

Curriculum Vitae  
Rachel G. Witt, Ph.D. (she/her/hers)  
Anthropology Department  
School of Liberal Arts  
Tulane University  
101 Dinwiddie Hall  
6823 St. Charles Ave., New Orleans, LA 70118  
Phone: (504) 908-2816 E-mail: [rwitt@tulane.edu](mailto:rwitt@tulane.edu)

---

### **EDUCATION**

- 2023 Ph.D., Anthropology, Tulane University  
**Dissertation:** "Death that Endures: A Bioarchaeological and Biogeochemical Analysis of Late Intermediate Period and Late Horizon Human Sacrifice Victims from the Moche Valley, Perú," Committee Drs. John W. Verano (adviser), Jason Nesbitt, Trenton Holliday
- 2016 M.A., Anthropology, Tulane University
- 2012 B.A., Anthropology (honors) and History of Art, Vanderbilt University  
**Honors Thesis:** The Health Profile of a Mortuary Skeletal Sample from Hualcayàn: A Bioarchaeological Perspective of a Middle Horizon Tomb from the North-Central Highlands, Perú," Committee Drs. Tiffany A. Tung (adviser), Marcus Eberl, and Steve Wernke.

### **ACADEMIC POSITIONS HELD**

- 2023-present Visiting Assistant Professor, Anthropology Department, Tulane University, New Orleans, LA

### **EXTERNAL AWARDS AND HONORS**

- 2020 National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant, PI Dr. John Verano and co-PI Rachel Witt, Biological Anthropology Program Award No. 1945861 (\$25,194)
- 2019 Rust Family Foundation, RFF-2019-110 (\$6,800)
- 2019 Charles R. Jenkins Award Lambda Alpha National Honors Society (\$2,000)
- 2018 National Science Foundation Participant Award, Stable Isotope Biogeochemistry and Ecology, University of Utah (\$2,250)
- 2016 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program, Honorable Mention

### **INTERNAL AWARDS AND HONORS**

- 2021 Department of Anthropology Fellowship, Tulane University (\$10,792)
- 2021 School of Liberal Arts Graduate Student Summer Research Award, Tulane University (\$3,000)
- 2020 Anthropology Graduate Student Fund, Tulane University (\$1,000)
- 2019 School of Liberal Arts Summer Merit Fellowship, Tulane University (\$5,000)

- 2019 Anthropology Graduate Student Fund, Tulane University (\$1,100)
- 2019 J.E. Land Fund for School of Liberal Arts Graduate Student Travel, Tulane University (\$500)
- 2019 Graduate Studies Student Association Travel Award, Tulane University (\$400)
- 2018 Stone Center and Tinker Foundation Summer Field Research Grants for Graduate Students in Latin America and the Caribbean, Tulane University (\$1,985)
- 2018 Anthropology Graduate Student Fund, Tulane University (\$1,400)
- 2016 J.E. Land Fund for School of Liberal Arts Graduate Student Travel, Tulane University (\$595)
- 2016 Graduate Studies Student Association Travel Award, Tulane University (\$400)
- 2015 Stone Center and Tinker Foundation Summer Field Research Grants for Graduate Students in Latin America and the Caribbean, Tulane University (\$1,896)

### **RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

- 2023 Bioarchaeologist, Proyecto Arqueológico Huari Ancash Canchas Uckro, Huari, Perú. Co-Directors Dr. Babel Ibarra and Dr. Jason Nesbitt
- 2018-present Bioarchaeologist, Programa Arqueológico Huanchaco. Co-Directors Dr. Gabriel Prieto and Dr. John W. Verano
- 2014-2017 Biological Anthropology Research Assistant, Tulane University Anthropology Department, New Orleans, Louisiana. Supervisor Dr. John W. Verano
- 2016 Bioarchaeologist, Proyecto de Investigación Arqueológica Líneas y Geoglifos de Las Pampas de Nasca, Nasca, Perú. Director Masato Sakai
- 2015 Bioarchaeologist, PIADCA Proyecto de Investigación Arqueológico Distrito del Cáceres Ancash, Perú. Director Dr. Kimberly Munro
- 2012 Bioarchaeologist, Proyecto Bioarqueológico Coporaque, Perú. Director Dr. Matthew C. Velasco
- 2011-2012 Bioarchaeologist, PIARA Proyecto de Investigación Arqueológico Regional Ancash, Hualcayán, Perú. Director Dr. Rebecca E. Bria
- 2010 Student Researcher, Ayacucho Bioarchaeology Project, La Universidad Nacional de San Cristóbal de Huamanga Laboratorio, Ayacucho, Perú. Directed by Dr. Tiffany A. Tung
- 2010-2011 Research Assistant, Vanderbilt University Anthropology Department Osteology Laboratory, Nashville, Tennessee. Supervisor Dr. Tiffany A. Tung

### **PUBLICATIONS**

- In progress Witt, Rachel G., Gabriel Prieto, Alan Chachapoyas, John W. Verano. The Purposes Death Serves: Interpretations of Ritual Violence at the site of El Pollo, in the Moche Valley, Peru.
- Accepted Prieto, Gabriel, John Verano, Feren Castillo, Luis Flores, Alan Chachapoyas, Victor Campaña, Aleksalia Isla, Khrysthyne Tschinkel, Rachel Witt, Andres Shiguekawa, Jordi A. Rivera-Prince, Celeste Gagnon, Carlos Avila-Mata, Ann Pollard-Rowe, Arabel Fernandez and Fuyuki Tokanai. Pampa la Cruz: A New

- Mass Sacrificial Ground during the Chimú occupation on the Huanchaco Littoral, North Coast of Peru.
- 2012 Witt, Rachel G. (2012). One Final Message: The Painted Programs of Alexandrian Tombs. In Vanderbilt Undergraduate Research Journal July 2012 (8): 1-11.

### **INFORMES**

- 2019 Chachapoyas, Alan and Rachel G. Witt (2019). Excavaciones en el Sitio Arqueológico El Pollo. In Programa Arqueológico Huanchaco: Informe Técnico Annual 2019. Coarpe BP-0621: 244- 304. Trujillo, Perú.

### **CONFERENCE AND ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS**

- 2023 Life and Death in the Moche Valley: A Bioarchaeological and Biogeochemical Study of Human Sacrifices from Pampa la Cruz and El Pollo, Peru. R Witt, G Prieto, JW Verano, and A Chachapoyas. 88<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology. Portland, Oregon. March 2023.
- 2023 Paleopathology of Pre-Hispanic Sacrifice Victims from Peru. R Witt. 112<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the United States and Canadian Academy of Pathology. New Orleans, Louisiana. March 2023.
- 2022 Death that Endures: A Bioarchaeological and Biogeochemical Study of Human Sacrifices from the Moche Valley, Peru. R Witt, G Prieto, JW Verano, and A Chachapoyas. 62<sup>nd</sup> Institute of Andean Studies annual meeting. January 2022.
- 2021 Pampa la Cruz: New Evidence of Child and Camelid Sacrifice during the Late Intermediate Period and Late Horizon on the North Coast of Peru. G Prieto, JW Verano, F Castillo, K Tschinkel, R Witt L Flores de la Oliva, A Chachapoyas. 61<sup>st</sup> Institute of Andean Studies annual meeting. January 2021.
- 2020 “El Pollo” un sitio en medio del desierto. Nuevo centro de sacrificios masivos de niños, adolescentes, adultos y camélidos jóvenes en las costas de Huanchaco. G Prieto, A Chachapoyas, RG Witt, y JW Verano. VII Congreso Nacional de Arqueología. Octubre 2020.
- 2019 Chosen for Death: Preliminary Results from a Study of Human Sacrifices from the Moche Valley, Perú, Middle American Research Institute Brown Bag Series, Tulane University, New Orleans, Louisiana. November 2019.
- 2019 An Interdisciplinary Approach for Exploring Child Sacrifice and Violence in the Prehistoric Andean Region, South America. RG Witt. Southeastern Council on Latin American Studies. Oaxaca, Mexico. March 2019.
- 2015 The Ritualistic Nature of the Juvenile Interments at the Cosma Archaeological Complex, Perú. RG Witt and K Munro. Stone Center and Tinker Foundation 2015 Summer Field Research Symposium. New Orleans, Louisiana. October 2015.
- 2015 Examining Wari Influence in the Callejón de Huaylas: A Bioarchaeological Study of a Skeletal Sample from Hualcayán, Middle American Research Institute Brown Bag Series, Tulane University, New Orleans, Louisiana. April 2015.
- 2013 Violent Encounters in Andes: Warfare, Trophy-taking, and Sacrifice. Natural History Museum and Grey Fossil Site Lecture Series, Johnson City, Tennessee. June 2013.

2012 One Final Message: The Painted Programs of Alexandrian Tombs. Vanderbilt University Writing Studio Symposium. Nashville, Tennessee. March 2012.

### **CONFERENCE POSTERS**

- 2013 Social Differentiation among Hualcayán Burials: A Bioarchaeological Analysis Comparing External Long Bone Measurements in the North-Central Highlands, Perú. Rachel G. Witt, Rebecca E. Bria, and Julie J. Lesnik. Bioarchaeology Poster Session: aDNA, Paleodemography, Status, and Variation, American Association of Physical Anthropologists 83rd Annual Meeting. Knoxville, Tennessee.
- 2012 Examining Wari Influence in the Callejón de Huaylas: A Bioarchaeological Study of a Skeletal Sample from Hualcayán. Rachel G. Witt, Tiffany A. Tung, Rebecca E. Bria, and Christine M. Pink. Bioarchaeology of the Andes Poster Session, Society for American Archaeology 77th Annual Meeting. Memphis, Tennessee.

### **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

- 2023 Introduction to Biological Anthropology ANTH 1010, Instructor
- 2021 Bones, Bodies, and Disease (Paleopathology) ANTH-3750, Instructor
- 2020 Introduction to Biological Anthropology ANTH 1010, Instructor
- 2020 Introduction to Biological Anthropology ANTH 1010, Instructor
- 2020 Bioarchaeology of Mummies ANTH-3745, Instructor
- 2020 Bones, Bodies, and Disease (Paleopathology) ANTH-3750, Instructor
- 2019 Introduction to Latin American Studies LSAT-1010, Instructor
- 2019 Introduction to Biological Anthropology ANTH-1010, Instructor
- 2018 Introduction to Biological Anthropology ANTH-1010, Instructor
- 2018 Bones, Bodies, and Disease (Paleopathology) ANTH-3750, Instructor
- 2017 Human Osteology ANTH-3755, Instructor

### **COMMUNITY SERVICE**

- 2018-2023 STEM Outreach Workshop Leader, School of Science and Engineering, Tulane University
- 2014-2017 Workshop Leader, GiST (Girls in STEM at Tulane), School of Science and Engineering, Tulane University

### **MEMBERSHIPS**

- 2019-present Lambda Alpha National Anthropology Honor Society Beta Chapter of Louisiana

### **ACADEMIC COMMITTEES**

- 2016-2018 WISE: Women in Science and Engineering at Tulane University, Academic Committee member
- 2015-2016 TASA: Tulane Anthropology Student Association, President

### **LANGUAGES**

Spanish (Intermediate/Working)

**REFERENCE CONTACT INFORMATION**

John Verano Phone: (504) 862-3049, Email: [verano@tulane.edu](mailto:verano@tulane.edu)

Jason Nesbitt Phone: (504) 862-3052, Email: [jnesbitt@tulane.edu](mailto:jnesbitt@tulane.edu)

Trenton Holliday Phone: (504) 862-3065, Email: [thollid@tulane.edu](mailto:thollid@tulane.edu)