear Study. *Ethnoarchaeology*, 11 (1): 80-94.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Rachel Johnson and Sarah Paterno

2025 *"A Connecting Link": An Archaeometric Reinvestigation of Ceramic Artifacts from the Cave of the Owls and their Relationship with Upper Amazonian Ceramic Assemblages*. Paper to be presented at the 87th annual meeting for the Society for American Archaeology, Denver, CO. [Invited]

Jason Nesbitt, **Rachel Johnson**, and Bebel Ibarra Asencios

2024 *Reconsiderando el estilo Waira-jirca: Cronología y distribución en la región de Conchucos en la sierra Peruana (1100-800 ANE)*. Paper presented at XI Encuentro de Teoría Arqueológica de América del Sur, Huaraz, Peru [Invited]

Rachel Johnson, Julia Sjödhahl, MinJoo Choi, Ryan Clasby, and Jason Nesbitt

2024 *Return to Yarinacocha: a pXRF and Petrographic study of ceramics artifacts from the Tutishcainyo site series (1400 BCE – 900 CE), Ucayali, Perú*. Poster presented at the 86th annual meeting for the Society for American Archaeology, New Orleans, LA.

Jason Nesbitt, Bebel Ibarra Asencios, Lars Fehren-Schmitz, Eden Washburn, and **Rachel Johnson**

2024 *Cultural Transformations in Conchucos After 500 BC*. Paper presented at the 86th annual meeting for the Society for American Archaeology, New Orleans, LA.

Rachel Johnson, Jason Nesbitt, MinJoo Choi, Julia Sjödhahl, and Bebel Ibarra Asencios

2023 *Pots and People on the Move: New Geochemical and Petrographic Evidence from Canchas Uckro (1100-800 BCE), Ancash, Perú*. Paper presented at the 40th Northeast Conference on Andean and Amazonian Archaeology and Ethnohistory, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY.

Rachel Johnson and Jason Nesbitt

2022 *Resilience and Risk in the Placement of Initial Period Coastal Centers*. Paper presented at the 85th annual meeting for the Society for American Archaeology, Chicago, IL. [Invited]

Rachel Johnson, Jason Nesbitt, and Bebel Ibarra Asencios

2021 *A Comparison of Ceramic Compositions from Canchas Uckro (Ancash) and the Cave of the Owls (Huánuco), Peru: Implications for an Upper Amazon Interaction Sphere*. Poster presented at the 85th annual meeting for the Society for American Archaeology, online.

Rachel Johnson and Jason Nesbitt

2019 *An Analysis of Ceramic Compositions from Canchas Uckro, Ancash, Perú: Implications for Trade and Exchange in the Formative Andes*. Poster presented at 84th annual meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, Albuquerque, NM.

Rachel Johnson

2018 *Animism and Agency in the Amazonian Landscape: a consideration of Amazonian perspectivism and the ontological turn utilizing perspectives from a modern Runa community*. Paper presented at 83rd annual meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, Washington, D.C. [Invited]

Andrew Schroll, Jason Nesbitt, **Rachel Johnson**, and Sadie Weber

2018 *Analysis of the Lithic Assemblage from Canchas Uckro (1100-800 B.C.), Eastern Ancash, Perú.* Poster presented at 83rd annual meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, Washington, D.C.

Jason Nesbitt, Bebel Ibarra Asencios, Sadie Weber, **Rachel Johnson**, Andrew Schroll, and Anne Titlebaum

2017 *Canchas Uckro: A Late Initial Period (1100-800 B.C.) Site in the Chavín Heartland.* Paper presented at the Southeastern Meeting of the Society for Amazonian and Andean Studies, Millsaps, MS.

Rachel Johnson, Patrick Mullins, and Brian Billman

2016 *Households and Empire: a pXRF study of metal artifacts from Cerro la Virgen, Perú.* Poster presented at the 81st annual meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, Orlando, FL

RESEARCH AND FIELD EXPERIENCE

Field Technician, Hudson Cultural Services, Salt Point, New York 2023 – present

- Conduct historical and archaeological research on project areas of potential effect (Phase 1A), following guidelines for cultural resource investigations and the curation of archaeological collections outlined by the New York Archaeological Council (NYAC) and the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP)
- Conduct field reconnaissance survey (Phase 1B), recording soil textures and colors, and identifying significant cultural resources.

Research Assistant, Tulane University, New Orleans, LA 2016 – present

- PhD Candidate researching diachronic (1200 BCE – 900 CE) changes in ceramic production in the eastern Andes and Upper Amazon and their diachronic implications for political and social change; Chair: Jason Nesbitt
- Analyzing geochemical data of metal compositions from various sites in the Moche Valley to assess practices metal production in an ongoing project with Brian Billman (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill), and Patrick Mullins (Washington College).

Ceramic Analyst, Project Geologist, Chavín Hinterlands Project, Ancash, Perú 2017 – present

- Supervision of unit excavations at excavations of Canchas Uckro and Reparín and preparation of geomorphologic maps to evaluate anthropogenic landscape alterations.
- Analysis of diachronic ceramic sequence, assessment of ceramic paste recipes via preliminary, reflective light microscopy, and export sample selection for thin-section petrography and geochemical study
- Instruct field school students on ceramic analysis and the principles of ceramic archaeometry.

Research Assistant, Middle American Research Institute, Tulane University, 2020 – 2023

- Digitized LiDAR data from the Yucatan Peninsula and Maya lowlands using ArcGIS Pro to document settlement patterns and train algorithms to improve future data processing.

Visiting Researcher, American Museum of Natural History, Archaeology, New York, NY 2022

- Investigated technological changes c. 1200 BCE – 900 CE within a ceramic type collection from Yarina-cocha, Ucayali, Perú, originally excavated in the 1950s.

- Visiting Researcher*, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington D.C. 2022
- Investigated diachronic change in ceramic technological style of a type collection from Yarinacocha Ucayali, Perú, originally excavated by Donald Lathrap in the 1950s
- Lab and Field Technician*, RC Goodwin and Associates, New Orleans, LA 2021
- Facilitated field and lab operations by coordinating resources across field teams and preparing artifacts for accession and storage.
 - Organized landowner and utility company notifications (811 calls) for Phase I Surveys.
 - Phase III excavation team member at the Behrman Site, Algiers Point, New Orleans, LA.
- Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Anthropology Annex, Intern* 2013-2016
- Processed and accessioned museum donations; artifact photography, written descriptions, and preparation of acid-free boxes and supports
 - Transitioned paper files to digital KE-EMU database
- Moche Archaeological Field School*, UNC Chapel Hill, Huanchaco, Perú Summer 2015
- Conducted rescue excavations, pedestrian survey, and drone mapping of fortified hill-top Chimú sites in the mid to upper Moche Valley, directed by Dr. Patrick Mullins
 - *Honors thesis research*: conducted portable x-ray fluorescence (pXRF) of metal artifacts from sites in the Moche Valley
- Andes and Amazon Field School*, FLAS Fellow, Tena, Ecuador Summer 2014
- Ethnographic research focusing on Kichwa views on women's access to reproductive health care and reproductive intercultural health care practices in the Upper Napo region of Ecuador's Amazon Basin
 - Immersive Kichwa language instruction

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Adjunct Instructor, Tulane University, New Orleans, LA

- 2021 Instructor of record for Environmental Archaeology, using archaeological methods to reconstruct human-environment interactions and evaluate archaeological case studies.
- 2022 Instructor of record for Native America: An Introduction, applying intersecting archaeological data, historical documents, and current events to evaluate the lasting impacts of settler-colonialism.

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

Elemental Analysis with LA-CIP-MS for Archaeology: SAA online seminar instructed by Laure Dussubieux, February 22, 2022

Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM): Trained to run equipment by Dr. Jibao He, Coordinated Instrumentation Facility Microscopy Lab, Tulane University, Spring 2017

Geologic Mapping and Stratigraphic Analysis: 6 week field-course instructed by Drs. James Sears and Michael Hoffman, University of Montana, Summer 2016

pXRF analysis: Bruker Training Seminar, Lee Drake, University of Pittsburgh, *Spring 2015*

Igneous and Metamorphic Petrology: Lab-based instruction by Dr. J. Brian Balta, Visiting Assistant Professor of Geology, University of Pittsburgh, *Spring 2015*
 Lab-based Instruction by Dr. Stephen A. Nelson, Associate Professor of Geology, Tulane University, *Spring 2019*

Optical Microscopy (Mineralogy): Lab-based instruction by Dr. Brian Stewart, Associate Professor of Geology, University of Pittsburgh, *Fall 2014*

Sedimentology and Stratigraphy: Lab and field-based instruction by Dr. Charles Jones, Lecturer, University of Pittsburgh, *Spring 2014*

UNIVERSITY AND COMMITTEE SERVICE

2020 - 2023 *Student Ambassador, Society for Archaeological Sciences (SAS)*
 - *Co-organized "Spring 2021 Early Career Archaeology Brown Bag Series" for emerging scholars*
 - *Co-organized Spring and Fall 2022 Interview Series featuring SAS board members*
 - *Co-organized SAS 2022 Award Recipients Recognition Event (2023)*

2020 - 2021 *Committee Member, Anthropology Colloquium Planning Committee, Tulane University*

2018 - 2019 *Event Planning Committee Chair, Tulane Anthropology Graduate Student Association (TAGS)*

2017 - 2018 *Department Representative, Graduate Studies Student Association (GSSA), Tulane University*

2017 - 2018 *Tulane Anthropology Student Association (TASA), Tulane University*

SKILLS AND CERTIFICATIONS

Higher Education Teaching Certificate, Tulane University's Center for Education, Learning, and Teaching (CELT)

Languages

Spanish (High Proficiency: spoken, written, reading)
 English

Remoting Sensing and Mapping: QGIS, ArcGIS, ArcGIS Pro, ENVI

Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS): Multivariate analysis

Wilderness survival and first-aid; Extensive back-country backpacking experience

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

2015 – present Society for American Archaeology (SAA)
 2017 – present Society for the Anthropology of Lowland South America (SALSA)
 2019 – present Society for Archaeological Sciences (SAS)