

SHARON N. DEWITTE

Curriculum Vitae

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RESEARCH INTERESTS: Biological anthropology, paleodemography, paleoepidemiology, paleopathology, osteology, infectious diseases, the Black Death

EDUCATION:

- 2006 Ph.D., Anthropology, The Pennsylvania State University
Thesis: "The Paleodemography of the Black Death 1347-1351"
Committee: Ottar Bjørnstad, Jesper Boldsen, Jeffrey Kurland, Ken Wiess, James Wood (Chair)
- 2001 M.A., Anthropology (High Distinction), The Pennsylvania State University
Thesis: "Syphilis: Origin, Pathogenesis, and Phylogeny" Advisor: James Wood.
- 1999 B.A., Anthropology (Summa Cum Laude), Sonoma State University, CA
- 1996 A.A., Anthropology (Honors), Santa Rosa Junior College, CA

FELLOWSHIPS/GRANTS/AWARDS:

- 2007 New York State/United University Professions Individual Development Award
- 2007 University at Albany Faculty Research Award Program (FRAP-A) Grant for "Pilot study: Black Death mortality and paleodemographic age-estimation methods" (\$10,000)
- 2006 College of Arts and Sciences, College Travel Funds Award, University at Albany
- 2006 Center for Social and Demographic Analysis (CSDA) Junior Researcher Award, University at Albany for "Pilot study: Black Death mortality and paleodemographic age-estimation methods" (\$5498)
- 2005 National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant (BCS-0406252, \$3173)
- 2004 Wenner-Gren Individual Research Grant (#7142, \$8248)
- 2004 Research and Graduate Studies Office (RGSO) grant, The Pennsylvania State University
- 2004 Hill Foundation Fellowship, Anthropology Department, The Pennsylvania State University
- 2003 Baker Fund, Anthropology Department, The Pennsylvania State University

2002 American Scandinavian Foundation Fellowship (\$16,000)

PUBLICATIONS:

- 2007 Review of Chamberlain D (2006) *Demography in Archaeology*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. *American Journal of Physical Anthropology* accepted, publication date pending.
- 2006 **DeWitte, SN** The Paleodemography of the Black Death 1347-1351. Dissertation. The Pennsylvania State University, University Park.
- 2003 Wood JW, RJ Ferrell, and **SN DeWitte-Aviña**. The temporal dynamics of the fourteenth-century Black Death: New evidence from English ecclesiastical records. *Human Biology* 75:427-448
- 2003 Wood JW and **SN DeWitte-Aviña**. Was the Black Death yersinial plague? *The Lancet Infectious Disease* 3:327-328.

PUBLISHED ABSTRACTS (PROFESSIONAL MEETING PRESENTATIONS):

- 2007 **DeWitte SN**. Age and Sex Patterns of Black Death Mortality: Estimates from the East Smithfield Cemetery. Poster presented at the 72nd Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, Austin, TX.
- 2007 **DeWitte SN**. Black Death Mortality: Selectivity with Respect to Frailty. *American Journal of Physical Anthropology Supplement* 44:97.
- 2004 Sparks CS and **SN DeWitte-Aviña**. Population dynamics under catastrophic mortality: the case of the Black Death. *American Journal of Human Biology* 16:187.
- 2002 Wood JW, RJ Ferrell, **SN DeWitte-Aviña**. The role of infectious diseases in human populations: New evidence from the Black Death in England, 1348-1350. *American Journal of Physical Anthropology Supplement*. 34:167.
- 2002 Wood JW, RJ Ferrell, **SN DeWitte-Aviña**, DJ Holman. Mortality differentials during the Black Death in England, 1349. *American Journal of Human Biology* 14:95.

MANUSCRIPTS SUBMITTED FOR PEER REVIEW

- 2007 **Dewitte SN**. A comparison of paleodemographic adult age-at-death estimation methods. *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*.

MANUSCRIPTS IN REVISION

Sparks CS and **SN Dewitte**. Modeling death assemblages in paleodemography: The case of the Black Death. Submitted to the *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*.

2007 **Dewitte SN** and JW Wood. Selectivity of Black Death mortality with respect to pre-existing health. *Proceeding of the National Academy of Sciences*

PUBLICATIONS IN PREPARATION

Wood JW, **SN DeWitte-Aviña**, M Shriver, R Ferrell, S Matthews, and DJ Holman (n.d.)
The Biology of the Black Death, 1347-1350. Cambridge University Press.

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE:

- 2006 – pres Assistant Professor, Anthropology Department, Human Biology Program
University at Albany
Graduate Proseminar in Physical Anthropology, Human Osteology, Introduction to Primates
- 2005 – 2006 Assistant Professor (non-tenure track), Sociology/Anthropology Department
Shippensburg University
Introduction to Physical Anthropology, Forensic Anthropology
- 1999 – 2004 Graduate Teaching Assistant and Course Coordinator, Anthropology Department
The Pennsylvania State University
Introduction to Biological Anthropology, Ethnographic Film – Writing Intensive,
Lab methods (in Dr. Mark Shriver’s Anthropological Genomics Lab), Social
Organization - Writing Intensive

UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY SERVICE:

- 2007 – pres Events Coordinator for Department of Anthropology
- 2007 Paleoanthropology Search Committee: Office of Diversity and Affirmative Action
Representative

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE:

- 2007 – pres Faculty Sponsor for University at Albany chapter of Lambda Alpha
- 2007 Referee for the American Association of Physical Anthropology’ annual student
Prize.

RESEARCH AND SELECTED SEMINARS:

- 2007 Pilot Study: Black Death Mortality and Paleodemographic Age-estimation
Methods, at the Museum of London
- 2004 Dissertation Research

- 2002 – 2003 Dissertation Research at the Anthropological Database at Odense University (ADBOU), Denmark and the Museum of London: scored over 800 skeletons for age, sex, and pathology
- 2002 Osteological Training, ADBOU: age estimation and identification of skeletal pathologies
- 2001 – 2002 Graduate Research: Ancient DNA lab, Anthropology Department The Pennsylvania State University: ancient DNA extraction techniques, PCR, DNA sequencing
Director: Dr. Mark Shriver
- 2001 Identification of Medieval Leprosy Victims
ADBOU, Denmark
- 1998 Mercyhurst Archeological Institute, Erie, Pennsylvania
“*Death Scene Archaeology: Field Methods in the Location, Recovery, and Interpretation of Human Remains from Outdoor Contexts*”
Director: Dr. Dennis C. Dirkmaat
- 1998 Archaeological Field School: Osteology at Kampsville, IL
University of New Mexico
Director: Dr. Jane Buikstra

PUBLIC OUTREACH AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

- 2007 Outreach program, Albany High School, Anthropology class
- 2007 Referee at the Upstate New York Junior Science and Humanities Symposium (Upstate NY JSHS), March 26-27, Albany, NY.

PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES:

- American Association of Physical Anthropologists
- American Association for the Advancement of Science
- Human Biology Association
- Paleopathology Association
- Society for American Archaeology
- Sigma Delta Epsilon/Graduate Women in Science
- American Association of University Women

SELECTED ACADEMIC AWARDS AND HONORS:

- Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, The Pennsylvania State University
- National Science Foundation Graduate Research Competition Honorable Mention (2000)
- Sonoma State Anthropology Department Scholarship (1997)
- Sonoma State Presidential Scholar (1997-1999)
- Sonoma State University Scholarship (1996-1999)
- Charles and Lillian Gay Scholarship (1996)

- Doyle Achievement Award (1996)
- Doyle Scholarship (1994-1996)