

# KARA LARSON, M.A.

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Museum of Anthropological Archaeology  
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## EDUCATION

In Progress University of Michigan: PhD, Anthropology  
2020 Mississippi State University: M.A., Applied Anthropology  
Thesis: *Meat on the Hoof: A Zooarchaeological and Isotopic Investigation of Herd Management at Khirbet Summeily in the Iron Age*  
Committee: James W. Hardin, D. Shane Miller, Elizabeth Arnold  
2016 Grand Valley State University: B.S., Anthropology, Minor in Archaeology

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

Topical: Zooarchaeology, stable isotope analyses, human behavioral ecology, migration and seasonal mobility, early state formation and trade, and quantitative statistics  
Regional: Near East, Israel, Turkey, Southern Caucasus, Eastern Europe, Mediterranean, Southeastern United States

## AFFILIATIONS

2020-Present Junior Research Affiliate; *Cobb Institute of Archaeology, Mississippi State University*

## PUBLICATIONS

### Journal Articles (Peer-reviewed)

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**Larson, Kara**, James W. Hardin, and Sara Cody. 2020. Cultural Modification Analyses on Faunal Remains in Relation to Space Use from Field VI EB IIIA Tell el-Hesi. *Palestine Exploration Quarterly* 152(04): 365-389.  
Ludvik, Geoffrey, and **Kara Larson**. 2020. Identification of an EB IIIA Incised Bone Tube Workshop at Tell el-Hesi, Israel. *Palestine Exploration Quarterly* 152(04): 332-364.  
Lambert, Shawn, Gabriel Griffin, and **Kara Larson**. In press. Searching for Unmarked Graves from an Early 19<sup>th</sup> Century Cemetery in Holly Springs, Mississippi: A Geophysical Survey of Spirit Hill Farm." *Mississippi Archaeology Journal*.

### Manuscripts in Preparation

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**Larson, Kara**, Elizabeth Arnold, and James W. Hardin. N.d. Evidence of External Provisioning and Rising Complexity during the Iron Age IIA: An Isotopic Case Study from Khirbet Summeily, Israel. To be submitted to *Journal of Archaeological Science: Reports*.  
**Larson, Kara**, Julianne Paige, Anna Osterholtz, and Lujana Paraman. N.d. Feasting with the Dead: Preliminary Analysis of Faunal Remains at the Put Dragulina Roman Cemetery. To be submitted to *International Journal of Osteoarchaeology*.  
**Larson, Kara**. N.d. Meat on the Hoof: A Zooarchaeological and Isotopic Investigation of Herd Management at Khirbet Summeily in the Iron Age. In *New Discoveries from the Greater Hesi Region*, edited by John Spencer and Jeffrey Blakely. Under contract with Penn State University Press.  
Ludvik, Geoffrey, **Kara Larson**, and Jeffrey Blakely. N.d. Reassessing the Levantine Tradition of EBIII Bone Tubes: The View from Tell el-Hesi. To be submitted to *Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research*.  
**Larson, Kara**, and James W. Hardin. N.d. Rethinking "Cultic" Herd Management: A Multi-Isotopic

Perspective on the Proposed Iron Age IIA Cultic Space at Khirbet Summeily. *Untitled Festschrift Honoring Beth Nakhai*, edited by Jennie Ebeling. Under contract with University of Arizona Press.

**Larson, Kara**, Julianne Paige, Anna Osterholtz, and James W. Hardin. N.d. Examination of Malnutrition and Fetal Care on Perinatal Remains From the Roman Occupation at Tell Halif, Israel. To be submitted to *International Journal of Osteoarchaeology*.

## Reports

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Banks, Rachel, Cassandra DeGaglia, Amy Dixon, and **Kara Larson**. 2020. Test Excavations in Field IV at Tell Halif, Israel. *Report for the Cobb Institute of Archaeology*.

**Larson, Kara**. 2019. Beyond Broken Bones and Dusty Teeth: Faunal Samples from the Khirbet Summeily Excavations. *2019 Fellowship Report submitted to the American School of Oriental Research Newsletter*.

**Larson, Kara**. 2018. The Chemistry of Archaeology: Summer Internship at the GVSU Stable Isotope Laboratory. *Anthropology and Middle Eastern Cultures Blog Post*.

## FIELD EXPERIENCE

2020-Present, **Junior Staff Member**; *Tel Burna Archaeological Project*

2018-Present, **Junior Staff Member**, Isotope Specialist, and Primary Faunal Analyst; *Khirbet Summeily Archaeological Project*

2018-Present, **Junior Staff Member**, Isotope Specialist, and Primary Faunal Analyst; *Tell el-Hesi Regional Survey Project*

2019, **Crew Supervisor**; *Lyons Bluff GPR House Mound Project, Mississippi State University*

2019, **Crew Supervisor**; *Spirit Hill Farms GPR Cemetery Project, Mississippi State University*

2019, **Crew Supervisor**; *Hester Survey Archaeological Project, Mississippi State University Survey Field School*

2019, **Crew Supervisor**; *SCDNR Pockey Island Archaeological Project, Mississippi State University Field School*

2018-2019, **Archaeological Technician**; *Swag Site Archaeological Project (Topper Archaeological Project), Mississippi State University Survey Field School*

2018, **Archaeological Technician**; *AMEC Archaeological Survey Project at Allendale Chert Quarry (Topper Archaeological Project)*

2017, **Square Supervisor**, Assistant Faunal Analyst, and Archaeological Technician; *Tell es-Safi/Gath Archaeological Project*

2016, **Archaeological Technician and Faunal Analyst**; *Lechaion Harbor Settlement Land Project*

2015, **Archaeological Technician**; *Tell es-Safi/Gath Archaeological Project*

## LABORATORY EXPERIENCE

2018-Present, **Isotope and Faunal Specialist**, Lab Supervisor, Hesi Regional Research Project

2019-2020, **Principal Investigator**, Mississippi Archaeological Faunal Database Project. Co-Principal Investigator with Derek Anderson. Cobb Institute of Archaeology.

2017-2020, **Faunal Laboratory Assistant**, Zooarchaeology Laboratory, Mississippi State University

2016-2020, **Isotope Research Assistant**, Quaternary Isotope Laboratory, Grand Valley State University

2018-2019, **Stable Isotope Graduate Student Intern**, Sample Preparation Laboratory, MC-ICP-MS Laboratory, and the Illinois State Geological Survey Prairie Research Institute Stable Isotope Laboratory, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and Grand Valley State University

2016-2017, **Research Assistant**, Mummification Laboratory, Grand Valley State University

2015-2016, **Faunal Laboratory Technician**, Zooarchaeology Laboratory, Grand Valley State University

## TEACHING AND RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

### Graduate Teaching Assistant

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- Summer 2020 Archaeology Report Writing (AN 3510), Department of Anthropology and Middle Eastern Cultures, Mississippi State University
- Winter 2020 Digital Media Laboratory, Department of Communications, Mississippi State University
- Winter 2020 Near Eastern Archaeology (AN 3553), Department of Anthropology and Middle Eastern Cultures, Mississippi State University
- Fall 2019 Digital Media Laboratory, Department of Communications, Mississippi State University
- Fall 2019 Introduction to Anthropology (AN 1103), Department of Anthropology and Middle Eastern Cultures, Mississippi State University
- Summer 2019 Archaeological Survey (AN 2510), Department of Anthropology and Middle Eastern Cultures, Mississippi State University
- Spring 2019 Old Testament Archaeology, Department of Anthropology and Middle Eastern Cultures, Mississippi State University
- Fall 2018 Introduction to Anthropology (AN 1103), Department of Anthropology and Middle Eastern Cultures, Mississippi State University
- Spring 2018 Introduction to Cultural Anthropology (AN 1143), Department of Anthropology and Middle Eastern Cultures, Mississippi State University
- Fall 2017 Introduction to Cultural Anthropology (AN 1143), Department of Anthropology and Middle Eastern Cultures, Mississippi State University
- Spring 2017 Human Osteology (ANT 300), Department of Anthropology, Grand Valley State University

### Graduate Research Assistant

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- 2020 Graduate Summer Research Assistant, University of Michigan Museum of Anthropological Archaeology, University of Michigan
- 2019-2020 Ancient Near East Laboratory Manager, Cobb Institute of Archaeology, Mississippi State University
- 2018-2020 Graduate Near Eastern Research Assistant, Cobb Institute of Archaeology, Mississippi State University

### Invited Guest Lectures

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- 2020 Fundamentals of Faunal Identification. Artifact Analysis (AN 3513). Department of Anthropology and Middle Eastern Cultures, Mississippi State University.
- 2018 Game Changer: Implications of Animal and Plant Domestication in the Near East. Introduction to Anthropology (AN 1103). Department of Anthropology and Middle Eastern Cultures, Mississippi State University.
- 2018 The Formation of Egypt: From Humble Beginnings to the Rise of the Pyramids. Ancient Near East (REL/HI 4403). Department of Anthropology and Middle Eastern Cultures, Mississippi State University.
- 2017 Skeletal Anatomy of the Humerus. Human Osteology (ANT 300). Department of Anthropology, Grand Valley State University.

### GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, SCHOLARSHIPS, AND AWARDS (*Total of \$45,050*)

- 2020-2021 Department of Anthropology First-Year Fellowship, University of Michigan (**\$21,800**)
- 2020 Winner of the Joy Ungerleider Poster Award, American School of Oriental Research
- 2019 Mississippi State University Graduate Research Symposium First Place Poster Recipient (**\$300.00**)

- 2019 First Presbyterian Church Near Eastern Archaeological Dissertation Start-Up Grant (**\$5000.00**)
- 2019 American School of Oriental Research Student Travel Grant (**\$250.00**)
- 2019 Mississippi State University Graduate Student Assistant Travel Grant (**\$500.00**)
- 2019 College of Arts & Sciences Graduate Student Travel Award (**\$500.00**)
- 2019 Anthropology and Middle Eastern Cultures Graduate Student Association Travel Award (**\$500.00**)
- 2019 Heritage Archaeological Research Grant for Near Eastern Studies (**\$3000.00**)
- 2019 Harva L. Sheeler Excavation Fellowship (**\$2000.00**)
- 2019 Mississippi State University Women's Club Scholarship (**\$500.00**)
- 2018 Joint Sheeler-Cobb Research Grant for Archaeological Research in Israel (**\$2500.00**)
- 2018 Cobb Institute of Archaeology Research Support Grant (**\$3000.00**)
- 2018 College of Arts & Sciences Graduate Student Travel Award (**\$500.00**)
- 2018 Department of Anthropology and Middle Eastern Cultures Research Travel Award (**\$800.00**)
- 2018 Anthropology and Middle Eastern Cultures Graduate Student Association Travel Award (**\$500.00**)
- 2017 Presidential Graduate Initiative Fellowship Award (**\$2500.00**)
- 2017 Anthropology and Middle Eastern Cultures Graduate Student Association Travel Award (**\$500.00**)
- 2016 Undergraduate Research Travel Award; Grand Valley State University (**\$400.00**)

## CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

### Symposia Organized

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- 2021 Reconstructing Past Human Behaviors and Identities through Advanced Zooarchaeological Methodologies and Technologies. World Archaeological Congress 2021 Annual Meeting. (5 papers). Co-Chair (with Katharine Steinke).
- 2020 50 Years at Tell el-Hesi. American Schools of Oriental Research 2020 Annual Meeting. (12 papers). Co-Chair (with Dr. Geoffrey Ludvik and Dr. Jeffrey Blakely).
- 2020 Archaeology of the Iron Age. 85<sup>th</sup> Annual meeting of the Society of American Archaeology 2020 Annual Meeting (14 papers). Chair (Canceled due to COVID-19).
- 2019 The Early Bronze Age in the Southern Levant: New Discoveries and Implications from the Greater Hesi Region and Beyond. American Schools of Oriental Research 2019 Annual Meeting. (6 papers). Co-Chair (with Dr. Geoffrey Ludvik).

### Presentations (invited\*; student advisee†)

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- \*Larson, Kara.** 2021. Meat on the Hoof: Isotopic Evidence of Administrative Herd Management at Khirbet Summeily, Israel. Paper to be presented in the symposium "Animal Bones to Human Behavior." 86<sup>th</sup> Annual meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, April 14-18, 2021, San Francisco, CA.
- \*Larson, Kara.** 2021. We are What We Eat: Examining 10<sup>th</sup> Century B.C.E. Political Affiliations through Isotopic Analyses on Animal Remains at Khirbet Summeily. Paper to be presented in the symposium "Reconstructing Past Human Behaviors and Identities through Advanced Zooarchaeological Methodologies and Technologies." World Archaeology Conference Annual Meeting, 2021, Prague, Czech Republic.
- \*Larson, Kara.** 2020. Rethinking "Cultic" Herd Management: Initial Isotopic Investigations of the Proposed Iron Age IIA Cultic Space at Khirbet Summeily. Paper presented in the symposium "Isotopic Investigations in the Ancient Near East and Caucasus." American Schools of Oriental Research Annual Meeting, November 21, 2020, Virtual Conference.
- Ludvik, Geoffrey, and **Kara Larson.** 2020. Ornamental Workshop Traditions at Early Bronze Age Tell

- el-Hesi: Evidence from Incised Bone Tubes and Carnelian Beads. Paper presented in the symposium “50 Years at Tell el-Hesi.” American Schools of Oriental Research Annual Meeting, November 21, 2020, Virtual Conference.
- †Banks, Rachel, †Cassandra DeGaglia, †Amy Dixon, and **Kara Larson**. 2020. The Spaces Between: Spatial Reconstruction of a Proposed Iron Age IIB Domestic House at Tel Halif, Israel. Poster presented in the symposium “Digital Archaeology.” American Schools of Oriental Research Annual Meeting, November 20, 2020, Virtual Conference.
- Larson, Kara**. 2020. Meat on the Hoof: A Zooarchaeological Isotopic Investigation into Administrative and Cultic Herd Management at Khirbet Summeily. Paper to be presented in the symposium “Archaeology of the Iron Age.” 85<sup>th</sup> Annual meeting of the Society of American Archaeology, April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020, Austin, TX. (Canceled due to COVID-19).
- Miller, D. Shane, James Strawn, Derek Anderson, and **Kara Larson**. 2020. Renewed Investigations at the Hester (22MO569) and Beachum-Harrison (22MO1011) Sites in Amory, Mississippi. Poster to be presented in the symposium “Conversations on Hunter-Gatherer Behavior and Lifeways.” 85<sup>th</sup> Annual meeting of the Society of American Archaeology, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020, Austin, TX. (Canceled due to COVID-19).
- Lambert, Shawn, Gabriel Griffin, **Kara Larson**, Keri Porter, Kaelyn Olson, Ben Hatfield, Shawny Tucker, and Dylan Karges. 2020. Searching for Unmarked Graves: Geophysical Survey of the Spirit Hill Farm Cemetery, Tate County, Mississippi. Poster presented in the symposium “Poster Session.” Joint Annual Meeting of the Mississippi Archaeological Association and Louisiana Archaeological Society, February 8, 2020, Natchez, MS.
- \***Larson, Kara**, Elizabeth Arnold, and James W. Hardin. 2019. Examining Iron Age Administrative Provisioning in the Southern Levant through Isotopic Analyses. Paper presented in the symposium “Isotopic Investigations in the Ancient Near East and Caucasus.” American Schools of Oriental Research Annual Meeting, November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019, San Diego, CA.
- Larson, Kara**, Sara Cody, and James W. Hardin. 2019. From the Herd to the Dinner Plate: Contextualizing Butchery Practices from Early Bronze Age III Tell el-Hesi. Paper presented in the symposium “The Early Bronze Age in the Southern Levant: New Discoveries and Implications from the Greater Hesi Region and Beyond.” American Schools of Oriental Research Annual Meeting, November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2019, San Diego, CA.
- Anderson, Derek, and **Kara Larson**. 2019. An Archaeological Faunal Database for Mississippi. Poster presented in the symposium “The Old and the New: Standard and Innovative Methods.” Southeastern Archaeological Conference Annual Meeting, November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019, Jackson, MS.
- Larson, Kara**, Nathan Shores, Caleb Hutson, Karen Y. Smith, Derek T. Anderson, and D. Shane Miller. 2019. Surveying Shell Rings with Advanced Technology and Methodology: Initial Results from the 2019 Survey at Pockoy Island, South Carolina. Poster presented in the symposium “Shovel to Machine: Survey Methods in the Southeast.” Southeastern Archaeological Conference Annual Meeting, November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019, Jackson, MS.
- Larson, Kara**, Julianne Paige, Anna Osterholtz, and Lujana Paraman. 2019. Familial Feasting through Faunal Refuse: Analyses of the Put Dragulina Roman Cemetery Animal Remains. Poster presented at the Mississippi State University 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Graduate Research Symposium, October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019, Starkville, MS.
- Paige, Julianne, **Kara Larson**, Anna Osterholtz, and Lujana Paraman. 2019. Feasting with the Dead: Preliminary Analysis of Faunal Remains at the Put Dragulina Roman Cemetery. Poster presented in the symposium “New Research on the Ancient Mediterranean World.” 84<sup>th</sup> Annual meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019, Albuquerque, NM.
- \***Larson, Kara**, Elizabeth Arnold, and James W. Hardin. 2018. Using Stable Isotope Analyses to Examine Foodways at Iron Age II Khirbet Summeily. Paper presented in the symposium “Archaeology and History of Feasting and Foodways.” American Schools of Oriental Research Annual Meeting, November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018, Denver, CO.
- Larson, Kara**, and Gwyn Madden. 2016. Analyzing Cranial Injury Location Difference between Males

and Females in Roman Cemetery Sites. Poster presented at the Grand Valley Student Scholar's Day, April 13, 2016, Allendale, MI.

**Larson, Kara,** and Elizabeth Arnold. 2015. Tell Dan Preliminary Faunal Report: 1988-1991 Excavations. Poster presented at the Grand Valley Student Scholar's Day, April 12, 2015. Allendale, MI.

### **PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES**

- 2020 Isotopic Results from Khirbet Summeily, Israel. Collaborative Archaeology Workgroup Lecture Series, University of Michigan. Ann Arbor, MI.
- 2019 Initial Finds from Isotopic Analyses Conducted on Faunal Remains from Khirbet Summeily. First Presbyterian Church. Tupelo, MS.
- 2019 Anthropology Day Boys and Girls Club Outreach Volunteer
- 2019 Undergraduate Research Opportunities in Israel. Albright Institute of Archaeological Research. Jerusalem, Israel.
- 2019 Organizer and Panelist for AMEC GSA First Annual Graduate School Panel. Mississippi State University. Starkville, MS.
- 2018-2020 Science Night at the Museum; Anthropology and Middle Eastern Cultures Coordinator
- 2017-2019 AMEC Graduate Student Association Community Mock Excavation Volunteer
- 2017-2018 Winterville Mounds Mississippi Archaeology Expo Volunteer

### **SERVICE**

- 2020-Present Committee Member, *ASOR Membership and Outreach Committee, American School of Oriental Research*
- 2020-Present Anthropology Faculty Representative; *Department of Anthropology, University of Michigan*
- 2020-Present University of Michigan Museum of Anthropological Archaeology Brown Bag Committee Member; *Department of Anthropology, University of Michigan*
- 2020-Present Speaker Series Working Group; *Department of Anthropology, University of Michigan*
- 2020-Present DEI Inclusion Social Media Working Group; *Department of Anthropology, University of Michigan*
- 2020-Present DEI Undergraduate Recruitment and Diversity Working Group; *Department of Anthropology, University of Michigan*
- 2020-Present DEI Social Media Working Group; *Department of Anthropology, University of Michigan*
- 2019-Present Sub-Committee Member, *ICAZ Professional Protocols Sub-Committee, International Council of Archaeozoology*
- 2020 Vice President; *Lambda Alpha Chapter at Mississippi State University*
- 2018-2019 President; *Anthropology Graduate Student Association*
- 2017-2018 Graduate Student Association Representative; *Anthropology Graduate Student Association*

### **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

American School of Oriental Research (ASOR)  
International Council for Archaeozoology (ICAZ)  
Society of American Archaeology (SAA)  
Archaeological Institute of America (AIA)  
American Association of Physical Anthropologists (AAPA)  
Lambda Alpha

## TRAINING

### Proficiencies

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Computer Skills: ArcGIS, SPSS, R, SketchUp 3D Modeling, Website Design • Cultural Resource Management: Pedestrian survey, phase I survey, phase II testing, phase III excavation • Fieldwork Skills: Archaeological survey and excavation, total station and transit, ground penetrating radar, stratigraphy and profile drawing, photography • Laboratory Skills: Preparation of bone, teeth, shell and plant samples for stable isotope analysis (collagen and bioapatite), faunal analysis (species identification and bone modification)

### Languages

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Fluent: English • Reading Comprehension: German, French • Aural Comprehension: French • Beginning Hebrew