

Caroline VanSickle

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CONTACT

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PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

2016 – Present Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, Bryn Mawr College

2014 – Present Honorary Affiliate, Department of Anthropology, University of Wisconsin–Madison.

2014 – Present Honorary Research Fellow, Evolutionary Studies Institute, The University of the Witwatersrand.

2014 – 2016 Wittig Postdoctoral Fellow in Feminist Biology, Department of Gender and Women’s Studies, University of Wisconsin–Madison.

2013 Adjunct Lecturer in Anthropology, Oxford College of Emory University.

EDUCATION

2014 Ph.D. Anthropology, University of Michigan.

2010 M.A. Anthropology, University of Michigan.

2007 B.S. Anthropology, Kansas State University.

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-reviewed articles

In review **VanSickle C.** *Homo naledi* and the taxonomic trouble with fragmentary pelvic remains. *The Anatomical Record (Special Issue)*.

- In review Churchill S. and **VanSickle C.** The Ilium, by *Homo*. *The Anatomical Record (Special Issue)*.
- In review **VanSickle C**, Cofran ZD, Garcia-Martinez D, Williams S, Churchill SE, Berger LR, Hawks J. Pelvic remains from *Homo naledi*, from Dinaledi, South Africa. *Journal of Human Evolution*.
- 2015 Berger LR, Hawks J, de Ruiter DJ, Churchill SE, Schmid P, Deleuzene LK, Kivell TL, Garvin HM, Williams SA, DeSilva JM, Skinner MM, Musiba CM, Cameron N, Holliday TW, Harcourt-Smith W, Ackermann RR, Bastir M, Bogin B, Bolter D, Brophy J, Cofran ZD, Congdon KA, Deane AS, Dembo M, Drapeau M, Elliott MC, Feuerriegel EM, Garcia-Martinez D, Green DJ, Gurtov A, Irish JD, Kruger A, Laird MF, Marchi D, Meyer MR, Nalla S, Negash EW, Orr CM, Radovicic D, Schroeder L, Scott JE, Throckmorton Z, Tocheri MW, **VanSickle C**, Walker CS, Wei P, Zipfel B. 2015. *Homo naledi*, a new species of the genus *Homo* from the Dinaledi Chamber, South Africa. *eLife*, 4, e09560. doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.7554/eLife.09560>.
- 2014 **VanSickle C.** 2014. A new examination of the evolution of childbirth-related pelvic anatomy in Neandertal females. Dissertation. Department of Anthropology, University of Michigan. Available: <http://deepblue.lib.umich.edu/handle/2027.42/110340>
- Published abstracts**
- 2016 **VanSickle C**, Cofran ZD, Garcia-Martinez D, Williams SA, Churchill SE, Berger LR, Hawks J. 2016. Primitive pelvic features in a new species of *Homo*. *American Journal of Physical Anthropologists* 159(S62): 321.
- 2016 Throckmorton Z, Harcourt-Smith WEH, Congdon K, Zipfel B, Desilva J, **VanSickle C**, Williams S, Meyer M, Prang TC, Walker C, Marchi D, Garcia-Martinez D, Churchill S, Hawks J, Berger L. 2016. *Homo naledi* strides again: preliminary reconstruction of an extant hominin's gait. *American Journal of Physical Anthropologists* 159(S62): 314.
- 2015 **VanSickle C.** 2015. Can the sex of hominin pelvic fossils be assessed using methods developed for recent humans? *American Journal of Physical Anthropologists* 156(S60): 312.
- 2013 **VanSickle C.** 2013. Variation in the Neandertal pelvis. *American Journal of Physical Anthropologists* 150(S56): 276.
- 2012 **VanSickle C**, Cofran ZD, Munnely K, and Meyer CRF. 2012. The Ford Cranial Collection: New online resources for research and education. *American Journal of Physical Anthropologists* 147 (S54): 291.

2009 **VanSickle C.** Did Würm Neandertals really have big brains compared to modern humans? *PaleoAnthropology* 2009: A37.

RESEARCH FUNDING

Grants

2012 Dissertation Research Grant. Irene Levi-Sala CARE Archaeological Foundation. “Identifying childbirth differences between modern humans and Late Pleistocene hominids based on the Levant sample”.

2012 Block Grant. University of Michigan Rackham Graduate School and Department of Anthropology.

2012 Rackham Graduate Student Research Grant – Candidate. University of Michigan Rackham Graduate School.

2012 Dissertation Research Grant. University of Michigan Department of Anthropology.

2011 Grant-in-Aid of Research. Sigma Xi. “Changes in Neandertal female pelvis morphology and their implication for the evolution of childbirth”.

2010 Pre-Candidate Graduate Research Grant. University of Michigan Department of Anthropology. “Computer-aided paleoanthropology: Reconstructing hominid pelves from fragmentary fossils”.

2009 Rackham Graduate Student Research Grant – Pre-candidate. University of Michigan Rackham Graduate School.

2008 Spring/Summer Research Grant with Milford H. Wolpoff. University of Michigan Research Partnership Program. “Can a pelvis tell us when our line of descent began?”

Fellowships

2014 – 2016 Wittig Postdoctoral Fellow in Feminist Biology. University of Wisconsin–Madison Center for Research on Gender & Women.

2012 – 2013 Mary Malcomson Raphael Fellowship. University of Michigan Center for the Education of Women.

2009 Graduate Student Fellowship – Anthropology. Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History. “Learning about Neandertals from the pelves of geographically varied populations of modern humans”.

SELECTED RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2016 Collaborating with colleagues at the Museo Nacional de Ciencias Naturales to virtually reconstruct two *Homo naledi* pelvises: a composite adult and a composite sub-adult. Madrid, Spain.
- 2015 Data collection on the William M. Bass Donated Skeletal Collection. Measured and took laser scans of 200 ossa coxae to compare morphological differences between the sexes and between members of different reported body size. Knoxville TN, USA.
- 2014 Rising Star Workshop 2014: Selected as one of approximately 40 early career academics to describe the newly discovered hominin fossil remains from the Dinaledi cave in South Africa. Focused on describing the pelvic anatomy. Johannesburg, South Africa.
- 2012 Dissertation field work: Assessed Neandertal pelvic fossils metrically and non-metrically at the London Museum of Natural History, Paris National Museum of Natural History, Croatian Natural History Museum, LVR-LandesMuseum Bonn, University of Bordeaux, Tel Aviv University, and University of Murcia. Compared Neandertal sample to a cold adapted sample of recent humans at the American Museum of Natural History. London, UK; Bordeaux and Paris, France; Zagreb, Croatia; Bonn, Germany; Tel Aviv, Israel; Murcia, Spain; New York NY, USA.
- 2010 – 2012 Laboratory curatorial project: Researched the causes of pathologies and traumas found in the Ford Cranial Collection to create two reference websites: Ford Collection Database (<http://quod.lib.umich.edu/c/cranialic>) and Human Osteology Pathology and Trauma Wiki (<http://webservices.itcs.umich.edu/mediawiki/bonepath>). Ann Arbor MI, USA.
- 2009 Smithsonian Graduate Student Fellow: Explored sex assessment techniques and their applicability to different human archaeological populations at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History. Washington DC, USA.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor

- 2017 Race & Human Variation Seminar. Scheduled for Spring 2017. Bryn Mawr College Department of Anthropology.
- 2017 Nutrition and Evolution. Scheduled for Spring 2017. Bryn Mawr College Department of Anthropology.

- 2017 Biology and Gender. Scheduled for Spring 2017. Bryn Mawr College Department of Anthropology.
- 2016 Introduction to Anthropology: Prehistoric Archaeology and Biological Anthropology. Fall 2016. Bryn Mawr College Department of Anthropology.
- 2016 Human Evolution. Fall 2016. Bryn Mawr College Department of Anthropology.
- 2015, 2016 Gender and Human Evolution. Spring 2015; Spring 2016. University of Wisconsin–Madison Department of Gender and Women’s Studies.
- 2014, 2015 Biology and Gender. Fall 2014; Fall 2015. University of Wisconsin–Madison Department of Gender and Women’s Studies.
- 2013 Concepts and Methods in Biological Anthropology. Fall 2013. Oxford College of Emory University Division of History and Social Sciences (Anthropology).

Assistant

- 2011 Human Evolution. Fall 2011. Milford Wolpoff. University of Michigan Department of Anthropology.
- 2011, 2009 Introduction to Biological Anthropology. Winter 2011; Fall 2009. A. Roberto Frisancho; Virginia Hutton-Estabrook. University of Michigan Department of Anthropology.
- 2010 Childbirth and Culture. Fall 2010. Elisha P. Renne. University of Michigan Department of Anthropology.
- 2010 Nutrition and Evolution. Winter 2010. A. Roberto Frisancho. University of Michigan Department of Anthropology.
- 2005, 2006 Introduction to Physical Anthropology Laboratory. Fall 2005; Summer 2006; Fall 2006. Mike Finnegan. Kansas State University Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Social Work.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Manuscript Referee

Anatomical Records

Journal of Human Evolution

PLOS One

Department Service

- 2015 – 2016 Department of Gender & Women’s Studies Research Committee member. University of Wisconsin–Madison.
- 2013 – 2014 Candidate Co-Chair. Michigan Anthropology Graduate Association. University of Michigan.
- 2009 – 2010 Website Designer. Michigan Anthropology Graduate Association. University of Michigan.
- 2009 – 2010 Conference Planning Committee. Michigan Anthropology Graduate Association. University of Michigan.
- 2009 Co-chair. Michigan Anthropology Graduate Association. University of Michigan.

University Service

- 2016 Digging for Collaborations. Outreach booth at the All Ways Forward University of Wisconsin Alumni Campaign Event. June 23. Minneapolis MN.
- 2016 Digging for Collaborations. Outreach booth at the All Ways Forward University of Wisconsin Alumni Campaign Event. March 5. San Francisco CA.

Discipline Service

- 2013 – 2015 Webmaster. American Anthropological Association Biological Anthropology Section.
- 2013 – 2014 Student Committee Member. American Association of Physical Anthropologists.

PRESENTATIONS

Invited Lectures

- 2016 Introducing *Homo naledi*. University of California, Berkeley. March 4. Berkeley CA. Invited by the Department of Anthropology.
- 2015 Introducing *Homo naledi*. University of Wisconsin–Fond du Lac. December 9. Fond du Lac WI. Invited by the Department of Anthropology to give campus-wide presentation.
- 2015 Introducing *Homo naledi*. University of Wisconsin–Oshkosh. September 28. Oshkosh WI. Invited by the Department of Anthropology.

- 2015 A Feminist Approach to human evolution: Pelvic fossils and female-specific behavior. University of Wisconsin–Oshkosh. April 3. Oshkosh WI. Invited by the Department of Anthropology as part of the WIS Women & Science Program, NSF ADVANCE Postdoctoral Seminar Program.
- 2015 Neandertal birth: A feminist biology perspective. Lindenwood University. February 26. St. Charles MO. Invited by the Gender Studies Program.

Symposium Organizer

- 2015 Organizer and chair of Executive Session: “In Search of Women in the Paleolithic”. American Anthropological Association. November 20. Denver CO.

Invited Symposium Presentations

- 2017 **VanSickle C.** Lateral iliac flare in the hominin pelvis. American Association of Physical Anthropologists. Submitted abstract. In the Invited Poster Symposium, “The Evolution of Form and Function in the Hominin Pelvis”.
- 2016 **VanSickle C.** We Discovered a New Hominin Species! When Lumpers and Splitters Agree. American Anthropological Association. November 18. Minneapolis MN. Podium. In the Executive Session, “(Re)Discovery of Evidence in Biological Anthropology: A Critical Review”.
- 2016 **VanSickle C,** Cofran ZD, Garcia-Martinez D, Williams SA, Churchill SE, Berger LR, Hawks J. Primitive pelvic features in a new species of *Homo*. American Association of Physical Anthropologists. April 16. Atlanta GA. Podium. In the Invited Podium Symposium, “Biology and context of *Homo naledi* from the Rising Star cave system, South Africa”.
- 2015 **VanSickle C.** In search of mothers in the Paleolithic. American Anthropological Association. November 20. Denver CO. Podium. In the Executive Session, “In Search of Women in the Paleolithic”.
- 2014 **VanSickle C.** Invisible females in the fossil record: Problems with reconstructing Neandertal birth from a male pelvis. Wisconsin Symposium on Feminist Biology. October 10. Madison WI. Features Speaker.

Contributed Conference Presentations or Posters

- 2016 Torres-Tamayo N, Garcia-Martinez D, Eyre J, Williams SA, Hawks J, **VanSickle C,** Bastir M. Allometry, sexual dimorphism in human ossa coxae, and its relevance for understanding human torso variation. American Association of Physical Anthropologists. Submitted abstract. New Orleans LA. Poster.

- 2015 **VanSickle C.** Can the sex of hominin pelvic fossils be assessed using methods developed for recent humans? American Association of Physical Anthropologists. March 28. St. Louis MO. Poster.
- 2014 **VanSickle C.** Examining childbirth through female Neandertal pelvic fossils. American Anthropological Association. December 4. Washington DC. Podium.
- 2013 **VanSickle C.** Identifying females among the Neandertal *os coxae* sample. American Anthropological Association. November 23. Chicago IL. Poster.
- 2013 **VanSickle C.** Variation in the Neandertal pelvis. American Association of Physical Anthropologists. April 12. Knoxville TN. Poster.
- 2013 **VanSickle C.** The variable human pelvis and its importance for interpreting Neandertal fossils. Michigan Anthropology Graduate Association's Rupture and Revival Four-Field Conference. March 23. Ann Arbor MI. Podium.
- 2012 **VanSickle C, Cofran ZD, Munnely K, and Meyer CRF.** The Ford Cranial Collection: New online resources for research and education. American Association of Physical Anthropologists. April 12. Portland OR. Poster.
- 2010 **VanSickle C.** Changing the meaning of biological anthropology. Michigan Anthropology Graduate Association's Is Boas Dead?!: Four-Field Anthropology in the 21st Century Conference. March 27. Ann Arbor MI. Podium.
- 2009 **VanSickle C.** Did Würm Neandertals really have big brains compared to modern humans? Paleoanthropology Society. April 1. Chicago IL. Poster.
- 2008 **VanSickle C.** Method for predicting inlet dimensions from fragmentary hip bone remains. Midwest Bioarchaeology and Forensic Anthropology Association. November 8. Allendale MI. Poster.

Campus Presentations

- 2016 A feminist perspective on the evolving hominin pelvis. University of Wisconsin–Madison. March 31. Madison WI. Gender and Women's Studies Distinguished Faculty Lecture Series.
- 2015 The past, present, and future of women in science. Presentation for Wisconsin Union Directorate Global Connections Afternoon Conversation Series, University of Wisconsin–Madison. December 4. Madison WI.
- 2015 Sex in the hominin fossil record: Pelvic morphology and birth. Evolution Seminar Series, University of Wisconsin–Madison. April 30. Madison WI.

- 2015 Women in human evolution: Investigating Neandertal birth. Holtz Center Brown Bag, University of Wisconsin–Madison. February 12. Madison WI.
- 2013 What to expect when a Neandertal is expecting: Recent evolution of the female pelvis. Museum of Anthropological Archaeology Brown Bag Talk, University of Michigan. April 18. Ann Arbor MI.
- 2012 Digitizing of the Ford Crania Collection. LSA Faculty Showcase and LSA Instructional Support Services Media Center Open House, University of Michigan. March 30. Ann Arbor MI.
- 2011 Evolution of childbearing hips. Four Field Graduate Talk, University of Michigan Department of Anthropology. March 25. Ann Arbor MI.

Public Presentations

- 2016 Hips don't lie: What the pelvis tells us about human evolution. Presentation at the Milwaukee Public Museum. June 16. Milwaukee WI.
- 2016 The Women Who Found *Homo naledi*. Presentation to Zonta Club of Madison. February 17. Madison WI.
- 2015 Meet *Homo naledi*. Rotary Club of Madison. December 14. Madison WI.
- 2015 Meet *Homo naledi*. Waunakee Public Library. December 8. Waunakee WI.
- 2015 Hips don't lie: What the pelvis tells us about human evolution. Presentation at Wednesday Nite @ The Lab, a public science series. December 2. Madison WI.

Educational Outreach Presentations

- 2015 Meet *Homo naledi*. Presentations at Hamilton Middle School (October 7), East High School (October 23), and Toki Middle School (November 11). Madison WI.
- 2012, 2013 Forensic Anthropology Expert. Forensics Day for high school students, Museum of Science and Industry. May 11/May10. Chicago IL.
- 2013 Anthropologists Back to School. Taught elementary school students about bioarchaeology at the Field Museum in Chicago. November 20. Chicago IL.
- 2012 Paleoanthropology Expert. Archaeology Day for middle school students, University of Michigan Museum of Anthropology (now called the University of Michigan Museum of Anthropological Archaeology). March 9. Ann Arbor MI.

RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

- 2015 Alan Alda Center for Communicating Science Summer Boot Camp. June 15-19. Stony Brook NY.
- 2013 Workshops with Center for Research on Learning and Teaching, University of Michigan: Pedagogies for Understanding Race; PowerPoint Supported by Science of Learning; Teaching Collaborative Writing.
- 2010 Virtual Paleoanthropology. Individual training with Marcia Ponce de León and Christoph Zollikofer. May.
- 2009 Forensic Bone Histology. Armed Forces Institute of Pathology. July 13-15.
- 2008 Human Gross Anatomy. School of Medicine, Wayne State University.
- 2008 Seminar in Bioarchaeology. Michigan State University. Norm Sauer. Winter semester.

SELECTED MEDIA

- 2016 Teich M, Nowakowski A. 2016, June 9. UW Anthropologist Examines Intersection Between Biology & Feminism [Radio Show]. Lake Effect, WUWM 89.7 FM, Milwaukee WI. Retrieved from: <http://wuwm.com/post/uw-anthropologist-examines-intersection-between-biology-feminism>.
- 2016 Clairborn L, Xu M. 2015, June 14. Episode 23: My (Hominin) Hips Don't Lie [Podcast]. Beyond the Microscope. Retrieved from: <http://www.scopepodcast.com/2016/06/episode-23-hominid-hips-dont-lie/>.
- 2015 Hotz RL. 2015, September 10. Remains of Humanlike Ancestors Found in South Africa. *Wall Street Journal*. Retrieved from: <http://www.wsj.com/articles/remains-of-humanlike-ancestors-found-in-south-africa-1441875600>.
- 2015 2015, September 16. UW researcher talks about discovery of new species of human ancestor [Video File]. Retrieved from: <http://www.channel3000.com/news/education/UW-researcher-talks-about-discovery-of-new-species-of-human-ancestor/35300442>.
- 2015 Sherman C. 2015, June 20. Meet Caroline VanSickle: Feminist Biologist. *Ms. Magazine Blog*. Retrieved from: <http://msmagazine.com/blog/2015/07/20/meet-caroline-vansickle-feminist-biologist/>.

2014

Stack Whitney K. 2014, December 4. Dr. Caroline VanSickle & Feminist Biology [Radio Show]. Perpetual Notion Machine, WORT 89.9 FM, Madison WI. Retrieved from: <http://www.wortfm.org/caroline-vansickle/>.

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