

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). 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.

In Revision. Shuler K.A., **Cunningham, A.S.** (2024). African Diasporas: Bioarchaeological Approaches to Intercontinental and Global Legacies of Displacement. Submitted to *Journal of African Diaspora Archaeology and Heritage*.

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

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

(2023-present)

Assistant Professor

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

(2017-2022)

Instructor

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

(2021)

Instructor

Anthropology 101 Introduction to Anthropology

TRAININGS AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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| 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

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| 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: Dr. 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

HONORS AND AWARDS

2023 Selected for induction to the Edward A. Bouchet Graduate Honor Society

CONFERENCES

Conference Presentations

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 recaptivity: 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

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| Fall 2024 <i>Guest Speaker</i> | Department of Anthropology, University of Kentucky - UKY Department of Anthropology Fall 2024 Colloquium Series - Lecture Title: “Stories of biosociality: Diasporic connections across the 19 th century British slave trade” |
| Fall 2023 <i>Guest Speaker</i> | 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 <i>Guest Speaker</i> | Museum of St. Helena, St. Helena -Dissertation findings community public talk -Lecture Title: “St. Helena and the African diaspora: An interdisciplinary approach” |
| Fall 2022 <i>Guest Speaker</i> | 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 <i>Guest Speaker</i> | Museum of St. Helena, St. Helena - Fieldwork community public talk - Lecture Title: “Biocultural approaches to slave trade migration history” |
| Fall 2021 <i>Facilitator</i> | 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

- Spring 2024 Department of Anthropology, Brown University
-Intersectional Anthropology course
- 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 BU Department of Anthropology, *Faculty Search Committee Member*
- Fall 2024 BU African American & Black Diaspora Studies, *Ad Hoc Committee Member*
- Spring 2024 – present Coalition for Caribbean Archaeological Heritage, *Working Group Member*
- Spring 2024 – Fall 2026 Black in Biological Anthropology Collective, *Board of Directors*
- Spring 2024 BU Center for Innovation in Social Sciences (CISS), *Writing Group Coordinator*
- Fall 2023 – Spring 2024 BU Department of Anthropology, *Emerging Scholars Organizing Committee*

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| Fall 2023 – Spring 2024 | 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

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| Fall 2023 – Spring 2024 | Statia 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

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| Fall 2020, Spring 2020, Fall 2019, Fall 2018 | 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 |

MEDIA

- Fall 2024 The Brink, August 13, 2024
<https://www.bu.edu/articles/2024/a-bu-researcher-is-uncovering-the-histories-of-enslaved-people/>
- 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 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

STUDENT ADVISING

Graduate Students

Warrenkevin Henderson – Dissertation Committee Member, Ph.D. Anthropology, Boston University
Haylee Backs – Comprehensive Exams Committee Member, Ph.D. Anthropology, Boston University

Undergraduate Students

Hallie Baker – Anthropology Teaching Collection Curation Project, Boston University
Sophia Fruehauf – Anthropology Teaching Collection Curation Project, Boston University
Emilia Giovannini-Yarnell – Anthropology Teaching Collection Curation Project, Boston University