



Lawrence Stewart Owens, Ph.D.

Physical Anthropologist and Bioarchaeologist

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BACKGROUND

I have thirty years' experience as an archaeologist, biological anthropologist and bioarchaeologist. I taught bioarchaeology between 2000 and 2022 at the University of London (UCL; Birkbeck), the University of Winchester, the University of Lima and the University of Sao Paulo, and worked as a Research Fellow at the Universities of Winchester and South Africa (UNISA). My focus is the effects of social change, complexification and urbanisation on human health and behaviour. To this end I research the Egyptian Predynastic (via the Kafr Hassan Dawood Research Project, of which I am codirector) and the Middle Horizon to Late Period in Coastal Peru (via the site of Pachacamac, where I am senior bioarchaeologist). I am co-editor/founder of *Research in Egyptian Archaeology and Cultural Heritage* [REACH], and board member for the Egyptian Cultural Heritage Organisation.

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Université libre de Bruxelles (Free University of Brussels)	
Scientific Research Associate (Bioarchaeology)	2023-Present
University of Sao Paulo, Brazil	
Coordinator and Lecturer on Bioarchaeology Short Course	2022
University of Winchester	
Research Fellow and Associate (Anthropology and Archaeology)	2018 – 2023
University of Winchester	
Lecturer in Bioarchaeology	2016 – 2017
Birkbeck College, University of London	
Sessional Lecturer in Bioarchaeology	2004-2020
University of South Africa (UNISA)	
Research Fellow and Associate	2018 – 2020
Universidad Nacional Federico Villareal, Lima, Peru	
Lecturer and coordinator (Short Course: Bioarchaeology)	2004
Institute of Archaeology, University College London	
Lecturer/demonstrator (B.A. Human Osteology)	2000 – 2001

NOTABLE PROJECTS

Pachacamac, Central Coast, Peru	Middle Horizon-LIP	2004 – Present
Kafr Hassan Dawood, Egyptian Delta, Egypt	Predynastic-Late Period	2018 – Present
Ntshekane, Kwazulu-Natal, South Africa	Iron Age	2017
Merimde Beni Salama, Delta, Egypt	Predynastic	2014 – 2016
Wadi Debayan, Qatar	Neolithic/EB	2013
Qesna, Minufiyeh, Egypt	Old Kingdom-Late Period	2012 – 2014
Sibudu Rock Shelter, South Africa	Middle Stone Age	1998
Makapansgat, South Africa	Middle Pleistocene	1998
Nahal Tillah, Negev	Chalcolithic – EB1-3	1995
Hayonim Cave, Upper Galilee	Palaeolithic	1995
Amud Cave, Tiberias, Israel	Middle Palaeolithic	1993 – 1994
Lightwater, Surrey Heath, UK	Prehistoric-Roman	1992

EDUCATION

Institute of Archaeology, University College London	2004
Doctorate – Bioarchaeology and Dental Anthropology	
Dept. of Human Anatomy and Cell Biology, University of Liverpool Medical School	1998
Master of Science – Early Hominid Studies	
University of Bradford	1997
Short Course – Forensic Anthropology	
Depts. of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of Durham	1996
Bachelor of Arts (Honours) – Archaeology	

AWARDS

2024	Raised \$30,000 funding via ECHO for the KHD project
2022	GoFundMe: raised £28,000 crowd via ECHO for KHD project
2020	Thames Valley Ancient Egypt Society funding for KHD project
2019	GoFundMe: organised £12,000 crowd funding via ECHO for KHD project
2018-2019	Thames Valley Ancient Egypt Society funding for KHD project
2008-2015	SSHRC funding for Pachacámac stable isotopes project: Christine White (UWO)
2009-2014	Funding via Karl Reinhard (UNL) for dietary analysis at Pachacámac
1999-2002	Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) award for doctoral studies
1996-1997	William Strong Foundation Scholarship for M.Sc. studies
1996-1997	Discretionary bursary for M.Sc. studies; awarded by Sir Paul McCartney
1994	Eric Birley Scholarship for archaeological fieldwork, University of Durham

Languages

English	Home language
Castilian Spanish	Fluent (bilingual)
French	Basic conversational
Arabic	Basic/beginners
Valencian Spanish	Beginners

Other

Professional standard photographer
Full, clean motorcycle license

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Books

- Rowland, Joanne; Valentina Gasperini, Scott Haddow, Sarah Inskip, **Lawrence S. Owens**, Ashraf El-Senussi and Sonia Zakrzewski. (2026-forthcoming). Quesna I: Investigations in the Ptolemaic-Roman Cemetery, 2006-2013 (Excavation Memoir) – Hardcover. <https://www.abebooks.com/9780856982217/Quesna-Investigations-Ptolemaic-Roman-Cemetery-2006-2013-0856982210/plp>. <https://www.waterstones.com/book/quesna/j-rowland//9780856982217>
- Eeckhout, P. and **Owens, Lawrence S.** [eds.] 2015. *Funerary Patterns and Models in the Ancient Andes: The Return of the Living Dead*. Cambridge University Press.
- Owens, Lawrence S.** and de Trafford, A. [eds.] 2015. *Managing Egypt's Cultural Heritage: Proceedings of the Second Egyptian Cultural Heritage Organisation Conference on Egyptian Cultural Heritage Management*. Executive Series Editor: F. A. Hassan. Commissioning Editors: G. J. Tassie & J. van Wetering. Golden House Publications
- Tassie, G. and **Owens, Lawrence S.** 2010. *Standards of Archaeological Excavation; A Fieldguide to Methodology, Recording Techniques and Conventions*. Golden House Publications, London.
- Owens, Lawrence S.** and de Trafford, A. [eds.] 2009. *Managing Egypt's Cultural Heritage: Proceedings of the First Egyptian Cultural Heritage Organisation Conference on Egyptian Cultural Heritage Management*. Executive Series Editor F. A. Hassan. Commissioning Editors G. J. Tassie & J. van Wetering. Golden House Publications

Selected Papers, Book Sections and Posters

- Bąk-Pryc, Grzegorz, **Lawrence S. Owens**, Claudia Ribeiro Campos Gradim and Karolina Lapeta (2025). Archaeological research in Wadi Tumilat, Egypt, in the 2025 season. *Studies in Ancient Art and Civilisation* 29 (2025) Pp. 7-18. <https://doi.org/10.12797/SAAC.29.2025.29.01> (<https://journals.akademicka.pl/saac/article/view/7079/6704>)
- Owens, Lawrence S.**, Rezk Diab Ghadiry, Mostafa Nur el Din, Joanne Rowland, Letisha Service and Joris van Wetering (2023). Funerary Archaeology and Bioarchaeology of Predynastic to Early Dynastic Remains from the site of Kafr Hassan Dawood, North-eastern Egypt. Report on the 2019 season. *Research in Egyptian Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Vol. 1: 1-26*. (<https://reach-egyptarch.com/>)
- Owens, Lawrence S.**, Scott Haddow, Sarah Inskip and Sonia Zakrzewski. (FORTHCOMING 2024). The Quesna Ptolemaic-Roman Cemetery: Funerary Archaeology, Demographics and Palaeopathology. In: Jan Geisbuch and Joanne Rowland (eds.) *Quesna I: Investigations in the Ptolemaic-Roman Cemetery, 2006-2013*. EES Monographs, London.
- Eeckhout, Peter and **Lawrence S. Owens**. (2023). War or Peace on the Central Coast? Questioning metanarratives of Late Intermediate Period mobocracies on the basis of Ychsma evidence from Pachacamac, Peruvian Central Coast. Chapter 5 in: Chacon, Yamilette and Richard Chacon (eds.) *Archaeological and Ethnographic Evidence of Domination in Indigenous Latin America*. University of Florida Press. Pp. 119-163.

- **Owens, Lawrence S.**; Thorp, C., & Whitelaw, G. (2023). Human remains from Ntshekane, an Early Iron Age site in central KwaZulu-Natal. *Southern African Humanities*, 36, 201–243. Retrieved from <https://www.sahumanities.org/index.php/sah/article/view/508>
- **Owens, Lawrence S.**, Anna Davies-Barratt and Letisha Service (2022). Unilateral Congenital Aural Atresia from an Ychsma Group Burial at the Site of Pachacamac, Peruvian Central Coast. *Journal of Bioanthropology*. <https://inantro.hr/en/journal-of-bioanthropology-2/>
- **Owens, Lawrence S.** and Peter Eeckhout. 2022. Why Pachacamac? When Pachacamac? Investigating Theories of Environmental, Culture History, and Late Horizon Triggers for the Development of the Ychsma Capital. In Marcone, Giancarlo. *Unveiling Pachacamac: New Hypotheses for an old Andean sanctuary*. Pp. 181-226.
- **Owens, Lawrence S.** 2021. Timoteo Mendieta Alcalá and the Pact of Forgetting: Trauma Analysis of Execution Victims from a Spanish Civil War Mass Burial Site at Guadalajara, Castilla la Mancha. *Forensic Science International: Synergy*. Volume 3, 2021, 100156. (www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2589871X21000267)
- Colonna-Preti, Kusi; **Lawrence S. Owens** and Miren K. Bilbao. (2021). Una mirada hacia la conservación del material óseo procedente del sitio arqueológico de Pachacamac (Perú). In: Lopez-Polin, Lucia; Elena Moreno-Ribas, Andrea Diaz-Cortes and Noe Valtierra. IPHES 2021 (Institut Catala de Paleoecologia 2020-2023 Humana I Evolucio Social) Abstracts Volume; Tarragon, Spain. Pp. 77-80.
- Davies-Barrett: Anna; **Lawrence S. Owens** & Peter Eeckhout. (2021). Palaeopathology of the Ychsma: Evidence for respiratory disease during the Late Intermediate Period (AD 1000-1500) at the Central Coastal site of Pachacamac, Peru. *International Journal of Palaeopathology* 2021. Sep. 34: Pp. 63-75. doi: 10.1016/j.ijpp.2021.06.001.
- **Owens, Lawrence S.**, Tatiana Vlemincq-Mendieta, Peter Eeckhout and Milton Lujan Davila. (2021). Los entierros Ychsma: hacia una caracterización del comportamiento funerario en la costa central del sitio de Pachacamac durante el período Intermedio Tardío. Procedimientos del 5to Actas del Congreso Nacional de Arqueología, Lima, Peru. <https://congresoarqueologia.cultura.gob.pe/>
- Gabelmann, Olga and **Lawrence S. Owens** 2020. Good, bad or indifferent? A unique ‘deviant’ burial from the Formative site of Aranjuez-Santa Lucia, South Central Andes. In: Betsinger, Tracy K; Amy Scott and Anastasia Tsaliki: *The Odd, the Unusual & the Strange: Bioarchaeological Explorations of Atypical Burials*. U-Florida Press. Pp. 133-151.
- Giordana Giordani, Celine Erauw, Peter Eeckhout, **Lawrence S. Owens** and Stefano Vanin 2020. Patterns of camelid sacrifice at the site of Pachacamac, Peruvian Central Coast, during the Late Intermediate Period (AD1000-1470): perspectives from funerary archaeoentomology. *Journal of Archaeo. Science* Vol. 114. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0305440318305818>
- **Owens, Lawrence S.**, Joanne Rowland, Joris van Wetering and Mariusz Jucha. 2020. New excavations at the Protodynastic-Early Dynastic cemetery of Kafr Hassan Dawood (KHD), Wadi Tumilat, East Delta. Abstract for 2020 ORIGINS conference (Deferred to 2021/2 owing to COVID).
- Vlemincq-Mendieta, Tatiana; Simon Hillson, **Lawrence S. Owens**, Krysztof Makowski and Peter Eeckhout. 2019. The muddle in the middle: dental morphological assessment of population diversity on the Peruvian Central Coast during the Prehispanic period. *Abstracts for the 88th Meeting of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists (AAPA)*,
- Vlemincq-Mendieta, Tatiana., Simon Hillson, **Lawrence S. Owens** and Krysztof Makowski. 2018. Prehispanic population biology and migrations on the Peruvian Central Coast: population diversity tested using dental non-metric traits. Proceedings of the 6th Annual Meeting of the Western Bioarchaeology Group (weBIG), Chico, CA.
- **Owens, Lawrence S.** 2017. Los restos humanos de Pachacámac. In: *Pachacamac: El Oráculo en el horizonte marino del sol poniente*. Vol. 44 Arts & Treasures of Peru Series, BCP, Lima. Pp. 238-251.
- Morrow, Jon., Livia Taylor, Lauren Peck, Christian Elowsky, **Lawrence S. Owens**, Peter Eeckhout, and Karl J. Reinhard. 2017. Pseudoscorpions of the family *Cheiridiidae* (Arachnida, Pseudoscorpiones) recovered from burial sediments at Pachacamac (500–1,500CE), Perú. *International Journal of Arachnology* (November 2017) 45: 3. Pp. 370-375.
- **Owens, Lawrence S.** and Peter Eeckhout. 2017. From the cradle to the grave: bioarchaeological perspectives on an Ychsma Period monumental multiple burial from the site of Pachacamac, Peruvian Central Coast. Abstracts for the 19th Annual Conference of the British Association of Biological Anthropology & Osteoarchaeology, Liverpool: Pp. 59.
- **Owens, Lawrence S.** 2015. Is the writing on the wall for the writing on the wall? Opposition to – and Defence of – Egyptian Graffiti and Street Art. In: **Lawrence S. Owens** and Aloisia de Trafford. [eds] 2015. *Managing Egypt's Cultural Heritage: Proceedings of the Second Egyptian Cultural Heritage Organisation Conference on Egyptian Cultural Heritage Management*. Executive Series Editor F. A. Hassan. Golden House Publications. Pp. 185-197
- **Owens, Lawrence S.** 2015. Brave New Worlds: A New Era in Egyptian Heritage Management. Preface to: **Lawrence S. Owens** and Aloisia de Trafford [eds.] 2015. *Managing Egypt's Cultural Heritage: Proceedings of the Second Egyptian Cultural Heritage Organisation Conference on Egyptian Cultural Heritage Management*. Golden House Publications.
- Eeckhout, P. and **L.S. Owens** 2015. “The Impossibility of Death”. In: Peter Eeckhout and **Lawrence S. Owens**. *Funerary Patterns and Models in the Ancient Andes: The Return of the Living Dead*. Cambridge University Press.

- **Owens, Lawrence S.** and Peter Eeckhout. 2015. To the God of Death, Disease and Healing: Social Bioarchaeology of Cemetery I at Pachacamac. In: Peter Eeckhout and **Lawrence S. Owens** [eds.] *Funerary Patterns and Models in the Ancient Andes: The Return of the Living Dead*. Cambridge University Press.
- Izquierdo Zamora, Aurea; Richard Cuttler, Faisal al-Naimi and **Lawrence Owens**. 2015. Between rocks and a hard place: Prehistoric Funerary Practices at Wādī Debay'ān, northern Qatar. *Arabian Archaeology & Epigraphy* 26 (1): 1-11.
- Izquierdo Zamora, Aurea; Richard Cuttler, Emma Tetlow, Faisal al-Naimi and **Lawrence S. Owens**. 2013. Unmarked but not forgotten: a new typology of Neolithic Burial in Wadi Debayan (NW Qatar). Poster (University of Birmingham) and
- **Owens, Lawrence S.** and Peter Eeckhout. 2012. Pachacamac: exploring a Peruvian chamber of secrets. *World Archaeology* 54: 46-47.
- **Owens, Lawrence S.** 2009. "The potential and future of Egyptian bioarchaeology: management strategies for ancient human remains". In: **Lawrence S. Owens** and Aloisia de Trafford. *Managing Egypt's Cultural Heritage*. Discourses on Heritage Management Series 1, Egyptian Cultural Heritage Organisation. Golden House: Pp. 206-257.
- **Owens, Lawrence S.** 2008. "The Last Mummy Makers: Diet, Disease and Death among the Pre-European Populations of the Canary Islands". In: *Mummies and Science: World Mummies Research. Proceedings of the 6th International Congress on Mummy Studies* (Teguise, Lanzarote, Canary Islands, February 20-24, 2007) Pp. 333-341.
- Eeckhout, Peter & **Lawrence S. Owens** 2008. Human Sacrifice at Pachacamac. *Latin American Antiquity* 19/4: 375-398.
- **Owens, Lawrence S.** 2007. Craniofacial Trauma in the Prehispanic Canary Islands. *International Journal of Osteoarchaeology* 17/5: 465-478.
- **Owens, Lawrence S.** 2006. Through a Glass Darkly: Illuminating the Conflict Between Historical and Archaeological Interpretations of Ancient Populations of the Canary Islands. *Almogaren* 36 (2005/6): 191-203. Vienna, Austria.
- Tassie, Geoffrey & **Lawrence S. Owens** 2004. Nefertiti – Lost & Found. *Ancient Egypt* 2004: 11-13
- **Owens, Lawrence S.** 2003. Tracking Population Biology and Adaptation in the Canarian Islandscape. *American Journal of Physical Anthropology* (Abstracts for 35th Ann. Meeting) 35: 4.
- **Owens, Lawrence S.** 2002b. "Dental Morphology and Pathology of Prehistoric Canary Island Populations: A New Perspective." *American Journal of Physical Anthropology* (Abstracts for 34th Annual Meeting) 34: 161
- **Owens, Lawrence S.** and Derek Watson. 2002. Peoples in Transition: The Ghanaian Bioarchaeology Project. *British Association for Biological Anthropology and Osteoarchaeology: Annual Review* 3: 12.
- **Owens, Lawrence S.** 2002. "Of Lust and Limpets: Biological Affinity and Economy in the Prehistoric Canary Islands. *British Association for Biological Anthropology and Osteoarchaeology Annual Review* #3:20
- Figueiredo, Alvaro, **Lawrence S. Owens** and Rosalind Oswald. 2002. Egyptian mummies at the Museu Nacional de Arqueologia, Lisbon, Portugal: a proposed programme of study. *Papers from the Institute of Archaeology* 13: 101-105. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/269836814_Egyptian_Mummies_at_the_Museu_Nacional_de_Arqueologia_Lisbon_A_Proposed_Programme_of_Study
- Figueiredo, Alvaro; M.C. Lago, C. Duarte, Joyce Filer, Salima Ikram and **Lawrence S. Owens** 2002. The Lisbon Mummy Project. *14th European Meeting of the Palaeopathology Association, Abstracts Volume*: 61
- **Owens, Lawrence S.** 2001. Fieldwork Report: Population biology, diet and health in the Prehispanic Canary Islands. *Papers from the Institute of Archaeology* (UCL) 12: 100-104.

Special Reports, Public Interest Articles, Blogs, Interviews & Broadcasts

- **Owens, Lawrence.** 2025. Short report on video and photographic images of the aftermath of Iranian massacres. Prepared for Gianluca Mezzofiore. CNN.
- **Owens, Lawrence.** 2025. Forensic report on Sudanese genocide victims for article and CNN report (Allegra Goodwin) "Bodies in the Canals". <https://edition.cnn.com/interactive/2025/12/africa/sudan-army-saf-ethnic-killings-canals-intl-invs-vis/index.html>
- Owens, Lawrence. 2025. Report published for the Supreme Council of Antiquities: human remains from the site of KHD, Eastern Delta (unpublished).
- **Owens, Lawrence.** 2025. Report on forensic data re Palestinian GSW victims, provided by CNN. <https://edition.cnn.com/2025/10/17/middleeast/unidentified-palestinian-bodies-handed-over-by-israel-intl>
- **Owens, Lawrence.** 2025. Gaza Mass Grave Observations. Report prepared for Gianluca Mezzofiore. CNN.
- **Owens, Lawrence S. (Nick Waters).** 2022. Commentary and consultancy on 'exploiting cadavers and Faked IEDs: experts debunk staged pre-war 'provocation' in the Donbas. <https://www.bellingcat.com/news/2022/02/28/exploiting-cadavers-and-faked-ieds-experts-debunk-staged-pre-war-provocation-in-the-donbas/>
- **Owens, Lawrence S.** 2020. Commentary: Rio Tinto to release Aboriginal heritage review after site destruction. *Mining Technology* 19/06/20 by Matthew Hall. <https://www.mining-technology.com/features/rio-tinto-aboriginal-heritage-review/>

- **Owens, Lawrence S.** 2018. Adventurous Lives: Lawrence S. Owens (S. 1985-1992). In: Cary-Brown, A. and Bagenal, S. *Sidcotians Stories 2018: Reflections on Living Adventurously*. Pp. 96-99.
- **Owens, Lawrence S.** 2018 (Unpublished). Interim report on the human skeletal remains recovered at Ntshekane, Tugela Basin, during the 2015 and 2017 excavation seasons. KwaZulu-Natal Museum, Pietermaritzberg, South Africa.
- **Owens, Lawrence S.** and Tatiana Vlemincq-Mendieta. 2018 (ARMH Archives). Informe forense sobre los restos de Timoteo Mendieta Alcala y 23 otros individuos asesinados durante la Guerra Civil Espanola y enterrados en Fosa Común Numero 1, Guadalajara, Castillo y Leon. Report for the *Asociacion para la Recuperacion de Memoria Historica*
- **Owens, Lawrence S.** 2017. La memoria de los huesos. Interview with Cristina Fallaras. CTXT Magazine Issue 119. 31/5/2017. <http://ctxt.es/es/20170531/Politica/13046/memoria-historica-ctxt-timoteo-mendianta-franquismo-guerra-civil-exhumacion-guadalajara.htm>
- **Owens, Lawrence S.** Commentary: Skull casket holding human bones reveals weird burial rituals *New Scientist* 7/12/2016, by Colin Barras. <https://www.newscientist.com/article/2115462-skull-casket-holding-human-bones-reveals-weird-burial-rituals/>
- **Owens, Lawrence S.** and Tatiana Vlemincq-Mendieta. nd. Special report on the human remains excavated by MUNA in the Third Precinct (2016).
- **Owens, Lawrence S.** 2014. Pachacamac: a hidden world reveals its secrets. Foreign/Commonwealth Office Blog <https://blogs.fco.gov.uk/ukinperu/2014/04/28/pachacamac-a-hidden-world-reveals-its-secrets-2/>
- **Owens, Lawrence S.** 2014. Greetings from the future. *Sidcotians Friends*. Autumn/Winter. Pp. 8. https://issuu.com/sidcot-school/docs/sidcotian_friends_magazine_autumn_2_e90b54b037b34d
- **Owens, Lawrence S.** 2007. Interviewing the ancient dead. *Durham First (Durham University Magazine)* Winter 2007: Issue 23. <https://www.dur.ac.uk/durham.first/winter07/ancientdead/>
- **Owens, Lawrence S.** 2007. Peruvian mummies and animal domestication. Radio Interview for: *The Naked Scientists* (Science Podcasts and Science Radio Shows). 4th March. BBC Radio Cambridge. www.thenakedscientists.com/podcasts/naked-scientists/peruvian-mummies-and-animal-domestication
- **Owens, Lawrence S.** 2006. Peruvian mummies, ancient environments and the Sahara. Radio Interview for: *The Naked Scientists* (Science Podcasts and Science Radio Shows). 17th September 2006. BBC Radio Cambridge. www.thenakedscientists.com/podcasts/naked-scientists/peruvian-mummies-ancient-environments-and-sahara