

# Isabel Heslin

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*Curriculum vitae May 2026*

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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Paleoanthropology, Palaeoecology, Archaeology, Hominin Nutrition, Human Evolution, Dietary Reconstruction, Quantitative methods, Museum Studies, Eastern Africa

## EDUCATION

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**Colorado State University** | PhD, Anthropology

*Current: Second-Year*

Advisor: Dr. Andrew Du, Department of Anthropology and Geography

Concentration: Biological Anthropology

**Yale University** | Master of Arts, Archaeological Studies

May 2024

Readers: Dr. Jessica Thompson and Dr. Ellery Frahm

Thesis: *Addressing Nutritional Biases in Paleoanthropology*

*Relevant coursework:* Evolution of the Human Diet, Experimental Archaeology, Archaeological Lab Sciences, Paleoarchaeology Intensive Reading Course, Primate Ecology and Behavior, Lithic Technology, Archaeology in the Digital Age

**Lehigh University**

Bachelor of Arts, Anthropology & Classical Civilizations

January 2022

Minor: History

GPA: 3.97 - Highest Honors

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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**Graduate Student Teaching Assistant** | Colorado State University

Fall 2024

- Taught three sections of ANTH 121 Human Origins and Variation Laboratory
- Grading and advising for ANTH 271 Human Diversity
- Facilitating outreach programs and building new activities

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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**Hominin Paleoecology Lab** | Colorado State University

August 2024 - *Ongoing*

Project Investigator: Dr. Andrew Du

- Investigating questions relating to hominin paleoecology from a quantitative perspective

**Malawi Ancient Lifeways and Peoples Project (MALAPP)** | Yale University

July 2024-August 2025

HOMER Project in Mzimba, Kasitu Valley, Malawi

Project Investigator: Dr. Jessica Thompson

Position: Research Assistant

- Organization of online and physical archaeological materials at the National Repository of Malawi
- Data collection: lithics, animal bones, iron slag/ore, pottery
- Database management and student training

**Paleoarchaeology Lab Technician (Level 2)** | Yale University

January 2024 - May 2024

Faculty Lab Manager: Dr. Jessica Thompson

- Leading Project Sauron - the reorganization of the Malawi Ancient Lifeways and Peoples Project (MALAPP) field and lab data collection
- Implementation of new field lab protocols and data management
- Data cleaning; Microsoft Access Database

**Museum Collections Assistant** | Yale Peabody Museum

March 2023 - May 2024

Collections Manager: Roger Colten

- Cataloging the YUPEN 1966 lithics collection and piecing together contextual information to understand where and how the material was collected
- Learning the Peabody Museum cataloging system (EMu)
- Skills: archiving; cataloging, artifact photography; EMu

**Malawi Ancient Lifeways and Peoples Project (MALAPP)** | Yale University

June - August 2023

HOMER Project in Mzimba, Kasitu Valley, Malawi

Project Investigator: Dr. Jessica Thompson

Position: Graduate Student

- Co-ran and organized field laboratory with local lab leader, Raphael Kondwani
- Collaborated with local community members in both field and lab settings
- Participated in an archaeological excavation of an LSA rock shelter site
- Participated in a human remains recovery excavation

**Classical Studies Internship** | Rutgers University

May 2020 - June 2022

Supervisor: T. Corey Brennan

- Worked on archival material belonging to the Boncompagni-Ludovisi family
- Conducted an independent project on the history and mobility of the Sallustiano Obelisk, which resulted in the 2020 publication of "The 'Sallustian' Obelisk: A Remarkable Journey from the Villa Ludovisi to the Spanish Steps."
- Assisted in the transcription of an ancient coin and medal collection c. 1770

**Syrian Refugee Education Internship** | Rutgers University

June - October 2020

Supervisor: Salam Al Kuntar

- Conducted historical research regarding the relationship between the ancient Levant and ancient Egypt which was then formatted into lesson plans for Syrian Refugee children who have resettled in Egypt

**Roman Glass Lab Assistant** | College of Charleston

August - December 2018

Supervisor: Allison Sterrett-Krause

- Drew, measured, and cataloged Roman glassware

**Bulow Plantation Ruins Excavation** | University of Florida

June 2017

Supervisor: James Davidson

- Participated in the excavation of a burnt-down slave cabin
- Trained with graduate students in on-site excavation techniques

**Crow Canyon Archaeological Field School**

July 2016

- Participated in the excavation of an open-air Puebloan domestic site
- Learned archaeological excavation methods, data collection, and artifact handling

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

**Graduate Student Teaching Assistant** | Colorado State University

Spring 2025

- Working on the Trunk Show which is the department outreach program

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|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| - Visiting local schools to teach about anthropology and geography              |                  |
| <b>Harris Elementary Steam Night</b>   Colorado State University                | March 2025, 2026 |
| - Presenter for the CSU Trunk Show – anthropology and geography                 |                  |
| <b>Lopez Elementary</b>   Colorado State University                             | March 2025       |
| - Presenter for the CSU Trunk Show – anthropology and geography                 |                  |
| <b>Archaeology and Cultural Heritage of Mzimba, Malawi</b>   MALAPP             |                  |
| - Assisted in facilitating a workshop on protecting cultural heritage of Malawi | Summer 2024      |
| - Met with local collaborators on how to best preserve archaeological sites     |                  |
| <b>Guest Speaker at The Craig School</b>   Mountain Lakes, New Jersey           | February 2024    |
| - Introduction to archaeology for elementary school, grades 2-5                 |                  |

## PROJECTS (IN PROGRESS)

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*Accepted:* **Heslin, Isabel** - “Extant Primate Stone Tool-Use and Its Application to Human Evolution: A Literature Review of Primate Lithic Studies” Journal: *Furthering Perspectives* Mountain Scholar CSU

*In Progress:* **Heslin, Isabel.**, Thompson, Jessica., David Raubenhiemer. - “Bigger is Not Better: Unexpected Relationship Between Prey Body Size and Macronutrient Composition in East African Mammals” Intended journal: *Journal of Human Evolution* (JHE)

*In Progress:* Thompson, Jessica., **Heslin, Isabel.**, David Raubenhiemer - “Evolutionary Nutritional Transitions”

*In Progress:* Raubenhiemer, David., Thompson, Jessica., and **Heslin, Isabel.** - “Nutritional Geometry of Dietary Transitions in the East African Rift”

## PUBLICATIONS (NOT-PEER REVIEWED)

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2020. **Heslin, Isabel.** “The ‘Sallustian’ Obelisk: A Remarkable Journey from the Villa Ludovisi to the Spanish Steps.” *Archivio Digitale Boncompagni Ludovisi*  
<https://villaludovisi.org/2020/09/11/the-sallustian-obelisk-a-remarkable-journey-from-the-villa-ludovisi-to-the-spanish-steps/>

## TALKS/PRESENTATIONS

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Keynote Speaker, “Malawi Unearthed: Obstacles and Opportunities in Archaeology”, Malawi Archaeology and Heritage Society, Fireside with Elders Webinar Series, April 18, 2026

“The Ludovisi ‘Sallustian’ Obelisk in Rome” Virtual Presentation at Internal Conference "Religion, Politics, & Culture in the Papacy of Gregory XV Ludovisi (1621-1623)" hosted by Kutztown University, February 5, 2020.

<https://youtu.be/gwDk94Cv21s?si=Uhknx8xU7JIMZ7VE>

## RESEARCH FUNDING

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- 2023 Fieldwork Travel Funding | *Albers–Coe–Hazard Fund* (\$3,954) - Yale University
- 2024 Fieldwork Travel Funding | *Albers–Coe–Hazard Fund* (\$5,000) - Yale University
- 2026 Fieldwork Travel Funding | *Anthropology Scholarship Endowment* (\$950) - Colorado State University
- 2026 Fieldwork Travel Funding | *Anthropology Graduate Student Society Award* (\$1500) - Colorado State University

## SKILLS

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*Field:* Excavation, Photogrammetry, Total Station, Archaeological Recording Methods

*Computer:* Metashape, R, JMP Pro 16, Google Earth Pro, Scannerverse, Microsoft Excel and Access, HRAF

*Lab:* Portable X-ray Fluorescence Analyzers (pXRF), Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM)

*Museum:* Museum Cataloguing, Database management, EMu, Artifact Photography, Archival Research

## **SOCIETY MEMBERSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS**

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Eastern African Association of Palaeoanthropology and Palaeontology (EAAPP)

Rocky Mountain Biological Anthropology Association (RMBAA)

Colorado Council of Professional Archaeologists (CCPA)

Society of Africanist Archaeologists (SAfA)

Society for American Archaeology (SAA)

Paleoanthropology Society