

Andreana S. Cunningham

Areas of Specialty: Interdisciplinary anthropology, African diaspora, migration history
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PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Boston University

Sept. 2023 – present *Affiliated Faculty*, Center for Innovation in Social Science
August 2023 – present *Joint Programmatic Appointment*, African American & Black Diaspora Studies Program
August 2023 – present *Joint Programmatic Appointment*, Archaeology Program
July 2023 – present *Assistant Professor*, Department of Anthropology

University of Miami

August 2021 – Dec. 2021 *Lecturer*, University of Miami, Anthropology

University of Florida

August 2017 – July 2022 *Graduate Research Fellow*, National Science Foundation
August 2016 – May 2020 *Graduate Student Fellow*, University of Florida Graduate School

EDUCATION

PhD in Anthropology University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32603
April 2018 – Aug. 2023
Doctoral Program in Biological Anthropology
Dissertation Title: *Reframing Diaspora: Southeastern African contributions to biosocial variation in Atlantic Afro-descendant groups*
Dissertation Committee Chair: Dr. Valerie Burke DeLeon
Date of PhD Candidacy: October 21, 2019
Date of PhD Defense: June 23, 2023

M.A. in Anthropology University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32603
Aug. 2016 – March 2018
Doctoral Program in Biological Anthropology
Thesis Committee Chair: Dr. Valerie Burke DeLeon
Thesis Title: *Hyoid morphological diversity across ontogeny, sex, and matriline in Macaca mulatta*

B.A., *cum laude* University of Miami, Coral Gables, FL 33146
Aug. 2012 – May 2016
Anthropology and Criminology, Civic Scholar

SCHOLARLY RESEARCH

Peer-reviewed Publications

In Press. Cunningham, A.S. (2024). St. Helena and stories of biosociality. *Wirebird: The Journal of the Friends of St. Helena*.

Shuler K.A., **Cunningham, A.S.** (2024). African Diasporas: Bioarchaeological Approaches to Intercontinental and Global Legacies of Displacement. *Journal of African Diaspora Archaeology and Heritage*, 1-46.
doi:10.1080/21619441.2024.2406652.

Cunningham A.S. (2024). Postmortem Racialization: Reconceptualizing Frantz Fanon's Black Subject. *Transforming Anthropology*, 32(1), 27-38.

Dwyer I., Justinvil, D., **Cunningham, A.S.** (2023). Caribbeanist casualties: Examining the Intersections of Migration and Forensic Identification through Critical Biocultural Approaches to Structural Violence. *Forensic Science International: Synergy*, 6.

Cunningham A.S. (2020). Growth and sexual dimorphism of the hyoid body in *Macaca mulatta*. *International Journal of Primatology*, 41(3), 538-557.

Articles/Chapters in Preparation

In Prep. Cunningham, A.S. (2025). Atlantic Crossings: Biosocial interventions in African diasporic bioarchaeological thought and practice. In Rachel Watkins and Sheela Athreya (Eds.), *American Journal of Biological Anthropology* (Special Issue).

In Revision. Cunningham, A.S. (2024). The journey toward equitable bioarchaeological research practices in the South Atlantic. In Felicia Fricke and Eduardo Herrera Malatesta (Eds.), *Ethics in Caribbean Archaeology: Past, Present, and Future*. University Press of Florida.

RESEARCH PROJECTS

Summer 2024 – present

Anthropology Teaching Collection Curation Project (ATCCP)

- Project Coordinators: Andreana Cunningham, Samantha Kelley
- Lead inventory and database creation, research and implement collection standards, train students in project tasks and facilitate independent research opportunities

Spring 2022 – present

Rupert's Valley Burial Ground Project

- Site: Jamestown, St. Helena
- Project Contacts: Dr. Rebecca Cairns-Wicks, Helena Bennett
- Coordinate and lead project of morphological data collection, heritage preservation, historical facial approximation, and ongoing community outreach

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Boston University, Department of Anthropology
Assistant Professor

(2023-present)

Anthropology 287 Slavery and the In-Between
Anthropology 301 African Diaspora Archaeology
Anthropology/Archaeology 550 Human Osteology
Anthropology/Archaeology 357 Bioarchaeology and the Body

University of Florida, Department of Anthropology
Instructor

(2017-2022)

Anthropology 4905 Slavery and the In-Between
Anthropology 4525 Human Osteology and Osteometry

Teaching Assistant

Anthropology 4525/5525 Human Osteology and Osteometry
Interdisciplinary Studies 2935 Becoming Black

University of Miami, Department of Anthropology
Instructor

(2021)

Anthropology 101 Introduction to Anthropology

TRAININGS AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

2023 – 2024	Boston University D&I STARS (Supporting Thriving, Achievement, Retention, and Success)
2023	SAA Seminar: Teaching Curation in the Classroom and in the Field
2021	Facial Reconstruction Advanced Course
2021	Facial Reconstruction Fundamentals Course

FUNDING

Awarded Funds

2023	Boston University, Hub Course Enhancement Fund
2022	University of Florida College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Dissertation Fellowship
2021	“Doctoral Dissertation Research: Morphological biodistances as indicators of slave trade migration histories in the African Diaspora” NSF BCS-2041182 Role: Co-Principal Investigator (PI: Valerie Burke DeLeon)
2020	University of Florida Department of Anthropology Travel Grant
2020	University of Florida Office of Research Travel Grant
2019	James C. Waggoner Grant-in-Aid Research Award
2019	University of Florida College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Graduate Travel Award

2017-2022	National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program
	Research featured in UF Explore magazine
2018	Graduate Student Council Travel Grant
2017	Graduate Student Council Travel Grant
2016-2020	University of Florida Graduate Student Fellowship

Pending Grant Proposals

2024	“Memories without memorials: Digitally recovering the narratives of a nation at North Burial Ground (Providence, RI)” American Council of Learn Societies (ACLS) Digital Justice Development Grant Role: Co-Principal Investigator (PI: Jordi Rivera Prince)
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HONORS AND AWARDS

2023	Selected for induction to the Edward A. Bouchet Graduate Honor Society
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CONFERENCES (* = invited)

Conference Presentations

*Cunningham, A.S. Elucidating processes of objectification, contestation, and repair for African diasporic burial spaces. Abstract submitted for invited session, “Landscapes of death: Placemaking and postmortem agencies,” at 2025 SAA annual conference, Denver.

*Wesp, J.K., **Cunningham, A.S.** Kindred Beings: Entwining biodata of African Diaspora populations in Latin America. Abstract submitted for invited session, “Exercising Freedoms: Historical Archaeology of the African Diaspora in Latin America,” at 2025 SAA annual conference, Denver.

*Rivera Prince, J.A., Bryson, E.B., **Cunningham, A.S.**, Dwyer, I.S., Summers, SS. *What comes next? Collective experiences on translating theory to praxis in modern bioarchaeology*. Paper presented at the American Anthropological Association annual conference, Tampa.

Fricke, F.J., Herrera Malatesta, E., de Waal, M., Aguasvivas, M., Ammerlaan, L., Chiappa, O., **Cunningham, A.S.**, Farmer, K., van Litsenburg, Z., kok, m., Seferidou, E., and Victorina, A. (2024). *An informal network for ethically engaged researchers in Caribbean archaeology*. Paper presented at the International Association for Caribbean Archaeology biannual conference, Nevis.

Cunningham, A.S. (2024). *Women in captivity: Subversion and kinship in the mid-19th century South Atlantic*. Paper presented at the New York University Atlantic History Conference, New York.

*Cunningham, A.S. (2024). *3D skeletal digitization as a tool for collaborative artistic commemoration*. Poster presented at the Society for American Archaeology annual conference, New Orleans.

Cunningham, A.S., de la Cova, C.M. (2024). *Fraught (re)conceptions: Diasporic decedents and paths to commemoration*. Published abstract for the American Association of Biological Anthropologists annual conference, Los Angeles.

Cunningham, A.S., Shuler, K.A. (2022). *Biocultural interpretations of skeletal and archival indicators of health in enslavement in Barbados*. Published abstract for the American Association of Biological Anthropologists annual conference, Denver.

Cunningham, A.S. (2021). *Positioning enslaved persons in 19th century Barbados fugitive slave advertisements*. Poster presented at the University of Florida Graduate Student Diversity Research Symposium, virtual.

DeLeon, V.B., **Cunningham, A.S.**, Haynes, L., Smith, T.D. (2021). *Effects of nasal capsule cartilage in shaping the primate face*. Published abstract for the American Association of Physical Anthropologists annual conference, virtual.

Cunningham, A.S. (2020). *Geographic distance from central slave trade ports as a measure of cranial morphological similarity between Barbados and the United States*. Published abstract for the American Association of Physical Anthropologists annual conference. (Conference canceled)

Cunningham, A.S. (2019). *Cranial morphological distribution of African descent peoples as reflectors of migration, variation, and race construction*. Paper presented at the International Association for Caribbean Archaeology biannual conference, Barbados.

Cunningham, A.S., DeLeon, V.B. (2019). *Patterns of cranial morphological diversity among peoples of African descent*. Published abstract for the American Association of Physical Anthropologists annual conference, Cleveland.

Cunningham A. S., DeLeon, V.B. (2018). *Morphological integration of hyoid and skull through ontogeny in *Macaca mulatta**. Published abstract for the American Association of Physical Anthropologists annual conference, Austin.

Cunningham A. S., Smith, T. D., & DeLeon, V.B. (2017). *Hyoid proportions, growth, and spatial placement in non-human primates*. Published abstract for the American Association of Physical Anthropologists annual conference, New Orleans.

Cunningham, A. S., Hunt, D. R., & Coolidge, R. H. (2016). *Biocultural evidence through taphonomic observations in the Karluk Salmon Cannery Chinese of Kodiak Island, Alaska*. Published abstract for the American Association of Physical Anthropologists annual conference, Atlanta.

Cunningham, A. S., Hunt, D. R., & Coolidge, R. H. (2016). *Analyzing the patterns of health, trauma, and disease in 19th century Chinese salmon cannery workers in Kodiak Island, AK*. Published abstract for the Paleopathology Association annual conference, Atlanta.

(Conference poster PDFs and papers available [here](#))

Conference Sessions Organized

2024 “Beyond Bones, Bodies, and Behavior: Shifting the Disciplinary Landscape towards Biocultural Bodies” Session Organizer and Chair (with Isis Dwyer and Delande Justinvil), 93rd Annual Meeting of the American Association of Biological Anthropologists

INVITED LECTURES

Fall 2024
Guest Speaker
Department of Anthropology, Brandeis University
Brandeis University Department of Anthropology Fall 2024 Colloquium Series
-Lecture Title: "Reframes and Refusals: Toward biosocial theory and practice in African diaspora studies"

- Fall 2024
Guest Speaker Epsilon Eta Fraternity, Boston University
-Lecture Title: “Between enslavement and freedom: Interdisciplinary approaches to African diaspora studies”
- Fall 2024
Guest Speaker Department of Anthropology, Brown University
-Brown University Anthropology Department Fall 2024 Colloquium Series
-Lecture Title: “Positioning Black decedents: Changing theory and practice in African diaspora studies”
- Fall 2024
Guest Speaker Department of Anthropology, Harvard University
-Harvard University Archaeology Program Fall 2024 Speaker Series
-Lecture Title: “Between enslavement and freedom: Biosocial approaches to sites of the 19th century Black Atlantic
- Fall 2024
Guest Speaker Department of Anthropology, University of Kentucky
- UKY Department of Anthropology Fall 2024 Colloquium Series
- Lecture Title: “Stories of biosociality: Diasporic connections across the 19th century British slave trade”
- Fall 2023
Guest Speaker Tertulia: The Junior Faculty Colloquium, Boston University College of Arts & Sciences
-Lecture Title: “Interdisciplinary approaches to studying group formation and change in 19th century enslavement contexts”
- Fall 2023
Guest Speaker Museum of St. Helena, St. Helena
-Dissertation findings community public talk
-Lecture Title: “St. Helena and the African diaspora: An interdisciplinary approach”
- Fall 2022
Guest Speaker Institute of Learning in Retirement, Oak Hammock
- Summer 2022 Speaker Series
- Lecture Title: “St. Helena and the Slave Trade: What we can learn from this remote island”
- Summer 2022
Guest Speaker Museum of St. Helena, St. Helena
- Fieldwork community public talk
- Lecture Title: “Biocultural approaches to slave trade migration history”
- Fall 2021
Facilitator Digital Library of the Caribbean (Virtual)
- “Exploring the Caribbean in DH: A dLOC as Data workshop series”
- Lecture Title: “Text analyses of fugitive slave advertisements in Barbados”
- Fall 2020
Guest Speaker Department of Anthropology, University of Arkansas (Virtual)
- “Paradigm in Biological Anthropology” speaker series
- Lecture Title: “Cranial variation and the slave trade: Group formation and change”
- Spring 2020
Guest Speaker Department of Anthropology, University of Miami
- 50th Anniversary of Department of Anthropology speaker series
- Lecture Title: “Cranial biodistances as reflectors of slave trade migration histories”
- Fall 2019
Guest Speaker Institute of Learning in Retirement, Oak Hammock
- Summer 2019 Speaker Series
- Lecture Title: “Impacts of slave trade migration on cranial diversity”

Course Guest Lectures

Fall 2024	Forensic Anthropology MA Program, Boston University -History, Method, and Theory in Biological Anthropology -Lecture Title: “Biosocial interventions and refusals in African diaspora theory and practice”
Fall 2024	Department of Anthropology, Wellesley College -Forensic Anthropology undergraduate course -Lecture Title: “Troubling Data: Journeys in slave trade migration thought and practice”
Spring 2024	Department of Anthropology, Brown University -Intersectional Anthropology undergraduate course (Virtual)
Spring 2024	Department of Anthropology, Boston University -Anthropology Across Sub-Disciplines graduate course
Spring 2024	Department of Sociology, Boston University -Migration and Immigration Enforcement in the United States course -Lecture Title: “Archival migration data in enslavement contexts: methods and possibilities”
Fall 2023	Department of Anthropology, Boston University -North American Archaeology course -Lecture Title: “Interdisciplinary approaches to African diasporic archaeology”
Fall 2023	Department of Anatomy & Neurobiology, Boston University - History, Method, and Theory in Biological Anthropology course - Lecture Title: “Reflexivity as a tool for ethical study of enslavement contexts”
Fall 2020	Department of Math & Science Education, University of Georgia (Virtual) - Special Topics in Science Education: Life Sciences for Middle Grades Teachers course
Spring 2019	Department of Anthropology, University of Florida - Lectured on ‘Human Variation’ unit in Introduction to Biological Anthropology course

SERVICE

Institutional

Fall 2024 – present	BU Department of Anthropology, <i>D&I Committee</i>
Fall 2024	BU Department of History, <i>Faculty Search Committee Member</i>
Fall 2024	BU African American & Black Diaspora Studies, <i>CAS Ad Hoc Committee Member</i>
Fall 2024	BU African American & Black Diaspora Studies, <i>Curriculum Committee</i>
Spring 2024 – present	Coalition for Caribbean Archaeological Heritage, <i>Working Group Member</i>
Spring 2024 – Fall 2026	Black in Biological Anthropology Collective, <i>Board of Directors</i>
Spring 2024	BU Center for Innovation in Social Sciences (CISS), <i>Writing Group Coordinator</i>
Fall 2023 – Spring 2024	BU Department of Anthropology, <i>Emerging Scholars Organizing Committee</i>

Fall 2023 – present	BU Archaeology Program, <i>Curriculum Committee</i>
Summer 2020 – Spring 2023	Black in Biological Anthropology Collective, <i>Operations Coordinator</i>
Spring 2022 – Summer 2022	International Association for Caribbean Archaeology, <i>Ethics Working Group Member</i>
Spring 2021	AAPA 2021 Annual Meeting, <i>Assistant Session Chair</i>
Fall 2020	UF BIPOC Anthropology Group, <i>Mentorship Program Coordinator</i>
Spring 2020	UF Department of Anthropology, <i>Undergraduate Mentor</i>
Spring 2019	AAPA Committee on Diversity Undergraduate Research Symposium, <i>Mentor</i>
Spring 2019	UF Department of Anthropology, <i>Faculty Search Committee (Internal), Graduate Student Member</i>
Fall 2018 – Spring 2019	UF Department of Anthropology, <i>Faculty Search Committee Graduate Student Member</i>
Spring 2018	Graduate Assistants United, <i>Election Committee Co-chair</i>
Fall 2017 – Spring 2018	Florida Anthropological Student Association (FASA), <i>Graduate Student Council Representative</i>
Spring 2017 – Spring 2018	Graduate Assistants United, <i>Anthropology Department Steward</i>
Community	
Fall 2023 – Spring 2024	Stata Cultural Heritage Implementation Committee, <i>Consulting Member</i>
Fall 2022 – present	St. Helena National Trust, <i>Facial Approximation Outreach Project Coordinator</i>
Fall 2019 – Fall 2022	Institute of Learning in Retirement, <i>Guest Speaker Recruiter</i> , Gainesville, FL
Fall 2016 – Fall 2022	Guardian Ad Litem, <i>8th Circuit Volunteer and State Diversity Committee Member</i> , Gainesville, FL
Spring 2020 – Summer 2020	Skype a Scientist, <i>Recurring Guest Speaker (Virtual)</i> , Gainesville, FL
Fall 2019 – Spring 2020	Letters to a Pre-Scientist, <i>Pen Pal (Distance)</i> , Gainesville, FL
Fall 2014 – Summer 2021	Memory Project, <i>Portrait Coordinator (Distance)</i> , Middleton, WI

PANELS

Spring 2025	BU Archaeology Society “Professor Perspectives on Ethical Practices in Archaeology”
Fall 2024	Anthropology in the Works “Meet the Professors” faculty panel
Fall 2024	Served on two BU Department of Anthropology cover letter workshop faculty panels
Fall 2018 – Fall 2020	Served on four Graduate Student Panels organized by the Undergraduate Florida Anthropological Student Association (uFASA)
Fall 2018	Served on NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program student panel

WORKSHOP PARTICIPATION

2024	Invited Participant, AmNESP Ethnic Studies Initiative Writers’ Retreat. Paula Austin, Organizer, Boston, MA.
2023	Invited Participant. Sheela Athreya, Rachel Watkins, Co-Organizers. American Journal for Biological Anthropology Special Issue Workshop, Charlotte, NC

MEDIA

Fall 2024.	The Brink, August 13, 2024
Spring 2024	Boston University Center for Innovation in Social Science, April 1, 2024 CISS Affiliate of the Month, April 2024
Fall 2023	Boston University College of Arts & Sciences, Dec. 1, 2023 “Meet Andreana Cunningham”
Fall 2023	Boston University Department of Anthropology, Oct. 18, 2023 “Featured Faculty: Andreana Cunningham”
Summer 2022	The St Helena Independent Newspaper, Volume VXII Issue 26, 2nd June 2022 “Andree Cunningham has a Life’s Work Ahead (p.8)”
Spring 2022	Saint Helena Government Press Release, May 2, 2022 “Scientific Research Being Conducted On St Helena”

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

2024 – present	American Anthropological Association
2024 – present	Coalition for Caribbean Archaeological Heritage
2023 – present	Society of Black Archaeologists
2023 – present	Society for American Archaeology
2022 – present	Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora
2020 – present	Black in Biological Anthropology Collective
2019 – present	International Association of Caribbean Archaeology

2018 – 2022 African American Intellectual Historical Society
2015 – present American Association of Biological Anthropologists

ADVISING AND MENTORSHIP

Graduate Students

2024 – present WarrenKevin Henderson, Ph.D. Anthropology, Dissertation Committee Member, Boston University
2024 – present Haylee Backs, Ph.D. Anthropology, Comprehensive Exam Committee Member, Boston University

Undergraduate Students

2024 – present Hallie Baker – Anthropology Teaching Collection Curation Project, Boston University
2024 – present Emilia Giovannini-Yarnell – Anthropology Teaching Collection Curation Project, Boston University
2024 – present. Cat Metcalf – Anthropology Teaching Collection Curation Project, Boston University
2024 – present Jessica Buckley – Anthropology Teaching Collection Curation Project, Boston University
Summer 2024 Sophia Fruehauf – Anthropology Teaching Collection Curation Project, Boston University

Undergraduate Honors and Awards

2024 Marshall Scholarship, [Hallie Baker](#)

UROP Funding (Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program)

2024 Hallie Baker (Anthropology), Student Research Award (\$750): *Anthropology Teaching Collection Project (ATCCP)*
2024 Emilia Giovannini-Yarnell, Student Research Award (\$750): *Preserving Ethical Standards in Osteological Collections: Assessment and Policy Development for Boston University's Bone Collection*

Honors Research

2025 Hallie Baker (Archaeology; 2nd Reader): TBD

Undergraduate Academic Advising

Ava Parker; Caroline Metcalf; Emma Jarrett; Livia Prince; Marissa Wong; Rikki Felix; Zoe Jellison; Zoya Acuna

PEER REVIEW

American Journal of Biological Anthropology