



Ashly N. Romero

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EDUCATION

- 2023 **Doctor of Philosophy**, Anthropology
University of Arkansas
Dissertation title: *Understanding the environmental and genetic influence on fluctuating asymmetry and developmental instability in primates*
Language competency: Spanish | Microcertificate: Preparing for the Professoriate
Advisor: Claire Terhune, PhD
- 2018 **Master of Arts**, Anthropology
University of Arkansas
Thesis title: *A comparison of craniofacial asymmetry in Gorilla gorilla gorilla and Pan troglodytes troglodytes*
Advisor: Claire Terhune, PhD
- 2016 **Bachelor of Arts**, Anthropology (*Magna cum laude*)
California State University – Long Beach (CSULB)
Research advisor: Theodore Stankowich, PhD

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Primate cranial morphology and evolution; comparative anatomy and morphology; fluctuating asymmetry and developmental instability; stress; ontogeny; geometric morphometrics; 3D imaging; anatomical sciences; medical education

RELEVANT EMPLOYMENT

- 2025-Present **Assistant Professor of Anatomy**
A.T. Still University
School of Osteopathic Medicine in Arizona
- 2023-2025 **Postdoctoral Research Associate**
Anatomy Instruction Team
Basic Medical Sciences, University of Arizona College of Medicine – Phoenix
- 2024-2025 **Substitute Teacher (K-12)**
Peoria Unified School District, Peoria, AZ
- 2022-2023 **Graduate Research Assistant**
MicroCT Scanning Technician
Department of Anthropology, University of Arkansas
- 2016-2022 **Graduate Teaching Assistant**
Introduction to Biological Anthropology Lab
Department of Anthropology, University of Arkansas
- Fall 2021 **Online Instructor and Course Developer**
Introduction to Biological Anthropology
Department of Anthropology, University of Arkansas

May-Aug 2021	Graduate Teaching Fellow Human Gross Anatomy Congdon School of Health Sciences, High Point University, NC
2018-2019	Graduate Assistant Coordinator Introduction to Biological Anthropology Lab Department of Anthropology, University of Arkansas
2017-2018	Departmental Intern Environmental Health and Safety, University of Arkansas

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Medical and allied health students:

2023-2025	University of Arizona College of Medicine – Phoenix: Clinical Anatomy (first year medical students). Create and deliver online independent learning modules, develop and implement team-based learning workshops, develop practice exam questions, guide donor dissections, hold office hours, facilitate lab review sessions, set up and proctor practical exams, complete competency evaluations, and meet with students requiring exam retakes.
2023-2024	Northern Arizona University: Human Gross Anatomy (first year physician assistant and occupational therapy students; inter-professional course). Prosect donors, create and deliver online independent learning modules, develop and implement team-based learning workshops, and guide donor dissections.
Aug-Dec 2023	Northern Arizona University: Human Gross Anatomy (first year physician assistant, physical therapy, and occupational therapy students; inter-professional course). Created and delivered online independent learning modules and guided donor dissections.
May-Aug 2021	High Point University: Human Gross Anatomy (first year physician assistant and athletic training students; inter-professional course). Created and delivered in-person cranial nerve lectures, guided donor dissections, held office hours, facilitated lab review sessions, and set up and proctored practical exams.

Graduate students:

Oct 2023	University of Arizona College of Medicine – Phoenix: Principles of Clinical Neuroscience (Master's students in Pathway Scholars Program for underserved and underrepresented students). Instructed osteology and gross anatomy labs using donor prosections and models.
Jan-April 2024, 2025	University of Arizona College of Medicine – Phoenix: Clinical Anatomy and Physiology (Master's students in Pathway Scholars Program for underserved and underrepresented students). Instruct labs using donor prosections, facilitate student workshops utilizing case-based and team-based learning, and set up and proctor practical exams.

Undergraduate students:

2016-2022	University of Arkansas: Introduction to Biological Anthropology Lab. Instructed and graded all laboratory activities, including inheritance, osteology, primatology, and evolution labs, for ~75 students per week. Set up, proctored, and graded in lab and online quizzes.
Aug-Dec 2021	University of Arkansas: Introduction to Biological Anthropology. Assisted with course development and instructed the first semester of online course for ~50 undergraduate students.

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

In prep	Romero AN, Terhune CE. <i>Pathology and secular-related changes in fluctuating asymmetry detected in olive baboons.</i> International Journal of Primatology.
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In prep	Romero AN , Terhune CE. <i>Impact of pathology on craniofacial shape in wild baboons (Papio anubis)</i> . American Journal of Biological Anthropology.
In prep	Romero AN , Spies AJ, Eriksen A, McGrath K, Massey JS, Glowacka H. <i>Ontogeny of facial fluctuating asymmetry in African great apes (Gorilla gorilla and Pan troglodytes)</i> . Evolutionary Human Sciences.
Submitted	Romero AN , Turner C, Perkins M, Brown L, Li P, Yoakum CB. <i>Demographic factors impact hyoid position during neck flexion in healthy individuals</i> . Clinical Anatomy.
Submitted	Petersen RM, Patterson SK, Brent LJN, Widdig A, Turcotte CM, Antón SC, Williams SA, Bauman Surratt SE, Romero AN , Ruiz Lambides AV, Cayo Biobank Research Unit, Snyder-Mackler N, Higham JP, Lea AJ. <i>Early life adversity shapes life history trade-offs between growth and reproduction in free-ranging rhesus macaques</i> . PNAS.
2023	Romero AN , Dickinson E, Turcotte CM, Terhune CE. <i>Skeletal age during hurricane impacts fluctuating asymmetry in Cayo Santiago rhesus macaques</i> . Ecology and Evolution 13(8):e10425.
2022	Romero AN , Mitchell DR, Cooke SB, Kirchhoff CA, Terhune CE. <i>Craniofacial fluctuating asymmetry in gorillas, chimpanzees, and macaques</i> . American Journal of Physical Anthropology 177(2):286-299.
2019	Yoakum CB, Romero AN , Moore C, Douglas E, Gallagher K, Terhune C. <i>Sex and height influence neck posture when using electronic handheld devices</i> . Clinical Anatomy 32(8):1061-1071.
2017	Romero AN , Herlin M, Finnälä M, Korkalainen M, Håkansson H, Viluksela M, Sholts SB. <i>Skeletal and dental effects on rats following in utero/lactational exposure to the non-dioxin-like polychlorinated biphenyl PCB 180</i> . PloS One 12(9):e0185241.
2017	Stankowich T, Romero AN . <i>The correlated evolution of antipredator defences and brain size in mammals</i> . Proceedings of the Royal Society London, Biology 284(1846):20161857.

MEDIA COVERAGE

2025	Meet Dr. Romero. <i>Postdoctoral Affairs</i> . University of Arizona. https://postdoc.arizona.edu/news/meet-dr-romero
2019	Study says gender and height may affect posture while using smartphones. <i>CBS Boston</i> . CBS Broadcasting Inc. https://www.cbsnews.com/boston/news/study-gender-height-affect-posture-using-smartphones/
2019	Sex and height might influence neck posture when viewing electronic handheld devices. <i>EurekAlert!</i> American Association for the Advancement of Science. https://www.eurekalert.org/news-releases/874864

GRANTS AND AWARDS

2024	American Association for Anatomy Postdoctoral Fellowship (\$20,000)
2024	University of Arizona Postdoctoral Research Development Grant (\$2000)
2022	SEC Emerging Scholars Program (\$17,000)
2022	Summer Institute in Statistical Genetics (SISG) Scholarship (\$900)
2022	American Association for Anatomy Graduate Poster Award Finalist (\$400)
2021	P.E.O. Scholar Award (\$20,000)
2021	ARSC Graduate Dissertation Research Award (\$5,000)
2021	Graduate and Professional Student Congress Research Grant (\$1,500)
2020	Professional and Internship Grant Sponsorship (PIGS) Award (\$500)
2019	Arkansas Graduate Fellowship in Anthropology (\$8,500)
2018-2022	Distinguished Doctoral Fellowship, University of Arkansas (\$22,000/year)
2018	Best Overall Presentation, Lambda Alpha Student Symposium, Wichita State University (\$100)

2018	Professional Awareness, Advancement, and Development (PAAD) Fellow, National Science Foundation (NSF)
2017	Honorable Mention, Graduate Research Fellowship Program, NSF
2016	College of Liberal Arts Outstanding Graduate, California State University – Long Beach (CSULB)
2016	Outstanding Baccalaureate Student in Anthropology, CSULB
2016	Award for Excellence in Anthropology, CSULB
2015	NSF REU, National Museum of Natural History
2012-2016	President's Scholars' Program, CSULB (\$61,000)

PUBLISHED ABSTRACTS

In prep	Romero AN , Edes AN, Higham JP, Antón SC. <i>Immune index and fluctuating asymmetry in Rhesus macaques</i> . American Association for Anatomy.
2025	Romero AN , Spies AJ, Eriksen A, McGrath K, Massey JS, Glowacka H. <i>Ontogeny of facial fluctuating asymmetry in African great apes</i> . American Association of Biological Anthropologists. AJBA 186(S79):140.
2024	Romero AN , Terhune CE. <i>Antemortem tooth loss and craniofacial fluctuating asymmetry in captive olive baboons (Papio anubis)</i> . American Association of Biological Anthropologists. AJBA 183(S77):151.
2024	Ortiz A, Paul KS, Romero AN , Hanafiah MH, Militello ML, Turcotte C, Antón S. <i>Comparative relationship reconstruction from external and internal molar crown shape in a sample of pedigreed macaques</i> . American Association of Biological Anthropologists. AJBA 183(S77):129.
2023	Romero AN , Dickinson E, Turcotte CM, Terhune CE. <i>Fetal individuals that experienced hurricane Hugo exhibit decreased craniofacial fluctuating asymmetry</i> . Invited symposium: Coming to the Caribbean - Celebrating 85 Years of Rhesus macaques at Cayo Santiago; New Endeavors of Non-Human Primate Research. American Association of Biological Anthropologists. AJBA 180(S75):151.
2023	Romero AN , Yoakum CB. <i>Examining the relationship between inferior alveolar nerve volume and dietary properties in primates</i> . American Association for Anatomy. Developmental Dynamics 252(7):884.
2022	Romero AN , Terhune CE. <i>The role of social group and matriline on fluctuating asymmetry in female rhesus macaques</i> . American Association for Anatomy. FASEB J 36(S1).
2022	Romero AN , Mitchell DR, Terhune CE. <i>Cranial fluctuating asymmetry and reproductive fitness in the Cayo Santiago rhesus macaques</i> . American Association of Biological Anthropologists. AJBA 177(S73):154.
2022	Bowland LA, Romero AN , Kelly CD. <i>Old questions, new methods: testing hypotheses for canine dimorphism in the evolution of anthropoid primates using phylogenetic analyses</i> . American Association of Biological Anthropologists. AJBA 177(S73):20.
2020	Romero AN , Mitchell DR, Terhune CE. <i>Analysis of landmark variation in the study of cranial fluctuating asymmetry</i> . American Association of Physical Anthropologists. AJPA 171(S69):238.
2019	Romero AN , Kirchoff CA, Cooke SB, Terhune CE. <i>Examining fluctuating asymmetry in Macaca fascicularis</i> . American Association of Physical Anthropologists. AJPA 168(S68):207.
2019	Kirchoff CA, Cooke SB, Romero AN , Terhune CE. <i>Covariation among dental wear, craniofacial morphology, and pathologies in Macaca fascicularis</i> . American Association of Physical Anthropologists. AJPA 168(S68):126.
2018	Moore CL, Yoakum CB, Romero AN , Douglas E, Gallagher K, Terhune C. <i>A Biomechanical Analysis of Cervical Spine Posture using Geometric Morphometrics</i> . American Association for Anatomy. FASEB J 32(S1).

- 2018 **Romero AN**, Terhune CE. *A comparison of fluctuating asymmetry models in non-human primate crania*. American Association of Physical Anthropologists. AJPA 165(S66):230.
- 2016 **Romero A**, Sholts S, Håkansson H, Viluksela M. *Craniofacial and dental effects shown in rats following in utero/lactational exposure to 2,2',3,4,4',5,5'-heptachlorobiphenyl (PCB-180)*. American Association of Physical Anthropologists. AJPA 159(S62):272.

STUDENT ABSTRACTS (*Notes mentees)

- 2025 Turner C*, Brown L*, **Romero AN**, Yoakum CB. *Sex, Height, and Weight Influence Hyoid Shape Change from a Neutral to a Flexed Position*. American Association of Clinical Anatomists.
- 2024 Suresh S*, Chen S*, **Romero AN**, Yoakum CB. *Cayo Santiago Macaca mulatta hard palate morphology in adults*. Arkansas College of Health Education Research Symposium.
- 2024 Jones MP*, Latterich RA*, **Romero AN**, Yoakum CB. *Differences in palatal shape and depth across ontogeny in rhesus macaques*. Arkansas College of Health Education Research Symposium.
- 2024 Horan E*, **Romero AN**, Yoakum CB. *Wear patterns by sex in Cayo Santiago macaques*. Arkansas College of Health Education Research Symposium.
- 2021 Barton AB*, Knox O*, **Romero AN**, Terhune CE. *Analysis of inter- and intraobserver error when scoring tooth wear in the Cayo Santiago macaques*. Undergraduate symposium. American Association of Physical Anthropologists.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- 2023 *Introduction to Primates*. University of Minnesota, Delivered virtually to undergraduate students; February 15, 2023. Seminar.
- 2020 *Cranial asymmetry in Primates: What is it and how does it get there?* Paradigm in Biological Anthropology Research Series, Delivered remotely to graduate students in India; November 1, 2020. Seminar.
- 2018 *Fluctuating asymmetry in gorillas and chimpanzees*. Arkansas Tech University, Russellville, AR; October 10, 2018. Seminar.

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

- 2025 SlicerMorph 102: Short Course on 3D Morphometrics with SlicerMorph with Dr. Murat Maga
- 2025 CITI Program
- Conflicts of interest
 - Humanities Responsible Conduct of Research
 - Research with data or laboratory specimens
 - Working with the IACUC
- 2020 Analysis of Organismal Form short course with Dr. Chris Klingenberg University of Manchester

SERVICE AND OUTREACH

Summer Scrubs, MedStart, Gila Bend Program

Teach Arizona high school students about the orbit and eye in a 1.5 hour program for various programs throughout the summer. Lead students through dissection of a cow eye and identification of the structures visible in the eye, including comparing and contrasting human and cow eyes. 2024-2025

Award Review Committee

Served as reviewer for the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs awards and reviewed submissions for the Postdoc-as-Mentor award and Postdoctoral Research Development Grant. 2024-2025

Journal Reviewer

Reviewer for articles in *American Journal of Biological Anthropology*, *Evolutionary Biology*, *Journal of Anatomy*, *Anatomical Record*, *Journal of Mammalian Evolution*, and *Emerging Topics in Life Sciences*. 2020-Present

Graduate and Professional Student Congress

Served as an at-large representative for the Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences and co-chair/grant reviewer for the Research Council. 2019-2020, 2021-2022

Diversity and Inclusion Committee

Serve as graduate student representative on the Department of Anthropology Diversity and Inclusion Committee to help draft and implement a diversity, equity, and inclusion plan for the department. 2019-2021

American Association of Biological Anthropology Meetings

Student volunteer at the annual American Association of Physical Anthropology meetings. 2018-2021

K-12 Workshops

Hold workshops at local elementary schools in which students complete a laboratory exercise that demonstrates how the concepts they are currently learning in math or science translate into biological anthropology. 2016-Present

Primatweeps Curator

Collective twitter account that uses games and polls to engage the wider public in primatology (#PrimatePlaytime, #PrimateTrivia, #GuessThePrimate, #MonkeyOrNot, etc.). 2019-2022

Peculiar Primates

Blog series that features a different primate in each post with the aim to increase scientific literacy and engage the public in biological anthropology. 2018-2019

Open House Events

Open lab or open collection events with the University of Arkansas Department of Anthropology and Arkansas Archaeological Survey that engage the wider community in scientific research. 2016-2019

Girls in STEM

Introduce concepts in biological anthropology to girls in the Northwest Arkansas community and share scientific research via booths at various girls in STEM/STEAM events. 2016-2019

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Association for Anatomy
 American Association of Biological Anthropologists
 Dental Anthropology Association
 Society for the Study of Evolution