

Last updated: 11/24/23

Elise J. Adams

Graduate Student
Department of Anthropology and Middle Eastern Cultures
Mississippi State University
Mississippi State, MS 39762

ea781@msstate.edu

[Personal Website](#)[Academia Profile](#)**EDUCATION**

- 2024**
(*Expected*) **MA, Applied Anthropology:** Forensic Anthropology/
Bioarchaeology. GPA: 3.83/4.0
Mississippi State University, Mississippi State, MS
(Advisor: Dr. Jesse Goliath)
- 2018** **BA, Anthropology; Theatre minor.** University Honors Program
Scholar, awarded with great honors (*magna cum laude*)
Northeastern Illinois University, Chicago, IL
Thesis: “The Preservation of Osteological Remains in Alkaline
Matrices” (Advisor: Dr. Lesa Davis)

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Forensic Anthropology, Structural Violence, Trauma Analysis, Human Rights Violations,
Traumatic Brain Injury, Osteology, Bioarchaeology, NAGPRA Policy, Public Health, Human
Skeletal Biology, Complex Networks

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

- 2022-2023** **Graduate Research Assistant**, Cobb Institute of Archaeology at
Mississippi State University, funded by a NPS NAGPRA Grant for
the re-inventory and repatriation of Indigenous human remains and
other material culture from the Lyon’s Bluff site under the
guidance of the Choctaw Nation, Starkville, MS (Supervisors: Drs.
Shawn Lambert, Anna Osterholtz, and Molly Zuckerman).
- 2021** **Graduate Research Assistant**, Cobb Institute of Archaeology at
Mississippi State University, aiding in the processing,
organization, and preservation of material culture throughout
Mississippi, Starkville, MS (Supervisors: Dr. Jimmy Hardin,
Bradley Carlock, and Keith Baca).
- 2016** **Osteology Student Aide**, Osteology Lab Collections for the
Department of Anthropology at Northeastern Illinois University,
Chicago, IL (Supervisor: Dr. Lesa Davis).

FIELD WORK, RESEARCH EXPERIENCE, AND OUTREACH

Field Work

- 2022** **Volunteer Forensic Search Team Member**, Mississippi State University; assisted with a forensic search in attempts to locate a missing person at the request of the Bureau of Indian Affairs Missing and Murdered Unit and local law enforcement in Philadelphia, MS.
- 2022** **Volunteer Bioarchaeological Recovery Team Member**, Mississippi State University; assisted with the recovery of Indigenous human remains uncovered in a field outside of Starkville, MS at the request of local Native American tribal leaders.
- 2022** **Volunteer Bioarchaeological Recovery Team Member**, Mississippi State University; assisted in the recovery of human remains uncovered in northern Mississippi and the rehabilitation of headstones of the deceased. Grenada, MS
- 2021** **Volunteer Forensic Recovery Team Member**, Mississippi State University; assisted with the recovery of human remains at the request of the local Police Department.
CIL 20211213-501 (December 12, 2021), Pontotoc County Sheriff's Department
- 2021** **Archaeological Methods Field School**, Mississippi State University; located through the Historic Choctaw Archaeological Project, next to the Lyon's Bluff Mound site, Oktibbeha County, Mississippi.
- 2021** **Cultural Resource Management Survey Crew Member**, Cobb Institute of Archaeology CRM division at Mississippi State University; participated in Phase I Cultural Resources Surveys.
- 2018** **Forensic Anthropology Center Intern**, Forensic Anthropology Center at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN. Assisted with daily operations and summer courses at the Forensic Anthropology Center and the body donation program, recovery and processing of human remains, and performed a mock forensic case following a full recovery, osteological analysis, written report, and presentation from a set of human remains.

Lab Work

- 2021** **Volunteer Lab Assistant**, Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS. Assist in the cleaning/processing and analysis of comingled skeletal remains from Đurđevac – Sošice site in Croatia
- 2018-Present** **Field Museum Volunteer**, Mammals Preparatory Lab, Collections Center at the Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, IL. Preparing and processing zoological (predominantly mammalian) remains, maintenance of the dermestid beetle colony, taxonomic research, and data management.
- 2018** **Field Museum Student Intern**, Mammals Preparatory Lab, Collections Center at the Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, IL. Preparing and processing mammal remains, taxonomic research, and data management.
- Community Outreach**
- 2023** **MS State Forensic Recovery Team Leader**, assisted in training participants in an advanced crime scene course at the Mississippi Law Enforcement Officers' Training Academy (MLEOTA) in Pearl, MS on forensic excavation and recovery techniques using buried animal remains.
- 2023** **Cobb Institute Museum Volunteer Docent**, Cobb Institute of Archaeology, Mississippi State University; oversees visitor engagement.
- 2022** **Volunteer Co-Coordinator**, American Anthropological Association Anthropology Day event; worked with a scout leader to plan exciting activities to teach the children about anthropology.
- 2022** **Graphic Designer**, Science Night at the Museums, Cobb Institute, Mississippi State University; worked with event coordinators to create advertisements for social media pages.

PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Publications

Publications in peer-reviewed journals

- 2023** **Adams, E.J.** and Goliath, J.R. 2023. The Missing and the Marginalized: A Biocultural Approach to Forensic Anthropology at the US/Mexico Border. *Humans* (3), 166–176. <https://doi.org/10.3390/humans3030014>.
- 2023** Zuckerman, M.K, Malis, S.W., Dillon, D.D., Widrick, K.J., **Adams, E.J.**, Hill, M.E.,

McKenna, M.K., Baumgartel, O.C., Willis, H.D. 2023. Sex, gender, and sexuality in paleopathology: Current developments and pathways forward. *International Journal of Paleopathology* (41), 8-21. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijpp.2023.02.002>

- 2023 Adams, E.J.** and Goliath, J.R. 2023. Causative Effects of Cranial Depression Fractures: A Case Study of Structural Violence and Social Vulnerability within the Mississippi State Asylum. *Forensic Science International: Synergy* (6), 100324. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.fsisyn.2023.100324>

Works In Preparation for submission in peer-reviewed journals

Adams, E.J. and Goliath, J.R. ND. The Preservation of Skeletal Remains in Alkaline Matrices. *Humans*. Proposed abstract accepted, 04/2022. MS 90% complete.

Published Abstracts:

- 2023 Adams, E.J.**, Diboyan, L.M., Goliath, J.R. Empty graves: Deciphering origins of human anatomical teaching specimens in U.S. institutions and calls for retirement and repatriation. *American Association of Biological Anthropologists* 180 (S75): 2.
- 2023 Adams, E.J.** and Goliath, J.R. The Relationship Between Skull Trauma and Demographics in Contemporary New Mexicans. *Proceedings of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences*. *Proceedings of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences* 29: 47.

Presentations

- 2024 Adams, E.J.** and J.R. Goliath. "Why terminology matters: Exploring structural inequities in forensic recovery time". *Invited Session*, "Terminology, Theory, and Method for the Study of Inequality of Health: Breakthroughs or Barriers?". Organizer: Heather J.H. Edgar and Lexi O'Donnell. Podium Presentation to be presented at the 93rd annual meeting of the American Association of Biological Anthropologists Conference, Los Angeles, CA. March 2024.
- 2024 Goliath, J.R.**, J.L. Cox, **E.J. Adams**. "Justice for all missing: The Mississippi Repository for Missing and Unidentified Persons". Oral Presentation to be presented at the 76th annual meeting of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences Conference, Denver, CO. February 22, 2024.
- 2023 Adams, E.J.**, L.M. Diboyan, J.R. Goliath. "Empty graves: Deciphering origins of human anatomical teaching specimens in U.S. institutions and calls for retirement and repatriation". Poster presented at the 92nd annual meeting of the American Association of Biological Anthropologists Conference, Reno, NV. April 22, 2023.
- 2023 Adams, E.J.** and J.R. Goliath. "The relationship between skull trauma and demographics in contemporary New Mexicans". Poster presented at the 75th annual meeting of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences Conference, Orlando, FL. February 15, 2023.

- 2022** Diboyan, L.M. and **E.J. Adams**. “Another broken skull: Repercussions of systematic ignorance in marginalized communities, correlations with etiologies of Alzheimer’s Dementia, and future directions”. Poster presented at the 2022 Annual Mountain, Swamp, and Beach Meeting of Forensic Anthropologists conference, Murfreesboro, TN. November 5, 2022.
- 2022** **Adams, E.J.** 2022. “Causative effects of cranial depression fractures: A case study of structural violence within the Mississippi State Asylum”. Spring Graduate Research Symposium, Education, Arts, and Sciences. Office of The Graduate School, MSU.
- 2021** Griffin, G., S.W. Malis, C. McGehee, S. Jerden, A. Skains, **E. Adams**, L. Diboyan, C. Mann, G. Griffith, D. Colucci, C.J. Rayburn, M.E. Hill, C. Welch, S. Lambert. “Mississippi State University’s Summer 2021 Field School: Discovering Choctaw History through Collaboration at the Lyon’s Bluff Mound Site (22OK520)”. Poster presented at the 77th annual meeting of the Southeastern Archaeology Conference, Durham, NC. October 27, 2021.
- 2020** **Adams, E.** “Experience with the Field Museum’s Mammals Prep Lab” Internship presentation for the Department of Anthropology and Middle Eastern Cultures, Mississippi State University.
- 2018** **Adams, E.** “The Preservation of Osteological Remains in Alkaline Matrices”. Podium presented at Northeastern Illinois University’s 26th Annual Student Research Symposium. University Honors Program Undergraduate Senior Anthropology Thesis. Chicago, IL.
- 2018** **Adams, E.** “The Preservation of Osteological Remains in Alkaline Matrices” Poster presentation, Second City Anthropology Conference, hosted at the University of Illinois. Chicago, IL.

TECHNICAL REPORTS

CRM-Archaeological

- 2021** **Adams, E.** and B. Carlock, A Phase I Cultural Resources Survey of the Proposed Caney Creek Road (County Road 298) Bridge Replacement Project over Caney Creek, Tishomingo County, Mississippi. Mississippi Office of State Aid Road Construction, Project No. SAP-71(75), March 2, 2021.

GRANTS, AWARDS, AND CERTIFICATIONS

- 2023** Teaching Portfolio, Teaching Portfolio Workshop, Center for Teaching & Learning, Mississippi State University, Issued: June 23, 2023
- 2023** College of Arts and Sciences Outstanding Graduate Student Award, Mississippi State University
- 2023** Image of Research Finalist, The Graduate School at Mississippi State University

- 2022** Forensic Sciences Foundation Student Travel Grant recipient, \$1,500
- 2022** Department of Anthropology and Middle Eastern Cultures, Mississippi State University, Graduate Student Conference Travel Support, \$500
- 2022** Scribe 101 Certification, ScribeAmerica
- 2022** Mississippi State University, Graduate Student Association and The Graduate School Spring 2022 Graduate Research Symposium, Second Place: Master's Poster Presentation in the Education, Arts and Sciences, and Business category, \$150
- 2020** Graduate Teaching Certification, The Graduate School at Mississippi State University
- 2018** Forensic Anthropology Field Methods Course Certification, Forensic Anthropology Center, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
- 2017-2018** College of Arts and Sciences Merit Tuition Scholarship, Northeastern Illinois University
- 2017** Department of Communication, Media, and Theatre Talent/Special Skills Scholarship, Northeastern Illinois University
- 2014-2018** University Honors Program Scholarship, Northeastern Illinois University

TEACHING EXPERIENCE, LECTURES, AND PUBLIC SERVICE

Mississippi State University

Lectures & Public Service

- 2023** **Invited graduate student panelist**, "Graduate Panel." Anthropology Club, Department of Anthropology and Middle Eastern Cultures, Mississippi State University. November 15, 2023.
- 2023** **Guest Lecturer**, Taught units on Social Classification, Globalization, and Language and Culture for MSU undergraduate students in the Introduction to Anthropology course. March 7 and 9, 2023.
- 2022** **Invited graduate student panelist**, "Graduate Panel." Anthropology Club, Department of Anthropology and Middle Eastern Cultures, Mississippi State University. October 24, 2022.
- 2022** **Guest Lecturer**, Taught a select class on Taphonomy and Postmortem Interval for MSU undergraduate students in the Introduction to Forensic Anthropology course. October 4, 2022.

2022 **Guest Lecturer**, Taught a select unit on Trauma Analysis for MSU undergraduate and graduate students in the Advanced Methods in Forensic Anthropology course. March 28, 30, and April 1, 2022.

2021 **Invited graduate student panelist**, “Graduate Panel.” Anthropology Club, Department of Anthropology and Middle Eastern Cultures, Mississippi State University. November 15, 2021.

Graduate Teaching Assistantships

Mississippi State University

2023 Department of Biological Sciences, Comparative Anatomy Lab (BIO 3504), Fall Semester (Supervisor: Jeff Echols)

2023 Department of Biological Sciences, Human Anatomy Lab (BIO 3304), Fall semester (Supervisor: Dr. Elizabeth Brandon)

2020 Department of Biological Sciences, Parasitology Lab (BIO 3303), Fall semester (Supervisor: Dr. Brandy Roberts)

2020 Department of Biological Sciences, Biology 1 Lab (BIO 1134), Fall semester (Supervisor: Dr. Victoria McCurdy)

Northeastern Illinois University

Invited Lectures

2019 **Invited Lecturer**, Taught a select class on taphonomy and the “body farm” for NEIU undergraduate students in the Forensic Anthropology course.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS AND POSITIONS

2022-Present Student Affiliate, American Academy of Forensic Sciences, Anthropology Section

2021-Present Student Member, American Association of Biological Anthropologists

2020-Present Department of Anthropology and Middle Eastern Cultures Graduate Student Association; Mississippi State University

Positions

2023-2024 **Student Liaison** to the Executive Committee, American Association of Biological Anthropologists

2021-2022 **Secretary/Social Media Coordinator & Interim Vice President**
(2022), Department of Anthropology and Middle Eastern Cultures
Graduate Student Association

LEADERSHIP ROLES AND SERVICE

2022-Present **Team Leader**, MS State Forensic Recovery Team. One of the
founding student members, serves as rotating case lead.
Responsible for organizing the team regarding forensic casework
and primary for analysis of skeletal remains/ forensic
archaeological methods.

2022 **Conference Planning Committee**, The Annual Mountain,
Swamp, and Beach Meeting of Forensic Anthropologists, 2022

EXTERNAL TRAINING

2023 Death Investigation Training Academy (online) course:
“Understanding Evidence and How it is Used in Death Cases”

2020 Online short course through Durham University and sponsored by
FutureLearn: Forensic Archaeology and Anthropology, taught by
Dr. Rebecca Gowland and Dr. Tim Thompson.

2019 Courses taken in Human Anatomy and Physiology (BIO231;
Biology Department) and Chemistry of Hazardous Materials (FIR
130; Fire Sciences Department) at Oakton Community College,
Des Plaines, IL

PUBLIC OUTREACH AND MENTIONS in the MEDIA

Scott Simmons. [Investigators comb through a Mississippi farm field looking for bodies during forensic training.](#) March 15, 2023. 16 WAPT News Jackson.

American Academy of Forensic Sciences. [2022-23 Student Travel Grant Recipients.](#) January 13, 2023. Foundation News.

Adam Prestridge. [History Uprooted: Skeleton Recovered at Yellow Fever Cemetery.](#) March 10, 2022. Grenada Star.

William Moore. [Remains thought to be Felecia Cox, second suspected victim of David Cox, found in Pontotoc County.](#) December 12, 2021. Daily Journal.

RELEVANT COURSEWORK

Graduate Courses in Human Osteology, Advanced Methods in Forensic Anthropology, Advanced Forensic Science, Bioarchaeology, Paleopathology, Biology and Culture, Quantitative Methods in Anthropology, Anthropological Theory, Archaeological Theory, Public Archaeology, Human Genetics

Post-Undergraduate Courses in Human Anatomy and Physiology, Chemistry of Hazardous Materials

Undergraduate Courses in Human Osteology, [Honors] Forensic Anthropology, Anthropology of Death, Zooarchaeology, Paleoanthropology, Anthropology of the Body, Essential Skills for Biologists, General Biology I & II, General Statistics, Chemistry and Society, French I, Improvisation

SKILLS

Proficient in Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, and Excel, SPSS Statistics, RStudio Statistical Analysis Software, Adobe Photoshop, InDesign, FORDISC 3.0, EMu, Adobe Illustrator, Digital Photography, 3D Scanning (Shining 3D), Agisoft Metashape, ArcGIS
Experience with General Biology Lab, General Chemistry lab, and Museum Specimen Preparation/Collections, and proficient in techniques performed in those laboratories (Skeletal Processing, Pipetting, Centrifuging, Gel Electrophoresis etc.)