

Curriculum Vitae
Rachel G. Witt, Ph.D. (she/her/ella)
Assistant Professor
Department of Sociology and Anthropology
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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- 2024-present Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Marshall University, Huntington, WV
- 2023-2024 Visiting Assistant Professor, Anthropology Department, Tulane University, New Orleans, LA
- 2019-2023 Adjunct Instructor, Tulane University School of Professional Advancement, New Orleans, LA
- 2017-2020 Adjunct Instructor, Anthropology Department, Tulane University, New Orleans, LA

EDUCATION

- 2023 Ph.D., Anthropology, Tulane University
Dissertation: "Death that Endures: A Bioarchaeological and Biogeochemical Study of Human Sacrifices from the Late Intermediate Period and Late Horizon, Moche Valley, Peru," Committee Drs. John W. Verano (advisor), 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, Peru," Committee Drs. Tiffany A. Tung (advisor), Marcus Eberl, and Steve Wernke.

JOURNAL ARTICLES

- In progress Witt, Rachel G. Dying for the Empire: Stable Isotope Analysis of Carbon, Nitrogen, and Sulphur of Hair Keratin of Human Sacrifices at Pampa la Cruz and El Pollo, Moche Valley, Peru. *American Journal of Biological Anthropology*.
- In progress Witt, Rachel G. New Insights on the Diets and Geographic Origins of Victims Sacrificed at Pampa la Cruz and El Pollo, Moche Valley, Peru, using Bioarchaeological and Stable Isotope Analyses. *American Journal of Biological Anthropology*.
- 2026 Witt Rachel G., Prieto G, Chachapoyas A, Verano J, Flores de la Oliva L, Castillo F. The Purpose Death Serves: Trauma Analysis of Human Sacrifices at El Pollo, Moche Valley, Peru. *Latin American Antiquity*. Published online 2026:1-20. doi:10.1017/laq.2026.10169

- 2025 Witt, Rachel G. (2025) Selected for Death: A Bioarchaeological Study of the Biocultural Profiles of Human Sacrifices at El Pollo, Moche Valley, Peru. *Arqueológicas* 34:185-215.
- 2023 Prieto, Gabriel, John Verano, Feren Castillo, Luis Flores, Alan Chachapoyas, Victor Campaña, Richard Sutter, Aleksalia Isla, Khrysthyne Tschinkel, **Rachel Witt**, Andres Shiguekawa, Jordi A. Rivera-Prince, Celeste Gagnon, Carlos Avila-Mata, Ann Pollard-Rowe, Arabel Fernandez, Fuyuki Tokanai, Claver W. Aldama-Reyna, and José M. Capriles (2023). Pampa la Cruz: A New Mass Sacrificial Ground during the Chimú occupation on the Huanchaco, North Coast of Peru. *Ñawpa Pacha*, DOI 10.1080/00776297.2023.2221481
- 2012 Witt, Rachel G. (2012). One Final Message: The Painted Programs of Alexandrian Tombs. *Vanderbilt Undergraduate Research Journal* 2012 (8): 1-11.

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 Research Grant (\$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
- 2008-2012 Niswonger Foundation Scholarship Program

INTERNAL AWARDS AND HONORS

- 2023 J.E. Land Fund for School of Liberal Arts Graduate Student Travel, Tulane University (\$1000)
- 2023 Graduate Studies Student Association Travel Award, Tulane University (\$400)
- 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)

OTHER AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

- 2025 [Letters to a Pre-Scientist STEM Pen Pal Award Winner, Compassion Connections](#)

INVITED BOOK CONTRIBUTIONS

- 2025 Witt, Rachel. Bioarchaeology. *Excavating Pedregal: Archaeological Explorations of Conquest and Daily Life in Ancient Peru*. Routledge, London.

INVITED BOOK REVIEWS

- 2024 *Violence and Inequality: An Archaeological History*. Thomas P. Leppard and Sarah C. Murray, editors (2023). University Press of Colorado, Denver. xii + 275 p. ISBN 978-1-64642-496-2 (e-book). ISBN 978-1-64642-497-9.

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.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2023-present Bioarchaeologist, Proyecto Arqueológico Huari Ancash Canchas Uckro, Huari, Perú. Directors Dr. Babel Ibarra and Dr. Jason Nesbitt
- 2018-present Bioarchaeologist, Programa Arqueológico Huanchaco. 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 Lineas 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, Peru. Director Dr. Tiffany A. Tung
- 2010-2011 Research Assistant, Vanderbilt University Anthropology Department Osteology Laboratory, Nashville, Tennessee. Supervisor Dr. Tiffany A. Tung

INVITED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND SEMINARS

- 2025 To Die for the Empire: A Trauma and Biochemical Analysis of Human Sacrifices from the North Coast of Peru. Department of Cell Biology and Anatomy Seminar Series. Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center, New Orleans, LA. February 2025.
- 2024 Elegidos para morir: un estudio interdisciplinario sobre el sacrificio humano en el valle de Moche. R Witt. *Nuevas perspectivas en la cronología, organización y expansión del Imperio Chimú*. Segunda Mesa Redonda de Trujillo, Peru. August 2024.
- 2024 Life before Death: A Bioarchaeological Study of the Biosocial Histories of Human Sacrifices at Pampa la Cruz (Montículo 2), Moche Valley, Peru. RG Witt, G Prieto, J Verano, and L Flores. 89th Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology. New Orleans, Louisiana. April 2024.
- 2023 Paleopathology of Pre-Hispanic Sacrifice Victims from Peru. R Witt. 112th Annual Meeting of the United States and Canadian Academy of Pathology. New Orleans, Louisiana. March 2023.
- 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.
- 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 AND ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

- 2025 The Biopolitics and Necropolitics of Human Sacrifice in the Chimú Empire (AD 1100-1470), Peru. 2025 American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting. New Orleans, LA. November 2025.
- 2025 The Intersection of Ritual Violence and Disability in the Chimú Empire: A Bioarchaeological Study of Human Sacrifices in the Moche Valley on the north coast of Peru. 90th Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology. New Orleans, Louisiana. April 2024.
- 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. 88th Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology. Portland, Oregon. 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. 62nd 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. 61st 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 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.
- 2016 The Ritualistic Nature of the Juvenile Interments at the Cosma Archaeological Complex, Ancash, Perú. 81st Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology. Orlando, Florida. April 2016.
- 2015 Preliminary Results of a Bioarchaeological Analysis of Human Remains 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.

CONFERENCE POSTERS

- 2015 Preliminary Results of a Bioarchaeological Analysis of Human Remains at the Cosma Archaeological Complex, Perú. RG Witt and K Munro. Society for Amazonian and Andean Studies. Baton Rouge, Louisiana. September 2015.
- 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.

UNDERGRADUATE MENTORING

Honors Theses

- 2025-2026 Kyleigh Hoey, *Art and Identity: A Design Analysis of Burial Goods Distributed Across Irish Megalithic Passage Tombs*, Committee Member

Senior Capstone

- 2025-2026 Abigail Calnan, Faculty Mentor
- 2024-2025 Christian Hedrick, *Tarnishing the Golden Leaf: The Terminus of the Tobacco Growing Political Economy of the Mid-Atlantic Region*, Faculty Mentor

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Marshall University

2026 Introduction to Cultural Anthropology ANT 201
2026 Forensic Anthropology ANT 336
2026 Biological Anthropology ANT 331
2025 Introduction to Cultural Anthropology ANT 201
2025 Special Topics: Bioarchaeology of Mummies ANT 481
2025 Anthropological Theory, ANT 491
2025 Introduction to Cultural Anthropology, ANT 201
2025 Special Topics: Forensic Anthropology, ANT 480
2025 Health, Culture, and Society ANT 362/SOC 362
2024 Biological Anthropology ANT 331
2024 Introduction to Cultural Anthropology ANT 201
2024 Introduction to Cultural Anthropology ANT 201

Tulane University

2024 Bones, Bodies, and Disease (Paleopathology) ANTH 3750
2024 Introduction to Biological Anthropology ANTH 1010
2023 Bioarchaeology of Mummies ANTH-3745
2023 Bones, Bodies, and Disease (Paleopathology) ANTH 3750
2023 Introduction to Biological Anthropology ANTH 1010
2023 Introduction to Biological Anthropology ANTH 1010
2021 Bones, Bodies, and Disease (Paleopathology) ANTH 3750
2020 Introduction to Biological Anthropology ANTH 1010
2020 Introduction to Biological Anthropology ANTH 1010
2020 Bioarchaeology of Mummies ANTH-3745
2020 Bones, Bodies, and Disease (Paleopathology) ANTH 3750
2019 Introduction to Latin American Studies LSAT 1010
2019 Introduction to Biological Anthropology ANTH 1010
2018 Introduction to Biological Anthropology ANTH 1010
2018 Bones, Bodies, and Disease (Paleopathology) ANTH 3750
2017 Human Osteology ANTH 3755

COMMUNITY SERVICE

2024-2025 STEM Pen Pal, Letters to a Pre-Scientist, www.prescientist.org
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

2025-present American Anthropological Association
2019-present Lambda Alpha National Anthropology Honor Society Beta Chapter of Louisiana
2013-present American Association of Biological Anthropologists
2012-present Society for American Archaeology

REFERENCE CONTACT INFORMATION

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

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