

# ADAM NETZER ZIMMER

Department of Anthropology  
215 Machmer Hall  
Amherst, MA 01003  
Email: [azimmer@anthro.umass.edu](mailto:azimmer@anthro.umass.edu)  
Website: <https://people.umass.edu/azimmer>

---

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

- biocultural anthropology, bioarchaeology, forensic anthropology, medical anthropology
- Critical Race Theory, Queer Science, violence theory, Nordic studies, history of science, public science communication
- mass grave excavation, analysis of human anatomical collections, bone trauma biomechanics, bioarchaeology of commingled human remains

## EDUCATION

In progress     Doctor of Philosophy, Anthropology, University of Massachusetts Amherst  
Dissertation Title: *“Prime Harvest”: The Bioarchaeology of Cadaver Acquisition in Iceland’s Early Medical History*

2016             Master of Arts, Anthropology, University of Massachusetts Amherst  
Thesis Title: *“More than the sum total of their parts: Restoring identity by recombining a skeletal collection with its texts”*

2013             Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology and Music (Voice), *Magna Cum Laude* with honors,  
Ithaca College

## FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, & AWARDS

### Fellowships and Grants

2022 —             SAPIENS Public Scholars Fellowship, Wenner-Gren Foundation for  
Anthropological Research (\$2,500)

2021-2022         Armelagos-Swedlund Dissertation Writing Fellowship for Biocultural/Medical  
Anthropology Research (\$10,000)

2019-2020         U.S. Fulbright-National Science Foundation Arctic Research Grant to Iceland  
(\$19,300)

2014-2019         National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship (Grant #: 1451512)  
(\$100,000)

2017-2018         Leifur Eiriksson Foundation Fellowship for Icelandic Research (\$25,000)

2018                 Pre-Dissertation Research Fellowship, UMass Amherst (\$2,300)

2015-2019         School of Social & Behavioral Sciences Conference Travel Grant, UMass Amherst  
(five grants of \$400)

### Awards

2021                 3MT Winner – Three Minute Thesis competition, UMass Amherst Graduate School  
(\$1,000)

2017a                 Armelagos-Swedlund Award in Medical/Biological Anthropology, Awarded for

- outstanding graduate student conference presentation, Department of Anthropology, UMass Amherst (\$500)
- 2017b Richard B. Woodbury Award for outstanding graduate conference paper, Department of Anthropology, UMass Amherst (\$500)
- 2016 Biological Anthropology Section Student Paper Prize honorable mention, American Anthropological Association
- 2013 Harvey Milk Award for outstanding efforts in awareness and visibility of LGBT issues, Ithaca College LGBT Center for Education, Outreach & Service

## **POSITIONS HELD**

### Professional Positions

- 2021 — Co-Principal Investigator, Rivulus Dominarum Bioarchaeology Summer Program, Baia Mare, Romania
- 2014 — Instructor of Record, Department of Anthropology, UMass Amherst
- 2014-2018 Taphonomic Research Facility (TRF) Laboratory Manager, UMass Amherst
- 2014-2018 Instructor of Record, UMass Amherst Bioarchaeology & Forensic Anthropology Field School
- 2014-2017 Forensic anthropology workshop instructor, Citizens Police Academy & Summer Police Youth Adventure Academy, Amherst Town Police & UMass Amherst Police Departments, Amherst, MA
- 2011-2013 Forensic Research Assistant, Departments of Anthropology & Chemistry, Taphonomic & Decomposition Post-Mortem Outdoor Laboratory Experiments (TADPOLE) Facility, Ithaca College

### Research Positions and Experience

- 2022 — Bioarchaeologist, Piața Cetății Cemetery Collection, Muzeul Județean de Istorie și Arheologie Maramureș, Baia Mare, Romania
- 2018 — Bioarchaeologist & forensic anthropologist, UMass Community Archaeology Laboratory, UMass Amherst
- 2019-2020 Affiliated Researcher, Læknagarður Medical School, University of Iceland, Reykjavík
- 2017-2018 Affiliated Researcher, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Iceland, Reykjavík
- 2016-2018 GIS technician & bioarchaeologist, Preliminary bioarchaeological investigations at Bélen, NM, Joint project of UMass Amherst, University of Nevada Las Vegas, Hampshire College, Bélen, NM
- 2015 Visiting Researcher, Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, Washington, DC
- 2013-2018 Sharp-force trauma analyst & 3D microscopist, “The role of humans in Madagascar’s megafauna decline” project, UMass Amherst
- 2013-2018 Forensic anthropologist & bioarchaeologist, Violence & Conflict Laboratory, UMass Amherst

## **TEACHING & STUDENT SUPERVISION**

### Graduate/Undergraduate Mixed Courses at the University of Massachusetts Amherst

- ANTH 588 – Field & Laboratory Methods in Bioarchaeology & Forensic Anthropology: Summer 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018

### Undergraduate Courses at the University of Massachusetts Amherst

- ANTH 312 – Medical Anthropology: Fall 2022
- ANTH 103 – Human Origins & Variation – Summer 2019, 2020, 2021, Fall 2019

### Undergraduate Student Supervising

- Independent Honors course in Human Biological Variation – Summer 2020

### Teaching Assistantships

Human Anatomy Laboratory, Power & Inequality in the United States, Introduction to Archaeology, Race & the American Museum, Human Origins & Variation, Ancient Civilizations, Hip Hop Cultures – Fall 2013 through Fall 2021

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### Peer-reviewed Publications

2018 **Zimmer, A.N.** “More than the sum total of their parts: Restoring identity by recombining a skeletal collection with its texts”. In *Bioarchaeological Analyses and Bodies: New ways of knowing anatomical and skeletal collections*, ed. Pamela Stone. Cham, Switzerland: Springer International Publishing.

### Book Reviews

2018 **Zimmer, A.N.** “Re-evaluating the Place of Race in Historical Archaeology”. Review of: “Archaeology of Race in the Northeast”, ed. Christopher N. Matthews and Allison Manfra McGovern. In *Anthropology Book Forum*, Vol. 4, No. 1.

### Public Science Writing

2019 **Zimmer, A.N.** “The Era of the Body Snatchers”. *Scientific American*. June 5, 2019.

### Publications in press

N.d. Stone, P.K., **Zimmer, A.N.** “Chapter 27: Issues of gender, identity, and agency in paleopathology”. In *The Routledge Handbook of Paleopathology*, ed. Anne Grauer. Cham, Switzerland: Springer International Publishing.

## **SCHOLARLY PRESENTATIONS**

### Invited Lectures

- 2021<sup>a</sup> “Queering Studies of Anatomical Skeletal Collections”, Forensic and Bioanthropology Laboratory (FAB Lab) Group at Boston University's Program in Forensic Anthropology, September.
- 2021<sup>b</sup> Keynote Speaker, “Queer Theory & Identified Skeletal Collections”, British Association of Biological Anthropology & Osteoarchaeology Annual Meeting, September.
- 2021<sup>c</sup> “‘Prime Harvest’: Iceland’s Place in the Early Global Cadaver Trade”, National Museum of Iceland Lecture Series, Þjóðminjasafnið/The National Museum of Iceland, September.
- 2021<sup>d</sup> “The Lovers of Modena: How Two Skeletons Changed Our Understanding of Ancient Love”, Odd Salon Shorts - San Francisco, June.
- 2021<sup>e</sup> “Sex, Gender, and Agency in Paleopathology”, Critical Social Inquiry 307, Hampshire College, February.

- 2020<sup>a</sup> “Navigating Graduate School Studies in Anthropology”, Anthropology Capstone Course, Ithaca College, November.
- 2020<sup>b</sup> “Queer Collections: What Queer Theory Can Teach Us About Skeletal Collections”, FAB Lab Group at Boston University's Program in Forensic Anthropology, October.
- 2019 “Archaeology & Documents”, Introduction to Archaeology: Humans Past and Present, UMass Amherst, March.
- 2018<sup>a</sup> “Embodiment of Racism”, Power & Inequality in the United States, UMass Amherst, November.
- 2018<sup>b</sup> “Violence or Trauma? What skeletal collections can teach us about violence”, FAB Lab Group at Boston University's Program in Forensic Anthropology, November.
- 2018<sup>c</sup> “From IC to Iceland”, IC Sophomore SOAR Program, Ithaca College, October.
- 2018<sup>d</sup> “Reflexive Violence Theory”, Conquest by Law Honors Thesis seminar, Commonwealth Honors College, September.
- 2017 “What does it mean to study violence through a queer lens?”, Violence in American Culture Honors Thesis seminar, Commonwealth Honors College, April.
- 2015a “Fortune’s Bones: A Case Study in Contested Remains”, Race & the American Museum, UMass Amherst, March.
- 2015b “The New York African Burial Ground”, Race & the American Museum, UMass Amherst, February.

#### Sessions Organized/Chaired

- 2021<sup>a</sup> Passalacqua, N.V. and **Zimmer, A.N.**, Assistant Chair. “Forensic Anthropology: Assessing Sex & Gender” American Association of Physical Anthropologists Annual Meeting, Virtual.
- 2021<sup>b</sup> Skipper, C. and **Zimmer, A.N.**, Assistant Chair. “Forensic Anthropology: Addressing Issues of Variation and Race/ism.” American Association of Physical Anthropologists Annual Meeting, Virtual.
- 2019 **Zimmer, A.N.** and Hurd, K.J., Co-Chairs. “Changing climates in the study of sex and gender: new insights on old theories.” AAA Contributed Session. American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Vancouver, BC.
- 2018 Lans, A.J. and **Zimmer, A.N.**, Co-organizers and Co-Chairs. “Black Feminist Science.” AAA Roundtable. American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, San Jose, CA.
- 2017 **Zimmer, A.C.** and Bauer-Clapp, H.J. Co-organizers and Co-Chairs. “Policing the Dead.” AAA Contributed Session. American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Washington, DC.

#### Other Conference Presentations

- 2022 **Zimmer, A.N.** “Taphonomic and sharp-force trauma analysis of a non-identified anatomical teaching skeletal assemblage from Reykjavík, Iceland.” American Association of Biological Anthropologists Annual Meeting, Denver, CO.
- 2021 **Zimmer, A.N.** “Prime Harvest: The Role of Cadaver Acquisition for Iceland’s Early Medical Training.” Council of Europeanists Annual Meeting, Reykjavík, Iceland.
- 2019<sup>a</sup> **Zimmer, A.N.** “Queer (re)collections of bioarchaeology & anatomy.” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Vancouver, BC.
- 2019<sup>b</sup> **Zimmer, A.N.** “Understanding Inequality through Icelandic Anatomical Collections.” Roundtable participant - “Fulbright in the Arctic” International Arctic Circle 2019 Assembly, Reykjavík, Iceland.
- 2018<sup>a</sup> **Zimmer, A.N.** Roundtable participant – “Black Feminist Science.” AAA Roundtable. American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, San Jose, CA.

- 2018<sup>b</sup> Ortiz, L.M., **Zimmer, A.C.**, Stone, P.K., Harrod, R.P. “Perilous Pregnancies, Frail Bodies, and Proper Behavior: A biohistoric analysis of sexual dimorphism and the construction of sex and gender roles.” American Association of Physical Anthropologists Annual Meeting, Austin, TX.
- 2017<sup>a</sup> **Zimmer, A.C.** “Unpacking the definitional violence of skeletal collections in the United States.” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Washington, DC.
- 2017<sup>b</sup> **Zimmer, A.C.** “Using sociological segregation indices to reintroduce geographical relationships in anatomical skeletal collections.” American Association of Physical Anthropologists Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA.
- 2016 **Zimmer, A.C.** “More than the sum total of their parts: Restoring identity by recombining a skeletal collection with its texts.” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Minneapolis, MN.
- 2015 Mathena, S.A., **Zimmer, A.C.**, Godfrey, L.R., Pérez, V.R. “The Application of 3D Digital Microscopy in Identifying Evidence of Human Butchery of Extant Lemurs.” American Association of Physical Anthropologists Annual Meeting, St. Louis, MO.
- 2013 **Zimmer, A.C.**, DeTuri, V.F., Muller, J.L. “Using citrate concentration to determine postmortem interval of forensically-significant skeletal material.” American Association of Physical Anthropologists Annual Meeting, Knoxville, TN.

#### Media & Publicity

- 2022 Adevarul, “Cimitir medieval din Baia Mare, studiat de cercetători americani. Ce au găsit aceștia sub parcul ‘Țintirim’”, August 8, <https://adevarul.ro/stiri-locale/baia-mare/cimitir-medieval-din-baia-mare-studiat-de-2194413.html>
- 2021<sup>a</sup> WRSI – The River. “Short Attention Span School” interview with Monte Belmonte, March 25, <https://wrsi.com/monte/short-attention-span-school/>
- 2021<sup>b</sup> “3 Questions with UMass 3MT Finalist Adam Netzer Zimmer, PhD Candidate in Anthropology”, UMass SBS website, March 15, <https://www.umass.edu/sbs/news/umass-three-minute-thesis-3mt-competition-finalist-adam-netzer-zimmer-phd-candidate-anthropology>
- 2020 DiscoverPhDs: “Adam Netzer Zimmer”, July 29, <https://www.discoverphds.com/advice/interviews/adam-netzer-zimmer>
- 2019 The Arch & Anth Podcast: Episode 42. “What is the American and Icelandic medical history of cadaver recruitment for anatomical research and training?”, September 4, <https://archanth.com/episode-42-interview-with-adam-netzer-zimmer/>
- 2018 Rewire & PBS, “500 Queer Scientists Speak Up About STEM Inclusivity,” by Rachel Crowell, June 26, <https://www.rewire.org/our-future/queer-scientists-stem-inclusivity/>
- 2017 Spotlight: Graduate “PhD student in Anthropology receives Leifur Eiriksson Foundation Scholarship for pre-dissertation research”, Department of Anthropology Website, June, <https://www.umass.edu/anthro/spotlight-graduate>

#### **SERVICE**

##### National Service

- 2022 — Executive Committee Student Member At-Large, Biological Anthropology Section of the American Anthropological Association
- 2021 — PRIDE (Peer Review for Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity) Member, Volunteer mentor & fellowship reviewer for LGBTQ+ & other URM in STEM
- 2018-2021 Forensic Archaeology Recovery (FAR) Roster – Active Status Forensic Recovery

Volunteer, Society for American Archaeology

#### Editorial Activities

2022 Editor, *Being Human*, UMass Amherst Department of Anthropology newsletter  
2013-2018 Digital/Visual Content Editor, *Landscapes of Violence* journal  
2015 Managing Editor, *Landscapes of Violence* journal

#### University of Massachusetts Amherst

2021 3MT – Three Minute Thesis Judge, UMass Amherst Collegiate Competition  
2017-2021 NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program Mentorship panelist  
2017 Rutgers McNair Scholars Graduate Student Roundtable  
2014-2016 Steering Committee, Five College Undergraduate Certificate in Violence Studies  
2014-2015 UMass Amherst Graduate Student Senate, Anthropology Senator

#### Department of Anthropology, University of Massachusetts Amherst

2018 — Graduate Student Mentor (for Cecilia Vasquez, Abigail Thomsen)  
2021-2022 Graduate Studies Committee, Graduate student representative  
2018-2019 Woodbury Award Selection Committee, Graduate student representative  
2014-2018 NAGPRA Repatriation Committee osteologist  
2015-2017 Interim Laboratory Manager, Violence & Conflict Laboratory  
2014-2015 NAGPRA repatriation coordinator search committee, Student representative  
2014-2015 Graduate Student Mentor Coordinator

#### Community/Public Service & Outreach

2020 — Non-profit fundraising outreach graphic designer, The Imperial Sovereign Court of All Connecticut (Hartford-based community fundraising non-profit)  
2019 — Founding member, Bángsafelagið (Icelandic LGBTQIA community non-profit)  
2015-2021 Panelist speaker, SpeakOut LGBTQIA Speakers Bureau, Boston, MA  
2015 Event facilitator, “Portrait of a Search: A Film by Alicia Calderón”, Documentary screening & public awareness event for los desaparecidos de Ayotzinapa de México  
2014-2018 Non-fiction Section Chair & Judge, Bisexual Book Awards, Bi Writers Association, NYC  
2014 “The Buried Life”, Film consultant for bioarchaeology/forensic anthropology, Sundance Institute & Sloan Science-in-Film Initiative

### **ADDITIONAL TRAINING & AFFILIATIONS**

#### Professional Workshops & Trainings

2021 “Deep Dive into QGIS”. 12-hour GIS workshop  
2019 Scientific American & Alan Alda Center for Communicating Science. 5-week science communication/science writing seminar & workshop  
2019 UMass Institute for Teaching Excellence & Faculty Development. 4-week online faculty course development seminar  
2018 Society for American Archaeology. “Forensic Archaeology: Theory & Practice” training  
2017 Alan Alda Center for Communicating Science. 8-hour science communication workshop

### Professional Affiliations

- American Anthropological Association (AAA)
- American Association of Biological Anthropologists (AABA)
- Paleopathology Association (PPA)
- Council for European Studies (CES)
- International Society of Nonbinary Scientists (ISNBS)
- Out in Science, Technology, Engineering, & Mathematics (oSTEM)

### Languages

- English: Native speaker
- Icelandic: Intermediate reading and intermediate spoken
- Old Norse: Intermediate reading