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• *Maryna Steyn* • South Africa



CONTACT US at

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MESSAGE FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD //

The European spring is here and we are pleased to present you with our Newsletter, which is full of exciting news!

From the beginning of January we have welcomed our new President, Professor Cristina Cattaneo and a new Board, which has been strengthened by the addition of the Advisory Board to the "main" Board. Some members of the new Board have been active in the past Boards and we have been lucky to win the former President, Professor Eugenia Cunha to act as Past President in the new Board. FASE has also added two young anthropologists, Emeline and Zuzana, as web administrators, and as a result you can "check out" our brand-new FASE Facebook page!

A Facebook public group will be set up later this year to serve as a medium for easy and quick exchange platform for information, ideas, and suggestions.

We are proud to announce two FASE events for this year: the FASE special session on 24 July at the IALM Congress in Venice, and the FASE Basic Workshop in Forensic Anthropology from 1 to 5 September in Coimbra. You can also read about the FASE presence at the AAFS in Las Vegas earlier this year and look at the calendar for more interesting events.

Let's enjoy the spring and we hope to see you at one of our events!
Your Editorial team



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Eric Baccino and Eugenia Cunha are a hard act to follow as FASE Presidents – I will however try to do my best to keep up the excellent work. Since 2003 FASE, a subsection of the International Academy of Legal Medicine, has grown tremendously in the international scenario of forensic

anthropology and forensic sciences in general, promoting **training, scientific meetings, research** and, in the past two years, **certification** in FA.

The actual political and social scenarios however present **new challenges to forensic anthropology**: and FASE as one of the leading forensic anthropology societies in Europe will have to deal with these issues and promote novel solutions which come from the discipline of anthropology.

One example of such challenges is only too well known to southern European countries: that of **unidentified dead migrants**. The increasing number of unidentified dead in the Mediterranean is demanding new identification strategies in the forensic activity – and anthropology is becoming more and more important. In fact, in a scenario where DNA analysis and odontology, the “traditional” primary identifiers, cannot be applied or can be used only partially for identification (because of the lack of clinical or genetic AM data), anthropology is frequently the only discipline which may allow for identification through the biological profile combined with personal descriptors or facial, skeletal and non-clinical dental traits.

Anthropology is becoming more and more a fundamental identifying discipline and we will need to work towards conceiving more powerful identification strategies in anthropology and devising algorithms by which to combine anthropology with non-anthropological biological data which will fulfill judicial standards. For this reason the FASE meeting at the IALM Congress in Venice next June will be dedicated to this topic.

Another challenge concerns the living, always in the forensic

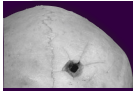
humanitarian scenario: that of **unaccompanied minors**. The large number of unaccompanied minors is requesting more and more accuracy in the assessment of skeletal and dental age for administrative reasons, which in turn is requesting anthropological and odontological research on different ethnic groups. Tens of thousands of minors without ID have been recently crossing the borders and adequate strategies for verifying their age must be devised in order to provide for their appropriate taking care of as minors or adults.

Always in the domain of the living, anthropology is nowadays a fundamental tool, both for its physical and cultural components in the study and **identification of trauma on skin and bones** related to **torture** inflicted in countries from which asylum seekers are fleeing. Anthropology can be a fundamental tool in verifying and understanding the significance of scars and bone calluses as witnesses of torture.

Finally, looking at the more criminalistic scenarios, the emerging generations of European forensic pathologists are becoming more and more aware of the fact that certain issues pertaining to bone trauma and **post mortem interval estimation** require the expertise of an anthropologist, making the discipline more and more indispensable for the normal administration of justice. Large State forensic labs are coming to realise the importance of FA in dealing with **terroristic acts** (identification of the dead and also of living culprits which may have been recorded on videosurveillance systems) and with **organized crime** (searching for and recovering hidden human remains, differentiating perimortem from postmortem trauma, etc.).

For all these reasons we need to roll up our sleeves and further cultivate and introduce forensic anthropology as a fundamental tool in the detection and prevention of crime as well as in the enforcement of human rights. I have no doubt that FASE in the next few years will promote all such challenging issues.

Cristina Cattaneo



INTRODUCING NEW BOARD MEMBERS

2016-2018



VICE PRESIDENT

Prof Ann Ross



PAST PRESIDENT

Prof Eugénia Cunha



HONORARY PRESIDENT

Prof Eric Baccino



BOARD MEMBERS

Prof Pascal Adalian



Dr Elena Kraniotti



Dr Zuzana Obertová



Dr Anja Petaros



FASE ADVISORY BOARD

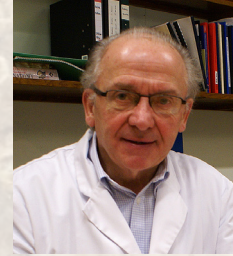
Prof Miguel Botella



Dr Yalcin Büyük



Dr Hans De Boer



Prof Philippe Lefèvre



Prof Niels Lynnerup



Prof Maryna Steyn

Please check the webpage for short biographies of our Board members:

<http://forensicanthropology.eu/index.php/about/board>



Welcome Web Administrators

Emeline Verna and **Zuzana Čaplová** are our new web administrators. These two ladies have already managed to create the FASE Facebook page and update the FASE website. A Facebook public group for easier networking and information sharing is also planned.

<https://www.facebook.com/FASE-Forensic-Anthropology-Society-of-Europe-840418752733810/>



FASE EVENTS



IALM INTERSOCIETAL SYMPOSIUM, Venice-Italy, 21-24 June 2016

FASE session on Friday, 24 June

2016 ANTHROPOLOGY: ON BECOMING A NEW “PRIMARY IDENTIFIER” IN THE PRESENT HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCIES

This meeting brings together forensic practitioners, researchers and representatives from international organisations, such as Interpol and ICRC, who are involved in the identification of human cadavers and skeletal remains.

In light of the recent humanitarian emergency of mass migrant deaths in the Mediterranean, this session focuses on how forensic anthropology can contribute to the identification process, whether and how skeletal features can be used for positive identification, and what steps need to be taken (statistical, administrative, educational, etc.) in order to include skeletal findings in the “identification tool box”. The goal of the session is to formulate a consensus statement on the use of anthropological findings for personal identification when traditional primary identifiers are not available.

Introduction: **C Cattaneo, E Cunha**

Moderator: **E Baccino**

Lecture: **F Taroni** – The statistics of identification
Y.Schuliar (Interpol)

FOR MORE INFORMATION



Please watch this space for more information:

<http://www.ialm2016venice.org/en/sistemacongressi/ialm-2016-venice/website/fase-parallel-session/>



BASIC COURSE IN FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGY, Coimbra- Portugal

1- 5 September 2016

2016 in Coimbra (Portugal).

The next Basic Course in Forensic Anthropology will be held from 1 to 5 September

The course is a wonderful way to learn about methods and approaches of forensic anthropology from experienced and highly esteemed researchers in the field, including **Eugenia Cunha, Douglas Ubelaker, Cristina Cattaneo, Ann Ross, Philippe Lefèvre, and Eric Baccino**, and immediately practice the theoretical knowledge in practical sessions on skeletal remains from the local Collections.

You can find the program and more information, for example on accommodation possibilities on our webpage: forensicanthropology.eu

We look forward to seeing you there.



TWO GRANTS AVAILABLE FOR THE FASE BASIC WORKSHOP ON FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGY

FASE offers to financially support two attendees to the next FASE Basic workshop, to be held in Coimbra (Portugal), 1-5 September 2016.



The grants correspond to the payment of half of the registration fee. The aim is to help those students who would be otherwise unable to attend due to financial reasons, and for whom forensic anthropology training options are limited in their country of residence.

If you would like to apply please send your application to **Eugenia Cunha** (cunhae@ci.uc.pt).

All applications should include the following documents:

- A **motivation letter** mentioning what you expect to learn at the workshop and in what way it will contribute to your education and career.
- A full **curriculum vitae**, including among others: * Your education history and current position. Specifically make clear what type of student you currently are (undergraduate, graduate, master, PhD, post-doc).
 - * Any experience within forensic anthropology.
- A document listing the **forensic anthropology courses in your country**.
- A **recommendation letter** from your supervisor.

UPDATE ON THE CERTIFICATION PROCESS

The submissions of applications for FASE certification closed on **1 April 2016** and the applications are now being evaluated.

The certification exams are scheduled for **6 and 7 September 2016** at the **Laboratory of Forensic Anthropology, University of Coimbra, Coimbra (Portugal)**.

More information on <http://lfa.uc.pt>

FASE AT THE 68TH AAFS MEETING

FASE was very well represented at the **AAFS 68th Annual Scientific meetings** in *Las Vegas, Nevada*.

We presented two podium presentation and two posters. At least ten of us were in attendance.

Congratulations go to **Doug Ubelaker** as he was the recipient of the AAFS Distinguished Fellow Award the highest Academy recognition. **Ann Ross** received an Anthropology Section Service Award. **Jo Adserias Garriga** was the recipient of the Ellis R. Kerley International Outreach Award and she passed her American Board of Forensic Odontology exams.

Following are the papers presented by our FASE member (in bold):

- **Around the World in Accumulated Degree Days.** Simmons, Moffatt, **Bulut**, Rattananarungruang, Roe, Siwek.
- **Estimating Age in Juvenile Crania Using Cranial Vault Thickness (CVT).** Kamnikar, Herrmann, **Guyomarc'h**, Zuckerman.

- **Accidental Injuries in Children: A Clinical Study for Improving the Forensic Interpretation of Child Physical Abuse.** Collini, Muccino, Cappella, Grappeja, Poppa, Kustermann, **Cattaneo**.
- **Forensic Examination of Burned Human Skeletal Remains: Shifting the Paradigm.** **Gonçalves, Coelho, Makhoul, Santos, Vassalo, Ferreira, Batista de Carvalho, Cunha.**
- **A Two-Pronged Approach to the Identification of Deceased Unidentified Border Crossers in North Carolina: 3D-ID and Geochemical Analysis.** **Juarez**, and **Ross**

FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGY NEWS

PONTESTURA FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGY AND ODONTOLOGY SUMMER SCHOOL



5th Summer School of Forensic Anthropology and Odontology

* Pontestura (4-9 July 2016)

This Summer School is organised for the fifth year by **LABANOF** (Laboratory of Forensic Anthropology and Odontology) of the University of Milan (Italy) for students and practitioners from different fields, including medicine, biology, archaeology, and anthropology, who are interested in learning more about osteological analysis of ancient and modern human skeletal remains in the forensic context.

The Summer School consists of **theoretical lectures** and **practical sessions** on topics such as preparation and restoration of human skeletal remains, species identification, estimation of the post-mortem interval, reconstruction of the biological profile (estimation of sex, age, ancestry, stature, facial reconstruction), paleopathology, identification of pathological conditions, and assessment of skeletal lesions in relation to cause of death. The practical sessions include the cleaning, restoration, inventarisation, and analysis (including biological profile, assessment of pathological and traumatic lesions) of at least three skeletal individuals: one archaeological, one modern, and one cremated.

Although the Summer School is mainly aimed at Italian-speaking participants, the majority of the lecturers and teaching assistants speaks English.

The teaching staff, headed by Professor Cristina Cattaneo is mostly affiliated with LABANOF, but as last year, will be joined by Dr Robert Mann (University of Hawaii, formerly Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command Central Identification Laboratory).

Pontestura is a small village in the heart of Monferrato in the Piedmont Region of Italy (<http://www.comune.pontestura.al.it>). The accommodation for the Summer School participants is provided by the Municipality of Pontestura for free in a gym with facilities (including showers). Camp beds are provided but the participants need to bring their own bedding (eg., sleeping bag and pillow). Alternatively, there are a few B&B in the vicinity of Pontestura (in a 10km radius), but you need to book ahead.

If you are interested in participating at the Summer School please fill in the Registration Form which can be downloaded at: https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B-2oy7MpDE_tSGFpUXZrZHg3OW8/view and email it to: campusosteologia@unimi.it along with your CV and a detailed information about your experience in anthropology (courses, workshops, exams, working experience).

The registration fee is 250 Euro (except for students of specific degrees at the University of Milan). Preference is given to local students, so be quick!



For more information, please email campusosteologia@unimi.it or phone +39-02-50315678 (Dr Pasquale Poppa).



5th EUROPEAN MEETING ON FORENSIC ARCHAEOLOGY

Dublin Castle, Dublin, Ireland
August 11-12, 2016



PG Forensic Archaeology

On behalf of the Independent Commission for the Location of Victims' Remains and the Forensic Service Ireland), the ENFSI Project Group Forensic Archaeology we are delighted to invite you to the **5th European Meeting on Forensic Archaeology (EMFA 2016)** taking place

August 11-12, 2016 at Dublin Castle, Dublin, Ireland.

This scientific meeting will bring together practitioners, researchers and educators from around Europe and beyond who are engaged in the field of Forensic Archaeology. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the present state and further development of forensic archaeology; to present forensic case studies and R&D work (e.g. GIS, geophysics and human taphonomy); to meet foreign colleagues; and to inform you on the advancement of the ENFSI forum for Forensic Archaeology. Additionally, two workshops will be offered during EMFA 2016, a Geophysics workshop and a GIS/Photogrammetry workshop.

Call for papers

You and your colleagues are also kindly invited to give an oral presentation and/or present a poster on a Forensic Archaeological topic during the EMFA 2016.

It is estimated that each oral presentation will last circa 20-30 mins, depending on the total number of presentations.

If you wish to participate with an oral paper, please contact Mike Groen at m.groen@nfi.minvenj.nl as soon as possible and not later than **June 20th**. If you wish to participate with a poster, please contact him not later than **July 8th**.

Information and Registration

The EMFA 2016 starts on **Thursday, August 11th**, at 10:30 and ends on **Friday, August**

12th, at 16:00. A fee is asked to cover conference costs, including workshops, lunches and a social dinner on Thursday evening. For additional information, please contact Danielle Devaney at danielle@abbeyconference.ie, or Mike Groen at m.groen@nfi.minvenj.nl.

To register, please visit

<https://abbey.eventsair.com/emfa2016/registrationsite>

We thank you in advance and hope to be able to greet you at Dublin Castle, Ireland.

Yours sincerely,

Geoff Knupfer
ICLVR
geoff@knupferconsulting.com

Sheila Willis
FSI
smwillis@fsl.gov.ie

Mike Groen
ENFSI PG Forensic Archaeology
m.groen@nfi.minvenj.nl



The Independent Commission for the Location of Victims' Remains



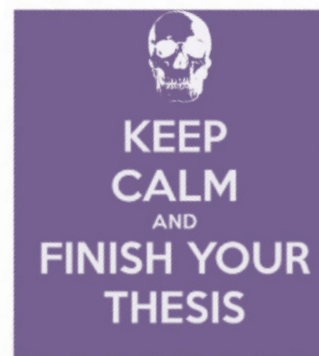
Forensic Service Ireland



FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGY THESIS

We congratulate **Nicole Thiemann** on receiving her PhD degree in Archaeology (Forensic Anthropology) at the [University of Edinburgh](#).

All the best for the future, Nicole! And thank you for sharing your abstract.



FACING THE PAST - IN VIVO FACIAL SOFT TISSUE DEPTHS OF A MODERN ADULT POPULATION FROM GERMANY

Nicolas Thiemann, BSc (Hons) MSc PhD c. AFHEA FRAI Cert-FAIII

School of History, Classics and Archaeology

William Robertson Wing, Teviot Place

Edinburgh, EH8 9AG

N.Thiemann@sms.ed.ac.uk

Forensic facial reconstruction may be the final option available to draw the public attention in cases where the identity of an individual cannot be established by standard identification methods. Two fundamental components of all forensic facial reconstruction techniques are cranial morphology and soft tissue depths databases. The purpose of this study was to extend such databases by providing a complete set of accurate facial soft tissue thickness measurements, acquired from a contemporary adult population from Germany, for use in forensic facial reconstruction. The aims were to measure the distance between well-defined landmarks on the skull and reference points on the face in a standardised manner, to analyse how sex, age and body mass index (BMI) influence facial soft tissue depths, to identify patterns of facial asymmetry, and to conduct a comparative analysis with other populations.

The material for this study consisted of 320 (160 male, 160 female) anonymised multi-slice computerised tomography (MSCT) scans of individuals drawn from a German population. Individuals between the ages of 18 and 84 years were analysed. Their statures varied between 1.50 m and 1.96 m; their weights ranged between 40 kg and 145 kg. The BMI fluctuated between 16.6 kg/m² and 45.8 kg/m². Patients with severe trauma or pathologies that may compromise facial soft tissue depth were excluded from the study as were patients known to have been treated with specific medication (e.g. cortisone).

In Amira®, 3D models of the surfaces of the skull and the facial skin were semi-automatically

segmented using previously calculated thresholds and surface extraction algorithms. The parameters were adjusted to permit semi-transparent visualisation and examination of the structures of both the 3D skull and facial skin surface models simultaneously. Facial soft tissue depth was measured at 10 midline and 28 bilateral anatomical landmarks, according to the main orientations of the skull. Statistical analyses and tests were performed with SPSS® Version 22 and TDStats Version v2015.1.

The analysis of facial soft tissue thickness versus BMI, sex and age, for each landmark separately, indicated that, at a number of the landmarks, facial soft tissue depth is significantly ($p < 0.05$) influenced by all three biometric variables. Facial soft tissue thickness increased with increasing BMI, but the correlations with age were insignificant. The differences between males and females were statistically significant ($p < 0.05$) for almost all anatomical landmarks with the exception of a few in the region of the nasal root and orbitals. Asymmetry was noted at over half of the bilateral landmarks.

The differences between the results from this sample and those obtained from comparable databases contradict the hypothesis that population-specificity significantly influences facial soft tissue thickness. Nevertheless, this and future studies of craniofacial soft tissues will improve our knowledge of the complexity of the human face. The information gathered will be invaluable when considering forensic facial reconstruction methods for neighbouring populations.

Have you recently finished your doctoral thesis on a topic related to forensic anthropology? We would like to include the summary/abstract or just the title and affiliation of your thesis on our webpage and in the Newsletter. We look forward to your email at: fase.newsletter@gmail.com



CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

MEETINGS/ CONFERENCES 2016

June

3.06.

16ème Congrès d'Anthropologie Médico-légale
Nice, France
<http://sfml-asso.fr/en/actualite/agenda.html>
view =events

09.-11.06.

Dental Anthropology Scientific Symposium
(DASS)
Zagreb, Croatia
dental-anthropology-symposium.szfg.hr

21-24.06.

IALM Intersocietal Symposium, with a FASE
special session on **24th June**
Venice, Italy
www.ialm2016venice.org

July

05-07.07.

12th Forensic Research and Teaching
(FORREST)
Conference Hampden Park, Glasgow, UK
www.theforensicinstitute.com/training/forrestconference/forrest-2016

August

07-13.08.

101st International Educational Conference of
the International Association for Identification
Cincinnati, Ohio, USA
www.theaia.org/conference/2016/index.php

15-19.08.

Paleopathology Association Annual Meeting
Moscow, Russia
www.21ppa2016.com

22-23.08.

18th International Conference on Forensic
Science (ICFS)
Paris, France
<https://www.waset.org/conference/2016/08/paris/ICFS/home>

September

01.-05.09.

FASE Basic Workshop in Forensic
Anthropology
Coimbra, Portugal
forensicanthropology.eu/

EVERY YEAR DIFFERENT FORENSIC CENTERS ARE ORGANIZING A NUMBER OF SHORT COURSES (BASIC AND ADVANCED) IN FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGY DEDICATED TO FORENSIC FACIAL RECONSTRUCTION, FIELD RECOVERY METHODS, STATISTICAL METHODS, TRAUMA ANALYSIS, BIOLOGICAL IDENTITY... HERE IS THE LIST OF THEIR WEBPAGES WHERE YOU CAN FIND DETAILED INFORMATION ON THE EXACT TOPICS, DATES AND PRICES:

University of Tennessee (Forensic Anthropology Centre)
Knoxville, TN, USA
<http://fac.utk.edu/courses.html>

Mercyhurst University (Archaeological Institute)
Erie, PA, USA
<http://mai.mercyhurst.edu/applied-forensic-sciences/forensic-anthropology-summer-short-courses>

Texas State University
San Marcos, TX, USA
<http://www.txstate.edu/anthropology/facts/workshops.html>

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON FORTHCOMING FORENSIC CONGRESSES NOT YET ANNOUNCED CAN BE FOUND:

<http://webdata.aafs.org/public/meetings/listings.aspx>

<http://www.ascd.org/forensic-conferences/>

http://www.forensicswiki.org/wiki/Upcoming_events

MEETINGS/ CONFERENCES 2016

September

09-11.09.

BABAO 2016

Canterbury, UK<http://www.babao.org.uk/index/annual%20conference%202016>**26.-29.09.**International Symposium on Human
Identification (ISHI)*Minneapolis, USA*ishinews.com

The next issue of the Newsletter is planned for **autumn 2016**.

We would appreciate if you could send us your comments, suggestions and contributions (comments on events; book reviews; discussions; interesting case studies etc.) by **September 2016**.

We also invite organizers to email us an invitation to relevant **events** that can be included in the next issue

[\(fase.newsletter@gmail.com\)](mailto:fase.newsletter@gmail.com)



Not a member? Join Us!

To become a member of FASE you can apply for membership at IALM, International Association of Legal Medicine. As a IALM member you have the option of becoming member of FASE that does not carry any additional fee and it allows you to receive various extra information on forensic anthropology in Europe.



<http://www.ialm.info/>

[http://www.ialm.info/](http://www.ialm.info/lassociazione.html)

[lassociazione.html](http://www.ialm.info/lassociazione.html)