

# W. Andrew Barr - Curriculum Vitae

Center for the Advanced Study of Human Paleobiology  
Department of Anthropology  
The George Washington University

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## Education

- 2014 University of Texas at Austin. Ph.D., Anthropology. *The Paleoenvironments of Early Hominins in the Omo Shungura Formation (Plio-Pleistocene, Ethiopia): Synthesizing Multiple Lines of Evidence Using Phylogenetic Ecomorphology.*
- 2008 University of Texas at Austin. M.A., Anthropology.
- 2005 Tulane University. B.S., Anthropology and French.

## Academic Appointments

- 2016 - Present Visiting Assistant Professor. Center for the Advanced Study of Human Paleobiology. Department of Anthropology. The George Washington University.
- 2014 - 2016 Postdoctoral Scientist. Center for the Advanced Study of Human Paleobiology. Department of Anthropology. The George Washington University. Advisor: Bernard Wood.
- 2014 - Present Research Associate. Department of Paleobiology. National Museum of Natural History.

## Research Grants and Fellowships

- 2013 Named Continuing Fellowship - University of Texas at Austin Graduate School. \$29,000.
- 2012 Dissertation Fieldwork Grant - Wenner-Gren Foundation. \$13,317.
- 2007 Graduate Research Fellowship - National Science Foundation. \$90,000.
- 2007 Liberal Arts Graduate Research Fellowship - University of Texas at Austin. \$1,800.

## Peer-Reviewed Publications

- In review Blondel C, Rowan J, Merceron G, Bibi F, Negash E, **Barr WA**, Boisserie JR. Feeding ecology of Tragelaphini (Bovidae) from the Shungura Formation, Omo Valley, Ethiopia: contribution of dental wear analyses. In review at *Palaeogeography, Palaeoclimatology, Palaeoecology*.
- In review Kemp A and **Barr WA**. Rates of homoplasy vary among regions of the mammalian skeleton. In review at *Journal of Human Evolution*.
- In press **Barr WA**. *Ecomorphology*. To be published in D.A. Croft, S.W. Simpson, and D.F. Su (eds.), *Methods in Paleocology: Reconstructing Cenozoic Terrestrial Environments and Ecological Communities*. Springer (Vertebrate Paleobiology and Paleoanthropology Series), Cham, Switzerland.
- In press Reed, DN, **Barr WA**, Kappelman J. PaleoCore: an open-source platform for geospatial data integration in paleoanthropology. To be published in Anemone R, Conroy G (eds.), *New Geospatial Approaches in Anthropology*. University of New Mexico Press. Albuquerque, NM.
- 2017 **Barr WA**. Signal or noise? A null model method for testing hypotheses about pulsed faunal turnover. *Paleobiology*. Online Early View. [doi:10.1017/pab.2017.21](https://doi.org/10.1017/pab.2017.21)

- 2017 **Barr WA.** Bovid locomotor functional trait distributions reflect land cover and annual precipitation in sub-Saharan Africa. *Evolutionary Ecology Research*. 18:253-269.
- 2015 **Barr WA.** Paleoenvironments of the Shungura Formation (Plio-Pleistocene: Ethiopia) based on ecomorphology of the bovid astragalus. *Journal of Human Evolution*. 88:97-107. doi:10.1016/j.jhevol.2015.05.002
- 2015 Reed D, **Barr WA**, McPherron S, Bobe R, Geraads D, Wynn J, Alemseged Z. Digital Data Collection in Paleoanthropology. *Evolutionary Anthropology*. 24:238-249. doi:10.1002/evan.21466
- 2015 Thompson JC, McPherron S, Bobe R, Reed DN, **Barr WA**, Wynn J, Marean CW, Geraads D, Alemseged Z. Taphonomy of fossils from the hominin-bearing deposits at Dikika, Ethiopia. *Journal of Human Evolution*. 86:112-135. doi:10.1016/j.jhevol.2015.06.013
- 2014 **Barr WA.** Functional Morphology of the Bovid Astragalus In Relation To Habitat: Controlling Phylogenetic Signal In Ecomorphology. *Journal of Morphology*. 275:1201-1216. doi:10.1002/jmor.20279
- 2014 **Barr WA** and Scott RS. Phylogenetic comparative methods complement discriminant function analysis in ecomorphology. *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*. 153:663-674. doi:10.1002/ajpa.22462
- 2014 Scott RS and **Barr WA.** Ecomorphology and phylogenetic risk: implications for habitat reconstruction using fossil bovids. *Journal of Human Evolution*. 73:47-57. doi:10.1016/j.jhevol.2014.02.023
- 2010 Reed DN, and **Barr WA.** A preliminary account of the rodents from Pleistocene levels at Grotte des Contrebandiers (Smuggler's Cave), Morocco. *Historical Biology*. 22:286-294. doi:10.1080/08912960903562192

## Honors and Awards

- 2015 Travel Grant - Paleoanthropology Society for meetings in Calgary. \$500.
- 2013 Pollitzer Student Travel Award - American Association of Physical Anthropologists. \$500.
- 2008 - 2011 Professional Development Award - Department of Anthropology, University of Texas at Austin.
- 2007 Student Prize - Texas Association of Biological Anthropologists.

## Fieldwork

- 2014 - Present Mille-Logya Research Project, Afar Region, Ethiopia (Plio-Pleistocene). I conduct field research to recover new fossils and to understand the environmental and ecological context of human evolution in this region.
- 2016 Koobi-Fora Field School, East Turkana, Kenya. I collected fossil data relating to sub-regional faunal variability in the Koobi Fora Formation from 2.0 - 1.4 Ma. I supervised four undergraduate student research projects that were organized around this topic.
- 2013 - 2014 Great Divide Basin Project, Wyoming. Collected primate and mammalian fossils from Eocene sediments, and prospected for new localities.
- 2010, 2012 Dikika Research Project, Afar Region, Ethiopia. Surface collection of Plio- Pleistocene hominin and mammalian fossils. Managed GIS data collection with hand-held computers and high-precision GPS base station.
- 2007, 2008, 2010 Dalquest Research Site, Big Bend Region, Texas. Surface collected primate and mammalian fossils in the Devil's Graveyard Formation. (Eocene: Late Uintan).
- 2009 Contrebandiers Cave, Temara, Morocco. Excavated site preserving Middle Stone Age archaeology (Aterian) and hominin remains. Performed systematic analysis of rodent fauna.

## Synergistic Activities

- 2015 - Present External Member. Evolution of Terrestrial Ecosystems Working Group. National Museum of Natural History.
- 2012 - Present Research Associate and Software Developer. PaleoCore Project. I am a key member of this NSF Funded project, which aims to create a data-standard for physical anthropology. I contributed heavily to the development of PaleoCore informatics tools for data sharing.

## Scholarly Presentations

### Invited Talks, Symposia, Workshops

- 2017 Invited workshop instructor. Topic: *Data Analysis, Visualization, and Comparative Methods in R*. February 16-17. University of North Carolina - Greensboro.
- 2015 Invited participant in symposium entitled: *Latest methods in reconstructing Cenozoic terrestrial environments and ecological communities*. September 10 - 12. Cleveland Museum of Natural History.
- 2014 Invited participant in symposium entitled: *The Role of Mosaic Habitats in Hominin Evolution*. Annual Meeting of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists. Calgary, Alberta.

### Published Abstracts from Conference Presentations

\*indicates undergraduate under my supervision

- 2017 **Barr WA**. Bovid locomotor traits track land cover and mean annual precipitation: using an ecometric approach to reconstruct paleoenvironments in the Shungura Formation (Plio-Pleistocene, Ethiopia). American Association of Physical Anthropology.
- 2017 Llera C\*, Benitez L\*, Biernat M\*, Braun DR, Hammond AS, Patterson DB, and **Barr WA**. Subregion-scale heterogeneity in bovid abundance in the Koobi Fora Formation (Pleistocene, Northern Kenya). American Association of Physical Anthropology.
- 2017 Thompson B, Arenson J, Biernat M\*, **Barr WA**, Reeves J, Braun DR and Hammond AS. A preliminary study of primate abundance in East Turkana collection areas relative to outcrop size. American Association of Physical Anthropology.
- 2017 Enny A\*, Biernat M\*, Braun DR, Reda W\*, Hammond AS, Patterson DB and **Barr WA**. Exploring the impact of collection strategies on interpretations of faunal abundance: a case study from the Koobi Fora Formation (Pleistocene, northern Kenya). American Association of Physical Anthropology.
- 2017 Benitez L\*, Llera\* C, Biernat M\*, Braun DR, Hammond AS, Patterson DB, **Barr WA**. The Implications of Faunal Abundance for Pleistocene Paleoenvironments in the Turkana Basin, Northern Kenya. Paleoanthropology Society.
- 2016 **Barr WA**. Signal or noise? Testing hypotheses about faunal turnover. Paleoanthropology Society.
- 2015 **Barr WA** and Dunn RH. A method for analyzing complex joint surfaces in ecomorphology using slope rasters derived from Digital Elevation Models. American Association of Physical Anthropology.
- 2015 Thompson JC, McPherron SP, Bobe R, **Barr WA**, Reed D, Wynn J, Marean CW, and Alemseged Z. Taphonomy of fossils from the hominin-bearing deposits at Dikika, Ethiopia. Paleoanthropology Society.
- 2014 **Barr WA**. Paleoenvironments of the Hadar and Shungura Formations: Synthesizing multiple lines of evidence using bovid ecomorphology. American Association of Physical Anthropology.

- 2014 Kemp A and **Barr WA**. Rates of homoplasy in the mammalian skeleton. *American Association of Physical Anthropology*.
- 2013 **Barr WA**. Ecomorphology of the bovid astragalus: body size, function, phylogeny and paleoenvironmental reconstruction. *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*. 150:74.
- 2012 **Barr WA**. Ecomorphology in a phylogenetic statistical context: a case study using the bovid femur. *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*. 147:90-91.
- 2012 Scott RS and **Barr WA**. Ecomorphology and phylogeny among the Bovidae: implications for habitat reconstruction. *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*.
- 2012 Kappelman JK, Keane P, Reed D, Tenbarger J, Witzel A, **Barr WA**, Nachman BA, Russo GA. eFossils.org: a collaborative website and community database for the study of human evolution. *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*.
- 2011 Reed DN, McPherron S, **Barr WA**, Alemseged Z, Bobe R, Geraads D, and Wynn J. A new GPS data collection methodology and data schema for integrating multiple project databases: examples from the Dikika Research Project geodatabase. *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*. 144:249-250.
- 2009 **Barr WA**, Reed DN. Coping with taxonomic ambiguity and inter-observer variation in paleontological and paleoanthropological analyses. *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*. 144:249-250.
- 2009 Toborowsky CJ, **Barr WA**, Lewis, RJ. Does environmental unpredictability drive lemur life histories? *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*.
- 2008 **Barr WA**. The effects of allometric scaling patterns on the template method for estimating dimorphism. *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*.

### Scholarly Presentations Without Published Abstracts

- 2013 **Barr WA**, Nachman B, Shapiro L. The Academic Phylogeny of Physical Anthropology. Annual Meetings of the Texas Association for Biological Anthropologists. Austin, TX.
- 2013 Reed D, **Barr WA**, Urban T. Free as in speech and beer: open source software solutions for spatial data management in physical anthropology. Annual Meetings of the Texas Association for Biological Anthropologists. Austin, TX.
- 2012 **Barr WA**. Refining hominin paleoenvironmental reconstructions using bovid ecomorphology: the role of phylogenetic comparative methods. Presentation at University of Texas at Austin Paleontology Brown-Bag Seminar Series.
- 2012 **Barr WA**. Refining hominin paleoenvironmental reconstructions with bovid ecomorphology. Presentation at University of Texas at Austin Informal Physical Anthropology Seminar series.
- 2011 **Barr WA**. Ecomorphology in a phylogenetic statistical context: a case study using the bovid femur. Annual Meetings of Texas Association for Biological Anthropologists. San Marcos, TX.
- 2010 **Barr WA**. Pattern or chaos? Exploring a null model of faunal turnover patterns. Annual Meetings of Texas Association for Biological Anthropologists. Waco, TX.
- 2010 **Barr WA**. Quantitative ecomorphology of mammalian dentitions: Refining a tool for reconstructing early hominin paleoenvironments. Presentation at University of Texas at Austin Informal Physical Anthropology Seminar series.
- 2008 **Barr WA**. Coping with taxonomic ambiguity and inter-observer variation in paleontological and paleoanthropological analyses. Annual Meetings of Texas Association for Biological Anthropologists. College Station, TX.
- 2007 **Barr WA**. The effects of allometric scaling patterns on the template method for estimating dimorphism. Annual Meetings of Texas Association for Biological Anthropologists. Austin, TX.

## Courses Taught

*Introduction to Biological Anthropology.* ANTH 1001. Undergraduate survey of the field of biological anthropology. The George Washington University, Anthropology. Taught Fall 2016, Spring 2017.

*Analytical Methods in Evolutionary Anthropology.* ANTH 6413. I designed this graduate course covering applied statistical methods (e.g, regression, ANOVA and related techniques, categorical data analysis, resampling approaches) and the R statistical programming language. This is a required course for the Hominid Paleobiology PhD program. The George Washington University, Anthropology. Taught Spring 2015, Fall 2016.

*Climate Change and Human Evolution.* ANTH 3491. I designed this upper level undergraduate course covering changes in global climate through evolutionary time and the impacts on evolution, with an emphasis on humans. The George Washington University, Anthropology. Taught Spring 2016, Spring 2017.

*Public Understanding of Science.* HOMP 8302. Graduate course in which students complete semester-long public service internships. Student projects target underserved Washington, DC-area public schools and general audiences at public museums with a goal of increasing scientific literacy and creating interest in scientific careers. The George Washington University, Anthropology. Taught Spring 2016.

*GIS and Remote Sensing for Archaeology and Paleontology.* ANT 391 / GRG 396. Teaching Assistant. University of Texas at Austin, Anthropology. 2010.

*Human Variation.* ANT 394C. Teaching Assistant. University of Texas at Austin, Anthropology. 2009.

*Introduction to Physical Anthropology.* ANT 301. Teaching Assistant. University of Texas at Austin, Anthropology. 2006, 2007, 2010, 2011, 2012.

## Student Advising

### PhD students, committee member

2017	Chrisandra Kufeldt (The George Washington University)
2016	David Patterson (The George Washington University)
In progress	Laurence Dumouchel (The George Washington University)
In progress	Vance Powell (The George Washington University)

### Undergraduate Assistants

2016 - 2017	Maryse Biernat (Stockton University)
2016 - 2017	Elliot Greiner (The George Washington University)

### Koobi Fora Field School Students

2016	Lorena Benitez (Harvard University)
2016	Alyssa Enny (Stockton University)
2016	Catherine Llera (University of Florida)
2016	Weldeyared Reda (Aksum University, Ethiopia)

## Professional Service

- 2017 Webmaster, Center for the Advanced Study of Human Paleobiology. I maintain the website and mailing list for our research center.
- 2014 - 2015 Coordinator, Capstone Seminar - Coordinated speakers and organize the academic program for this departmental seminar in the Center for the Advanced Study of Human Paleobiology at The George Washington University.
- 2013 - present [Academic Phylogeny of Physical Anthropology](#) - In collaboration with Liza Shapiro and Brett Nachman, I created this website as a public resource that tracks academic lineages of Physical Anthropology PhDs. The site has had over 2200 user submissions.
- 2008 Reviewer - University of Texas Liberal Arts Graduate Research Fellowship. Evaluated grant proposals from students competing for \$50,000 in grant funds.

## Public Outreach and Science Communication

- 2017 *Survivors: What Fossils Tell Us About the Past and Future*. I answered questions for the general public at the National Museum of Natural History as part of the 30th anniversary celebration of the Evolution of Terrestrial Ecosystems program, of which I am a member.
- 2016 - Present [Faces of Fieldwork](#) - I launched this website to show the general public a more personal face of scientific fieldwork. Features weekly photographic posts highlighting the good, the bad, and the ugly of real people doing real research.
- 2014-2015 Volunteer, Explore UT - University wide K-12 educational open house. Helped organize and run activity "Leaping Lemurs of Madagascar" on locomotion and conservation of lemurs.

## Media Coverage

- 2017 Online coverage of *Signal or noise? A null model method for testing hypotheses about pulsed faunal turnover* in [Science Daily](#), [phys.org](#), [GW Today](#) and others.
- 2017 Feature on [theguardian.com](#) highlighting several contributors to Faces of Fieldwork.
- 2015 *GWU aims to be among top research schools*. [Washington Post](#).

## Manuscript Reviews

- 2014, 2015, 2017 Journal of Human Evolution
- 2017 Comptes Rendus Palevol
- 2016 Nature Ecology & Evolution
- 2014 International Journal of Primatology
- 2012 Methods in Ecology and Evolution
- 2012 Manning Publications (book proposal review)

## Professional Memberships

- American Association of Physical Anthropologists
- Paleoanthropology Society