

Isabel Heslin

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Curriculum vitae January 2026

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Paleoanthropology, Palaeoecology, Human Evolution, Dietary Reconstruction, Quantitative methods, Paleoenvironmental Reconstruction, Evolutionary Anthropology, 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 Paleoarchaeology*

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

- Taught three sections of ANTH 121 Human Origins and Variation Laboratory

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Hominin Paleoecology Lab | Colorado State University

August 2024 - *Ongoing*

Lab Advisor: Dr. Andrew Du

- Investigating questions relating to hominin paleoecology from a quantitative perspective

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

Summer 2025

HOMER Project in Mzimba, Kasitu Valley, Malawi

Summer 2024

Project Investigator: Dr. Jessica Thompson

Position: Research Assistant

- Organization of online and physical archaeological materials at the National Repository of Malawi
- Mentoring undergraduate students in archaeological data collection and museum curation techniques
- Data collection: lithics, animal bones, iron slag/ore, pottery
- Database management: Microsoft Access

Paleoarchaeology Lab Technician (Level 2) | Yale University

January 2023- 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

Museum Collections Assistant | Yale Peabody Museum

March 2023 - May 2024

Museum Curator: 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
- Artifact photography

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

Summer 2023

HOMER Project in Mzimba, Kasitu Valley, Malawi

Project Director: Dr. Jessica Thompson

- 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

Bullow 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

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 Raubenheimer. - “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 Raubenheimer - “Evolutionary Nutritional Transitions”

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/>

PRESENTATIONS

“Is Bigger Better? How Animal Body Size Shapes Nutrition and Implications for Early Human Diets” (Heslin et al.) poster presented at the **Graduate Student Showcase**, hosted at Colorado State University on November 19, 2025

“Bigger is Not Better: Unexpected Relationship Between Prey Body Size and Macronutrient Composition in Eastern African Mammals” (Heslin et al.) poster presented at the **Paleoanthropology Society Conference**, hosted in Denver, Colorado, April 22, 2025 <https://isabelheslin.com/paleos-poster-2025/>

“Bigger is Not Better: Unexpected Relationship Between Prey Body Size and Macronutrient Composition in Eastern African Mammals” (Heslin et al.) poster presented at the **Rocky Mountain Biological Anthropology Association Conference**, hosted at University of Colorado Boulder, October 5, 2025

“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

HONORS & AWARDS

2019 - 2021 | **Lehigh University** Dean's List

2021 | **Lehigh University** University's Honors

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Graduate Student Teaching Assistant | Colorado State University Spring 2025 - *Current*

- Visiting local schools to teach about anthropology and geography
- Facilitating outreach programs and building new activities

Guest Speaker at The Craig School | Mountain Lakes, New Jersey January 2026

- Introduction to archaeology for elementary school, grade 4

Harris Elementary Steam Night | Colorado State University March 2025

- 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
- Met with local collaborators on how to best preserve archaeological sites

Summer 2024

Guest Speaker at The Craig School | Mountain Lakes, New Jersey

February 2024

- Introduction to archaeology for elementary school, grades 2-5

SERVICE

Anthropology Graduate Student Society

Current

Position: Graduate Student Affairs Representative

Biological Anthropology Reading Forum | Colorado State University

Current

Position: Journal Club Organizer

SKILLS

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

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

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

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

SOCIETY MEMBERSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS

Rocky Mountain Biological Anthropology Association (RMBAA)

Colorado Council of Professional Archaeologists (CCPA)

Society of Africanist Archaeologists (SAfA)

Society for American Archaeology (SAA)

Paleoanthropology Society