

Isabel Heslin

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Curriculum vitae August 2026

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Paleoanthropology, Palaeoecology, Archaeology, Hominin Nutrition, Human Evolution, Dietary Reconstruction, Quantitative methods, Museum Studies, Eastern Africa

EDUCATION

Colorado State University | PhD, Anthropology

Current: Second-Year

Advisor: Dr. Andrew Du, Department of Anthropology and Geography

Concentration: Biological Anthropology

Yale University | Master of Arts, Archaeological Studies

May 2024

Readers: Dr. Jessica Thompson and Dr. Ellery Frahm

Thesis: *Addressing Nutritional Biases in Paleoanthropology*

Relevant coursework: Evolution of the Human Diet, Experimental Archaeology, Archaeological Lab Sciences, Paleoarchaeology Intensive Reading Course, Primate Ecology and Behavior, Lithic Technology, Archaeology in the Digital Age

Lehigh University

Bachelor of Arts, Anthropology & Classical Civilizations

January 2022

Minor: History

GPA: 3.97 - Highest Honors

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Graduate Student Teaching Assistant | Colorado State University

Fall 2024-*Ongoing*

- Taught three sections of ANTH 121 Human Origins and Variation Laboratory
- Grading and advising for ANTH 271 Human Diversity
- Facilitating outreach programs and building new activities

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Hominin Paleoecology Lab | Colorado State University

August 2024 - *Ongoing*

Project Investigator: Dr. Andrew Du

- Investigating questions relating to hominin paleoecology from a quantitative perspective

Malawi Ancient Lifeways and Peoples Project (MALAPP) | Yale University

July 2024-August 2025

HOMER Project in Mzimba, Kasitu Valley, Malawi

Project Investigator: Dr. Jessica Thompson

Position: Research Assistant

- Organization of online and physical archaeological materials at the National Repository of Malawi
- Data collection: lithics, animal bones, iron slag/ore, pottery
- Database management and student training

Paleoarchaeology Lab Technician (Level 2) | Yale University

January 2024 - May 2024

Faculty Lab Manager: Dr. Jessica Thompson

- Leading Project Sauron - the reorganization of the Malawi Ancient Lifeways and Peoples Project (MALAPP) field and lab data collection
- Implementation of new field lab protocols and data management
- Data cleaning; Microsoft Access Database

Museum Collections Assistant | Yale Peabody Museum

March 2023 - May 2024

Collections Manager: Roger Colten

- Cataloging the YUPEN 1966 lithics collection and piecing together contextual information to understand where and how the material was collected
- Learning the Peabody Museum cataloging system (EMu)
- Skills: archiving; cataloging, artifact photography; EMu

Malawi Ancient Lifeways and Peoples Project (MALAPP) | Yale University

June - August 2023

HOMER Project in Mzimba, Kasitu Valley, Malawi

Project Investigator: Dr. Jessica Thompson

Position: Graduate Student

- Co-ran and organized field laboratory with local lab leader, Raphael Kondwani
- Collaborated with local community members in both field and lab settings
- Participated in an archaeological excavation of an LSA rock shelter site
- Participated in a human remains recovery excavation

Classical Studies Internship | Rutgers University

May 2020 - June 2022

Supervisor: T. Corey Brennan

- Worked on archival material belonging to the Boncompagni-Ludovisi family
- Conducted an independent project on the history and mobility of the Sallustiano Obelisk, which resulted in the 2020 publication of "The 'Sallustian' Obelisk: A Remarkable Journey from the Villa Ludovisi to the Spanish Steps."
- Assisted in the transcription of an ancient coin and medal collection c. 1770

Syrian Refugee Education Internship | Rutgers University

June - October 2020

Supervisor: Salam Al Kuntar

- Conducted historical research regarding the relationship between the ancient Levant and ancient Egypt which was then formatted into lesson plans for Syrian Refugee children who have resettled in Egypt

Roman Glass Lab Assistant | College of Charleston

August - December 2018

Supervisor: Allison Sterrett-Krause

- Drew, measured, and cataloged Roman glassware

Bulow Plantation Ruins Excavation | University of Florida

June 2017

Supervisor: James Davidson

- Participated in the excavation of a burnt-down slave cabin
- Trained with graduate students in on-site excavation techniques

Crow Canyon Archaeological Field School

July 2016

- Participated in the excavation of an open-air Puebloan domestic site
- Learned archaeological excavation methods, data collection, and artifact handling

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Graduate Student Teaching Assistant | Colorado State University

Spring 2025

- Working on the Trunk Show which is the department outreach program

- Visiting local schools to teach about anthropology and geography	
Harris Elementary Steam Night Colorado State University	March 2025, 2026
- Presenter for the CSU Trunk Show – anthropology and geography	
Lopez Elementary Colorado State University	March 2025
- Presenter for the CSU Trunk Show – anthropology and geography	
Archaeology and Cultural Heritage of Mzimba, Malawi MALAPP	
- Assisted in facilitating a workshop on protecting cultural heritage of Malawi	Summer 2024
- Met with local collaborators on how to best preserve archaeological sites	
Guest Speaker at The Craig School Mountain Lakes, New Jersey	February 2024
- Introduction to archaeology for elementary school, grades 2-5	

PROJECTS (IN PROGRESS)

Accepted: **Heslin, Isabel** - “Extant Primate Stone Tool-Use and Its Application to Human Evolution: A Literature Review of Primate Lithic Studies” Journal: *Furthering Perspectives* Mountain Scholar CSU

In Progress: **Heslin, Isabel.**, Thompson, Jessica., David Raubenhiemer. - “Bigger is Not Better: Unexpected Relationship Between Prey Body Size and Macronutrient Composition in East African Mammals” Intended journal: *Journal of Human Evolution* (JHE)

In Progress: Thompson, Jessica., **Heslin, Isabel.**, David Raubenhiemer - “Evolutionary Nutritional Transitions”

In Progress: Raubenhiemer, David., Thompson, Jessica., and **Heslin, Isabel.** - “Nutritional Geometry of Dietary Transitions in the East African Rift”

PUBLICATIONS (NOT-PEER REVIEWED)

2020. **Heslin, Isabel.** “The ‘Sallustian’ Obelisk: A Remarkable Journey from the Villa Ludovisi to the Spanish Steps.” *Archivio Digitale Boncompagni Ludovisi*
<https://villaludovisi.org/2020/09/11/the-sallustian-obelisk-a-remarkable-journey-from-the-villa-ludovisi-to-the-spanish-steps/>

TALKS/PRESENTATIONS

Keynote Speaker, “Malawi Unearthed: Obstacles and Opportunities in Archaeology”, Malawi Archaeology and Heritage Society, Fireside with Elders Webinar Series, April 18, 2026

“The Ludovisi ‘Sallustian’ Obelisk in Rome” Virtual Presentation at Internal Conference "Religion, Politics, & Culture in the Papacy of Gregory XV Ludovisi (1621-1623)" hosted by Kutztown University, February 5, 2020.

<https://youtu.be/gwDk94Cv21s?si=Uhknx8xU7JIMZ7VE>

RESEARCH FUNDING

- 2023 Fieldwork Travel Funding | *Albers–Coe–Hazard Fund* (\$3,954) - Yale University
- 2024 Fieldwork Travel Funding | *Albers–Coe–Hazard Fund* (\$5,000) - Yale University
- 2026 Fieldwork Travel Funding | *Anthropology Scholarship Endowment* (\$950) - Colorado State University
- 2026 Fieldwork Travel Funding | *Anthropology Graduate Student Society Award* (\$1500) - Colorado State University

SKILLS

Field: Excavation, Photogrammetry, Total Station, Archaeological Recording Methods

Computer: Metashape, R, JMP Pro 16, Google Earth Pro, Scannerverse, Microsoft Excel and Access, HRAF

Lab: Portable X-ray Fluorescence Analyzers (pXRF), Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM)

Museum: Museum Cataloguing, Database management, EMu, Artifact Photography, Archival Research

SOCIETY MEMBERSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS

Eastern African Association of Palaeoanthropology and Palaeontology (EAAPP)

Rocky Mountain Biological Anthropology Association (RMBAA)

Colorado Council of Professional Archaeologists (CCPA)

Society of Africanist Archaeologists (SAfA)

Society for American Archaeology (SAA)

Paleoanthropology Society