

Sydney E. James

School of Human Evolution and Social Change
 Institute of Human Origins, Arizona State University
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 sydneyjames@asu.edu

Education

Ph.D., Anthropology (in progress)	2020 - present
Arizona State University	
School of Human Evolution and Social Change	
Advisor: Dr. Kathryn Ranhorn	
M.A., Anthropology	2022
Arizona State University	
School of Human Evolution and Social Change (SHESC)	
Advisor: Dr. Kathryn Ranhorn	
Thesis Title: "Geospatial analysis of obsidian movement in Late Pleistocene Kenya and Tanzania"	
B.A., Anthropology and Geography with Honors	2019
Coastal Carolina University	
Minor: History	
Certificates: Applied Archaeology, Cultural Heritage Studies, Geospatial Technologies	
<i>Summa Cum Laude</i> (4.0)	
Thesis title: "The Applications of GIS on Lithic Raw Material Source Analysis"	
Advisor: Dr. Carolyn Dillian	

Employment

Teaching Associate	2023 – present
Coastal Carolina University	
Graduate Teaching Assistant	2020 - present
Arizona State University	
School of Human Evolution and Social Change	
Archaeological Crew Chief (contract)	2019 - 2020
Terracon, INC. – Columbia, SC office	
Archaeological Technician (contract)	2019 – 2020
Apogee Environmental	
Dovetail Cultural Resource Group	
GIS Intern	Spring 2019
Horry County Government, SC	

Teaching Experience

Teaching Associate (Instructor of Record), Arizona State University ASB 327: Disaster!	Summer 2024
Teaching Associate (Instructor of Record), Coastal Carolina University ANTH 101L: Primates, People, and Prehistory Laboratory	Fall 2023 – present
Teaching Assistant, Kondo Deep History Project (Tanzania)	Summer 2022
Teaching Assistant, Arizona State University ASB 222: Buried Cities and Lost Tribes ASB 301: Global History of Health ASM 201: Epidemics and Outbreaks ASB 300: Food and Culture ASB 327: Disaster! ASB 333: Frauds, Myths, and Mysteries ASM 104: Bones, Stones, and Human Evolution ASB 462: Medical Anthropology – Culture and Health	2020 - present
Teaching Assistant, Koobi Fora Field School (Kenya)	2019
Site Assistant, Prehistoric Archaeology Field School	2019

Student Mentees

Phillip M. Kyule, University of Nairobi	2019
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Research Experience

Graduate Researcher, Kondo Deep History Project	2022 - present
Data Manager, Kondo Deep History Project	2022
Graduate Researcher, Koobi Fora Research and Training Program	2020
Intern, Koobi Fora Field School (KFFS) Ongoing research building on previous work to understand the relationships between Pleistocene archaeological sites and raw material sources	2019
Research Assistant, Coastal Carolina University Research conducted under Dr. Carolyn Dillian exploring the uses of geochemical characterization via x-ray fluorescence to improve traditional minimum number of vessel calculations on ceramics in site assemblages	2017 - 2019
COHFA Research Fellow, Coastal Carolina University Conducted research on the incorporation of experimental archaeology into classroom settings to provide recommendations to educators on increasing engagement in classrooms for students of all ages	2017 - 2019

Fellowships and Grants

SHESC Travel Award - \$500	Spring 2024
SHESC Travel Award - \$4,000	Summer 2022
5 Year Teaching Assistantship – Arizona State University \$21,000 stipend + tuition waiver	2020 - 2025
National Science Foundation Research Experience for Undergraduates Funding to continue research with KFFS as an intern (Kenya)	2019
National Science Foundation International Research Experience Fellow Full funding to attend Koobi Fora Field School (Kenya)	2018
COHFA Research Fellow Research Fellow in the College of Humanities and Fine Arts (COHFA) at Coastal Carolina University	2017 - 2019

Honors and Awards

Excellence in Graduate Achievement, Archaeology School of Human Evolution and Social Change, Coastal Carolina University	2024
Outstanding Teaching Associate, Spadoni College Spadoni College of Education and Social Sciences, Coastal Carolina University	2024
Outstanding Graduate for the College of Humanities and Fine Arts Coastal Carolina University	2019
Outstanding Graduate in Anthropology and Geography Coastal Carolina University	2019

Publications (in press)

James, Sydney E. “From “Do No Harm” to “Do Some Good”: A Review of Approaches to Collaborative Archaeology in North America.” In C. Bello, C. Dillian and K. Clary (Eds.), *Collaborative and Community Engaged Archaeology*. University Press of Florida. Unpublished manuscript.

Goldstein, S., **James, S.E.**, and Ranhorn, K.L. “A two-million-year record of obsidian extraction, use, and exchange in Kenya, eastern Africa.” In F.-X. Le Bourdonnec, S. Shackley, and M. Orange (Eds.), [*Sourcing Obsidian*]. Springer. Unpublished manuscript.

Conference Presentations (*Denotes student co-author)

James, Sydney E. (2024). Archaeology for the land: the potential of community-based archaeology for land stewardship. Presentation at the 89th Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology in New Orleans, LA.

James, Sydney E., Mashaka, Husna, and Ranhorn, Kathryn L. (2024). Traditional ecological knowledge in land stewardship: perspectives from Kondoa, Tanzania. Presentation at the 84th annual Society for Applied Anthropology meeting in Santa Fe, NM.

Ranhorn, Kathryn L., Mashaka, H., and **James, S.E.** (2024). Stewarding Vanishing Art and Heritage with Collaborative Paleoanthropology in Kondo, Tanzania. Presentation at the 84th annual Society for Applied Anthropology meeting in Santa Fe, NM.

James, Sydney E. (2022). Geochemical Data and Geospatial Methods: Characterizing Obsidian Use in Late Pleistocene Eastern Africa. Invited presentation at the SciX annual meeting.

Huang, Cindy Hsin-Yee, Murray, J.K., **James, S. E.**, Ferrer, A.*, Paige, J., Hansen, N., and Ranhorn, K. L. (2022). Sedimental Value: The effects of raw material quality on inferring lithic skill variation in stone tools. Poster for the 87th Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology in Chicago, IL.

James, Sydney E., Reeves, J. S., Kyule, P. M.*, Douglass, M. J., and Braun, D. R. (2020). The Influence of Raw Material Availability on Pleistocene Lithic Assemblages in the Koobi Fora Formation (Kenya). Poster accepted for presentation at the Paleoanthropology Society Annual Meeting (meeting cancelled due to COVID-19).

James, Sydney E., Reeves, J., Douglass, M., and Braun, D. R. (2019). The Influence of Raw Material Availability on Site Assemblage Variability in the Koobi Fora Fm. (Kenya). Poster at the Society for American Archaeology Annual Meeting.

James, Sydney E., Reeves, J., Douglass, M., and Braun, D. R. (2018). The Influence of Raw Material Availability on Site Assemblage Variability. Presentation at the Koobi Fora Research and Training Program Annual Workshop, American Museum of Natural History.

James, Sydney E. (2018). Using Experimental Archaeology as a Tool for Education. Presentation at the Coastal Carolina University Undergraduate Research Competition.

James, Sydney E. (2018). Experiments Incorporating X-ray Fluorescence within Traditional MNV Calculations. Presentation at the Middle Atlantic Archaeology Conference (MAAC).

Dillian, C., and **James, S. E.** (2017). How Many Pots? Experiments Using an Alternative Method to Calculate MNV with X-ray Fluorescence. Presentation at the Reconstructive and Experimental Archaeology Conference (REARC).

Academic Service

Association of All Graduate Students (AAGS) - Arizona State University

Co-Secretary

Fall 2022

Archaeology Approach Representative

Spring 2022

Member

Fall 2020 - present

Professional Memberships

Paleoanthropology Society

Society for American Archaeology (SAA)

East African Association for Paleontology and Paleoanthropology (EAAPP)

Pan African Archaeological Congress (PanAf)

Society for Archaeological Sciences