

Dr. Lita Sacks

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Anthropology (Bioanthropology), Indiana University 2019
Minors: Anatomy Education, Paleontology

M.A. in Anthropology, Indiana University 2015

B.A. in Biology, Vassar College 2012
Minors: Anthropology, Jewish Studies

TEACHING

Job Experience

Clinical Assistant Professor 2022 – Present
Department of Anthropology at University of Illinois Chicago
Concurrent Appointments: Associate Graduate Fellow in Graduate College, Faculty Fellow in Honors College, Affiliated Faculty in College of Dentistry Department of Oral Medicine & Diagnostic Sciences
Courses Taught: Human Evolution, The Human Skeleton, Forensic Anthropology, Bioarchaeology, Ancient Diseases, Dental and Medical Anthropology Within Human Evolution

Lecturer 2020 – 2022
Department of History, Anthropology, & Philosophy at Augusta University
Courses Taught: Introduction to Biological Anthropology, Cultural Anthropology, Biological Anthropology, Bioarchaeology, Forensic Anthropology

Lecturer 2019 – 2020
Department of Geography, Anthropology, & Planning at Eastern Washington University
Courses Taught: Global Cultural Encounters, Human Evolution, Archaeological Science, Biological Anthropology, Forensic Anthropology, Bioarchaeology of Disease, Anthropology Projects

Adjunct Instructor 2017 – 2018
Department of Social Sciences at Clackamas Community College
Courses Taught: Physical Anthropology, Archaeology & Prehistory, Cultural Anthropology

Associate Instructor 2014 – 2017
Multiple Departments at Indiana University
Courses Taught: Bioanthropology; Laboratory in Bioanthropology; Human Anatomy; Blood, Bones, & Boils: Diseases Past & Present; Famous Fossils: Evolutionary History of the Human Body; Ancient Health & Medicine

Invited Talks

“Getting a Teaching-Focused Academic Job” March 12, 2024
Department of Anthropology, University of Illinois Chicago

“The History of Biological Anthropology: A Problematic Past and a Promising Future” October 27, 2022

Department of Anthropology, University of Illinois Chicago "The Bioarchaeology of Mental Health"	June 30, 2019
Department of Geography, Anthropology, & Planning, Eastern Washington University "Ancient History of Surgery"	January 31, 2018
Department of Social Sciences, Clackamas Community College "Chemical Properties and Medicinal Uses of Chocolate"	April 4, 2017
Hutton Honors College, Indiana University "Geometric Morphometrics in Anthropology"	October 12, 2015
Department of Anthropology, Indiana University	

Pedagogical Advancement

Center for the Advancement of Teaching Excellence (CATE) at University of Illinois Chicago	
Inclusive Education Scholars Certificate Program	Spring 2023
Creating an Inclusive Syllabus	January 5, 2023
Identifying Grading Criteria & Writing Rubrics	April 5, 2023
Optimize Student Success through Universal Design for Learning	April 18, 2023
Graduate Coursework at Indiana University	
Pedagogical Methods in the Health Sciences	Spring 2015
Internship in Teaching Anthropology	Fall 2013

RESEARCH

Publications

- Sacks, Lita. 2022. "An Argument for the Consolidation of Koster Site and Koster Mounds in Research and Repatriation" *Illinois Archaeology*. 32: 61-96.
- Sacks, Lita. 2018. "Multiple Supernumerary Teeth in a Likely Syndromic Individual from Prehistoric Illinois" *Archives of Oral Biology* 93: 100-106.

Manuscripts in Preparation

- "Variation, Anomaly, or Pathology? The Contextualization of Skeletal and Dental Traits for the Paleopathology" - Review article in preparation for submission to *Acta Palaeomedica*
- "Genetic Syndromes in Prehistory: Methods, Limitations, and Implications for the Bioarchaeology of Assisted Death" - Chapter in preparation for the upcoming book *Transcending Violence as Conflict: Bioarchaeological Approaches to Sacrifice, Suicide, and Assisted Death in the Past* in Springer's Social Bioarchaeology Series

Grants & Fellowships

UIC Award for Creative Activity, \$16,702	2024
Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research, University of Illinois Chicago <i>Project: "Paleopathology of Syndromes: The Intersection of Variation, Anomaly, and Pathology"</i>	
David C. Skomp Feasibility Fellowship, \$2,550	2015
Department of Anthropology, Indiana University <i>Project: "Temporal Use of Koster Mounds: Functional Morphology, Mortuary Practices, and Paleopathology in the Prehistoric Lower Illinois River Valley"</i>	

Conference Presentations

- “Ethical Practice in Bioarchaeology: Developing Guidelines for Working with Human Remains”
Workshop. Southeastern Archaeology Conference Annual Meeting. Durham, North Carolina.
October 25, 2021. Co-Presenters: Krystiana Krupa & Dr. Savannah Newell
- “Sutural Anomalies as a Possible Indicator of Syndromes at Koster Mounds (Greene County,
Illinois)” Paper. Paleopathology Association Annual Meeting. Cleveland, OH. March 27, 2019.
- “Genetic Syndromes in Prehistory: Methods, Limitations, and Implications” Paper, “Finding Mercy
in Murder” Symposium. American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting. San Jose,
California. November 16, 2018.
- “Aberrant Tooth Number and Its Utility in the Paleopathology of Syndromes” Poster.
Paleopathology Association Annual Meeting. New Orleans, Louisiana. April 19, 2017.
- “The Use of Geometric Morphometrics to Identify Distinct Mortuary Components at Koster Mounds”
Poster. American Association of Biological Anthropologists Annual Meeting. New Orleans,
Louisiana. April 21, 2017.
- “Oral Pathology and Dental Wear in Distinct Burial Components at Koster Mounds” Poster.
Paleopathology Association Annual Meeting. Atlanta, Georgia. April 13, 2016.
- “Genetics and Diet in Prehistoric Illinois: A Context in Which to Evaluate Koster Mounds” Paper.
Indiana University Anthropology Graduate Student Association Annual Symposium.
Bloomington, Indiana. February 20, 2016.
- “A Mouthful of Teeth: The Difficulties in Diagnosing a Syndrome Characterized by Supernumerary
Teeth” Poster. Paleopathology Association Annual Meeting. St. Louis, Missouri. March 25,
2015.
- “The Use of Dental Pathology to Establish a Possible Archaic Component at Koster Mounds” Poster.
Paleopathology Association Annual Meeting. Knoxville, Tennessee. April 10, 2013.

Archaeological Field Experience

Fort Vancouver, Oregon Archaeological Society	2017
Location: Vancouver, Washington	
Director: Elaine Dorset	
Medieval Funerary Archaeology, ArchaeoTek	2014
Location: Odorheiu Secuiesc, Romania	
Director: Dr. Andrew Gonciar	
Bioarchaeology and Human Osteology, Center for American Archaeology	2011
Location: Kampsville, Illinois	
Director: Dr. Jane Buikstra	
Excavation of Historic Chinese Homestead	2007
Location: The Dalles, Oregon	
Director: Melissa Darby	

Current Professional Memberships

American Anthropological Association
American Association of Biological Anthropologists
Paleopathology Association
Register of Professional Archaeologists (ID: 5090)
Southeastern Archaeological Conference

SERVICE & SKILLS

Department & Institutional Service

Committee Member	2022 – 2023
Oversight of Assessment of Teaching Strategies (OATS) Committee, Head of Faculty Self-Reflection Sub-Committee	
Faculty Participant	2022 – Present
LAS 110 Connect with UIC Faculty, University of Illinois Chicago	
Committee Member/Chair	2022 – Present
Curriculum Committee, DEI Committee (Chair from 2024-present), & Graduate Admissions Committee, Department of Anthropology, University of Illinois Chicago	
Development of Biological Anthropology Curriculum	2020 – 2022
Department of History, Anthropology, & Philosophy, Augusta University	
Development of Departmental Assessments	2017 – 2018
Department of Social Science, Clackamas Community College	
Member at Large	2017 – 2018
Part-Time Faculty Association, Clackamas Community College	
Faculty Liaison	2015 – 2016
Anthropology Graduate Student Association, Indiana University	

Mentorship – Graduate Students

MA in Anthropology

Students: Caitlin Frie (current), Lukas Kerbyson (current), Ian Stout (current)
Role: Academic Advisor

“Understanding Dental Health at Ancón, Peru” (in progress) by Caitlin Monesmith

Project: PhD Dissertation in Anthropology, University of Illinois Chicago
Role: Committee Member

Mentorship – Undergraduate Students

“Healthcare & Maternity: A Cross-Cultural Study” (2022) by Ashley Keyes

Project: Honor’s Thesis in Anthropology, Augusta University
Role: In-Field Reader

“The Effects of Poor Curation on Differential Preservation of Cranial Bones in a Teaching Collection” (2020) by Amy Morales

Project: Capstone in Anthropology, Eastern Washington University
Role: Research Advisor

“Antemortem Tooth Loss and the Temporomandibular Joint” (2020) by Hannah Rison

Project: Capstone in Anthropology, Eastern Washington University
Role: Research Advisor

“Implications for Clavicular Measurements on Prehistoric Illinois Population” (2019) by Verena Wolf

Project: Honor’s Thesis in Anthropology, Indiana University
Role: Committee Member

Public Outreach

Interviewed for news segment on WRDW Augusta

Hale, Riley. (2022, February 25) [Did you know it's illegal to keep artifacts found on public land?](#)
[News Segment]. WRDW Augusta.

Recorded lecture for BioantTalks on YouTube

Sacks, Lita. (2021, December 1) [*Inconsistent Identification of Sutural Traits in Anthropology and Medicine*](#) [Video File]. Posted by BioantTalks (@bioanttalks7556) on YouTube.

Wrote article for Pamplin Magazine.

Goss, Andrew, and Sacks, Lita. 2021. [*"New Biological Anthropology Courses Offered"*](#) *Pamplin Magazine* 3(2): 27.

Bioethical Service

Curation and Inventory of Contemporary Human Remains	2022 - Present
University of Illinois Chicago	
Curation and Disposition of Contemporary Human Remains	2020 - 2022
Augusta University	
NAGPRA Compliance	2019 - 2022
Augusta University	2020 - 2022
Eastern Washington University	2019 - 2020

Journal Referee

Archives of Oral Biology

British Medical Journal Case Studies

Skills

Computer Programs: Adobe Acrobat, Excel, ImageJ, Mathematica, Mesquite, Microscribe Utility, Outlook, PHYLIP, Powerpoint, SPSS, StatPlus, Survey Monkey, Word

Course Management Systems: Blackboard, Brightspace D2L, Canvas, Moodle, Oncourse

Languages: Reading and speaking proficiency in Spanish