

Melanie D. Crisfield

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Citizenships

Canadian, American.

As a Canadian citizen with a UK-born grandparent, I am eligible for a UK Ancestry Visa.

Education

PhD Evolutionary Anthropology	Rutgers University September 2007 - Present
Master of Arts Evolutionary Anthropology	Rutgers University October 2010
After Degree Coursework Earth and Atmospheric Sciences	University of Alberta January 2004 - April 2005
Bachelor of Arts (First Class Honours) Major: Anthropology	University of Alberta November 2002

Honours and Awards

Bigel Fellowship for Graduate Students in Anthropology	2009-2011, 2007
Rutgers University Conference Travel Award	2010, 2008
Zelnick Pre-Dissertation Special Opportunity Award	2009
Center for Human Evolutionary Studies Pre-Dissertation Research Award	2010, 2008
Waterman Special Study Opportunity and Pre-Dissertation Travel Award	2008
Rutgers University Excellence Graduate Fellowship	2007-2009
University of Alberta Undergraduate Scholarship	2004-2005
University of Alberta University President's Scholarship	2004-2005
University of Alberta T4K Academic Scholarship	2001-2002
Alexander Rutherford Scholarship	1997-1998

Publications and Presentations

- Crisfield, M.D.** 2012a. *Australopithecus* and *Homo habilis*. In Silberman, N.A. (editor) *Oxford Companion to Archaeology*, 2nd edition, Volume I pp. 165-169.
- Crisfield, M.D.** 2012b. *Homo erectus*. In Silberman, N.A. (editor) *Oxford Companion to Archaeology*, 2nd edition, Volume II pp. 7-11.
- Crisfield, M.D.** 2011. The impact of natural substrates and load bearing on bipedal gait dynamics in human females. *80th Meeting of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists*, Minneapolis, Minnesota, April 13-16, 2011.
- Crisfield, M.D.** 2011. The impact of natural substrates and load bearing on bipedal gait dynamics in human females. *American Journal of Physical Anthropology* Supplement 52: 116.
- Crisfield, M.** 2010. Biometrics and locomotion in the Dassanech, a modern pastoral population from northern Kenya. *79th Meeting of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists*, Albuquerque, New Mexico, April 14-17, 2010.

Crisfield, M. 2010. Biometrics and locomotion in the Dassanech, a modern pastoral population from northern Kenya. *American Journal of Physical Anthropology* Supplement 50: 87.

Cachel, S. and **Crisfield, M.** 2008. Does Hominid Bipedalism Arise from Arboreal Locomotion on Flexible Branches? *77th Meeting of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists*, Columbus, Ohio, April 9-12, 2008.

Cachel, S. and **Crisfield, M.** 2008. Does hominid arboreal bipedalism arise from arboreal locomotion on flexible branches? *American Journal of Physical Anthropology* Supplement 46: 75.

Crisfield, M. The scientific bias in the study of bipedalism and phylogenetic relationships in early Pliocene hominins. Poster presentation for: Anthropology 499: Honours Undergraduate Seminar. April, 2002.

Appointments

Session coordinator and presenter

The TA Project (TAP) and Wednesday Workshop, Department of Anthropology, Rutgers University
February 2014

- Developed and spearheaded a workshop for Anthropology graduate students on dealing with difficult undergraduate students within and outside of the classroom
- Co-presented and lead workshop and discussion with two RASTL fellows from other academic departments

Session coordinator and presenter

The TA Project (TAP), Rutgers University
November 2013

- Developed and lead a seminar for graduate students on helping undergraduates develop and maintain effective study habits

Guest Lecturer

Department of Anthropology, Rutgers University

Pleistocene Hominin Adaptations; Introduction to Archaeology; Environment and Human Evolution
Spring 2008; Spring 2010; Fall 2011; Fall 2013

- Delivered guest lectures for regularly scheduled classes on a wide range of topics including the geological and evolutionary history of the earth; primate and hominin evolution; mass extinctions; and New World pre-contact civilizations and history

RASTL Fellow

Rutgers Academy for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning, Rutgers University

September 2013-May 2014

- Participated in monthly seminars aimed at defining and discussing current issues in undergraduate education
- Developed and lead a seminar for graduate TAs on helping undergraduates develop effective study habits
- Coordinated and presented a workshop for the Anthropology graduate students on dealing with difficult students both within and outside of classroom settings

TA Associate

Department of English, Rutgers University

Expository Writing

September-December 2013

- Instructed 44 students in an intensive semester-long critical reading and writing course
- Facilitated class discussions aimed at developing students' understanding of the reading material and their analytical skills
- Critically critiqued seven drafts for each student, using comments as a constructive means of guiding their revisions
- Worked one-on-one with students during office hours to assist them in devising strategies for writing and revising

Osteology Finds Supervisor

Department of History, Rutgers University

Rutgers University Archaeological Field School in Vacone, Italy

July-August 2013

- Conducted the curation and analysis of a juvenile skeleton excavated in 2012
- Supervised an honours undergraduate collecting data from the juvenile skeleton for her honours thesis
- Oversaw and conducted field excavations of skeletal material from three adult males uncovered during the 2013 excavation
- Led a seminar on bioarchaeology for 20 students

Instructor

Department of Anthropology, Rutgers University

Human Osteology

May-July 2013

- Instructed 4 undergraduate students in a condensed, 6-week semester (6 credits)
- Lead lectures and hands-on lab work focusing primarily on fragmentary human remains
- Designed and implemented laboratory assignments to let the students practice the quantitative techniques discussed in lecture
- Set and administered weekly quizzes, as well as two practical exams and two written exams

Graduate Teaching Assistant

Department of Anthropology, Rutgers University

Life of Primates (Introduction to Primatology)

January-May 2013

- Developed a series of online study guides to help students maximize their chances for success in a course with a broad scope and a large amount of material
- Moderated the student forum on the course website and answered questions relating to the course material
- Conducted three online review sessions prior to the exams
- Maintained regular office hours and met with students to address concerns, answer questions, or clarify aspects of material covered in lecture

Graduate Teaching Assistant

Department of Anthropology, Rutgers University

Introduction to Human Evolution

September-December 2012

- Restructured the laboratory assignments to incorporate more hands-on exercises to provide students with the opportunity to develop skills and understand concepts in a practical setting
- Taught three laboratory sections per week to sections of 8 to 26 students
- Met weekly with other TAs and the course instructor to clarify the new assignments and set up the lab for the upcoming sessions
- Maintained regular office hours and met with students to assist with course and lab questions
- Administered exams and quizzes
- Responsible for all grading for students in my lab sections

Instructor

Department of Anthropology, Rutgers University

Human Osteology

May-July 2012

- Instructed 4 undergraduate students in a condensed, 6-week semester (6 credits)
- Lead lectures and hands-on lab work focusing primarily on fragmentary human remains
- Designed and implemented laboratory assignments to let the students practice the quantitative techniques discussed in lecture
- Set and administered weekly quizzes, as well as two practical exams and two written exams

Graduate Teaching Assistant

Department of Anthropology, Rutgers University

Human Osteology

January-May 2012

- Instructed labs in osteological identification twice a week to 18 undergraduate students
- Prepared and administered weekly quizzes and two practical exams
- Maintained regular office hours and met with students to assist with the course and lab questions
- Accessioned new material into the collections and repaired specimens that had been damaged

Graduate Teaching Assistant

Department of Anthropology, Rutgers University

Environment and Human Evolution

September-December 2011

- Guest lecturer for 7 regularly scheduled class lectures
- Maintained regular office hours and met with students to assist with the course
- Graded quizzes and exams

Instructor

Department of Anthropology, Rutgers University

Environment and Human Evolution

May-July 2011

- Designed course material, assignments and exams
- Instructed 14 undergraduate students in a condensed, 6-week semester
- Maintained regular office hours and met with students to assist with course work

Graduate Teaching Assistant

Department of Anthropology, Rutgers University

Human Osteology

January-May 2011

- Instructed labs in osteological identification to 22 undergraduate students
- Prepared and administered weekly quizzes and two practical exams
- Maintained regular office hours and met with students to assist with the course and lab questions

Graduate Teaching Assistant

Department of Anthropology, Rutgers University
Introduction to Human Evolution

September-December 2010

- Taught three laboratory sections per week to sections of 10 to 25 students
- Developed and delivered laboratory assignments on a variety of topics centred around human evolution
- Assisted in exam preparation and grading
- Maintained regular office hours and met with students to assist with course and lab questions

Instructor

Department of Anthropology, Rutgers University
Environment and Human Evolution

July-August 2010

- Designed course material, assignments and exams
- Instructed 24 undergraduate students in a condensed, 6-week semester
- Maintained regular office hours and met with students to assist with course work

Graduate Teaching Assistant

Department of Anthropology, Rutgers University
Introduction to Archaeology

January-May 2010

- Taught three laboratory sections per week to sections of 20 to 25 students
- Developed and delivered laboratory assignments that illustrated the practical aspects of archaeological analysis
- Assisted in exam preparation and grading
- Gave guest lectures for two regular lecture periods
- Maintained regular office hours and met with students to assist with course and lab questions

Graduate Teaching Assistant

Department of Anthropology, Rutgers University
Introduction to Human Evolution

September-December 2009

- Taught three laboratory sections per week to sections of 20 to 25 students
- Developed and delivered laboratory assignments on a variety of topics centred around human evolution
- Assisted in exam preparation and grading
- Maintained regular office hours and met with students to assist with course and lab questions

Instructor

Department of Anthropology, Rutgers University
Koobi Fora Field School

June-July 2009

- Taught archaeological methodology to 35 field school students, including survey methods, transecting, excavation, and faunal identification
- Conducted lectures on the origins of bipedalism

Intern

Department of Anthropology, Rutgers University
Koobi Fora Field School

June-July 2008

- Taught archaeological methodology to 22 field school students, including survey methods, transecting, excavation, and faunal identification
- Proctor for final exam

Field Research

Preliminary Dissertation Research

Department of Anthropology, Rutgers University
Rutgers University Computational Biomedicine, Imaging and Modeling Center
August 2010

- Applied for and received IRB approval for pilot project
- Collected motion capture for five female subjects under different physical constraints
- Collected video image gait data for four female subjects walking in wet sand under different physical constraints

Preliminary Dissertation Research

Department of Anthropology, Rutgers University
Koobi Fora, Kenya
June-July 2008; July 2009

- Collected biometric and stride length data to conduct a population-level analysis on the bipedal locomotion of the local Dassanech people
- Collected geological samples from two fossil footprint sites in order to understand the sedimentological conditions at these sites for my dissertation research

Professional Experience

Digital Classroom Support Technician

Digital Classroom Services, Rutgers University
September 2010-Present

Provided technical support to instructors teaching in classrooms with a variety of digital systems, including new Apple podium systems.

Professional Translator

Paleoanthropology, Physical Anthropology, Archaeology, Geoarchaeology
Various dates

Translated portions of a doctoral dissertation on sedimentation and geoarchaeology in Central Java, and translated several paleoanthropological and archaeological articles for research purposes.

Paleolithic Archaeology Lab Assistant

Department of Anthropology, University of Alberta
June-August 2007

Assisted with the identification and refitting of bones from a Late Pleistocene-Early Holocene human burial, sorted, cleaned and catalogued artifacts.

Bodo Archaeological Project Lab Assistant

Department of Anthropology, University of Alberta
April-June 2007

Cleaned, weighed, and catalogued archaeological material collected during the 2006 field school
Sorted and identified stone tools, photographed specimens of interest from previous field school seasons, and assisted with equipment preparation for the 2007 field school.

Digital Information Technician

Department of Anthropology, University of Alberta
January-March 2007

Photographed 868 archaeological teaching specimens for a total of 1592 photographs, Photoshopped the digital images to prepare them for the archaeology lab database, authored a procedures document on using the lab's digital SLR camera, the photo studio, and Photoshop, and authored and secured two grants to extend the project.

Archaeology Field Technician

Alberta Western Heritage

October 2006

Conducted foot survey and shovel tests in a large area under proposed development, recorded surface and subsurface artifact finds, and dept detailed field notes regarding each shovel test conducted

Archaeology Field Technician

FMA Heritage Resource Consultants Inc.

September 2006

Excavated units for a pre-contact site under Stage Two mitigation, recorded and mapped artifacts, and recorded stratigraphic profiles

Information Management Technician

Museums and Collections Services

University of Alberta

November 2005-March 2006

Conducted georeferencing research to ensure the accuracy place names in the University's online entomology database, provided training to staff from the Canadian Centre for Ethnomusicology and support to managers and staff of other collections, worked with entomology staff to ensure standards for the entomology web portal were being met, assisted in the data migration for several collections from the old multiMIMSY cataloguing system to the new mimsy XG system, ensured that information in the new database was properly displayed and consistent with the previous database system, and worked with the Information Management Advisor to ensure that new databases were properly constructed for the information that was to be transferred

Site Researcher

Department of Anthropology

University of Alberta

May-November 2005

Conducted site and place research on the archaeological collections in order to ensure that specimen records were correct, researched projectile point types to ensure that newly accessioned specimens were correctly identified, accessioned new material and ensured its proper cataloguing and storage, determined lithic type for a number of previously unidentified specimens, and authored a user manual for the new database system for department staff and volunteers.

Archaeologist

Landsong Heritage Consulting Limited

May-August 2004

Conducted initial archaeological assessments of land under proposed development, dug test pits in areas to high archaeological potential to determine the presence of sites, drafted preliminary reports for client companies, worked with local native populations to ensure their concerns were recorded and acknowledged, and surveyed areas under proposed development that were of traditional land use value to local native populations

Search Technician

Project Evenhanded

RCMP-VPD

February-August 2003

Assisted in the forensic search of R. W. Pickton's farm in Port Coquitlam, BC and in the forensic search of a rural crime scene as part of Project Evenhanded; catalogued scanned documents recovered from the Dominion Farm scene, using the Supertext database program designed for law enforcement

Language Proficiency

English: Native
French: Bilingual
German: Beginner
Italian: Beginner

Service

Panel discussant, Second Year Colloquium	2010, 2013
Coordinator for Rutgers Day archaeology program	2009-2011
Rutgers Science Day hominin evolution instructor	2010
Volunteer for the 79 th Annual AAPA Meetings	2010
Coordinator for Evolutionary Anthropology Graduate Students Reading Group	2009
Co-President, Anthropology Graduate Students Association	2008-2009
Volunteer for the University of Alberta's Science Sunday	2006; 2001
Volunteer for the 63 rd Annual Plains Anthropology Conference	2005
Physical anthropology laboratory volunteer	2003
Member of the University of Alberta Anthropology Undergraduate society	2000-2002