

Michail Protopapadakis

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Education

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 2025-Present

PhD Anthropology, Biological

Advisor: Professor Laura MacLatchy

College of Wooster, Wooster, OH 2021-2025

B.A. Archaeology, Environmental Geoscience GPA: 3.858

Honors: Dean's List: Spring, Fall 2022; Spring, Fall 2023; Spring 2024; Spring 2025; Dean's Scholarship (all four years); North Coast Athletic Conf. Academic Honor Roll 2022–23, 2023–2024, 2024-25; APEX Micro Fellowship 2023, 2024; Henry J. Copeland Independent Study Fund Grant 2025; Earth Sciences Graduation Departmental Honors 2025; Archaeology Graduation Departmental Honors 2025; Vivian L. Holliday Prize 2025

Field Experience

Laboratory of Biological Anthropology Democritus University of Thrace June 7 to July 5, 2025

- Shadowed different laboratories within the department and participated in preliminary research
- Collected and processed bone samples for histological and isotopic analysis
- Participated in osteological analysis of human remains
- Trained in 3D scanning of skeletal elements for geometric morphometric analysis

Supervisor: Associate Professor Christina Papageorgopoulou

Earth Sciences Research Associate College of Wooster July 4-25, 2024

- Worked in a dendrochronology lab: processed, marked, and analyzed tree cores
- Collected field samples in Ketchikan and Klawock, Alaska
- Presented findings in Geological Society of America 2025 Joint Northeastern and North-Central Section Meeting

Employers: Professor Greg Wiles, Professor Meagen Pollock

Drimolen Cave Field School Washington University in St. Louis June 9-30, 2024

- Excavated at the Drimolen Cave fossil site in Gauteng Province, South Africa. Learned excavation methods, dry- and wet-sieving techniques; used paraloid to glue and reconstruct fossils; used Total Station for coordinate measurements.
- Attended lectures and passed testing on dating methods, hominin evolution and anatomy, dental morphology and analysis, faunal identification, and stone tools.

Supervisors: Professor David Strait, Professor Gary Schwartz, Professor Andy Herries, Dr. Stephanie Baker, Dr. Jesse Martin, Dr. Angeline Leece, Assoc. Professor Justin Adams

Killbuck Rock Shelter Excavation College of Wooster

September 9 and 23, 2023

Role: Trench supervisor

- Supervised trench excavation, dry sieving, and artifact collection in a Fort Ancient rock shelter.
- Taught field methods to undergraduate students and guided them in excavation.

Supervisor: Visiting Professor Nigel Brush

Pella Urban Dynamics Project University of Michigan

July 2-28, 2023

- Excavated in the site of Pella, Greece. Washed pottery, dry sieved, and collected flotation samples.
- Led preliminary analysis of faunal remains. Washed, identified, analyzed animal bones; catalogued using Microsoft Excel. Taught zooarchaeological methods to other students.
- Interpreted zooarchaeological data and presented a report containing taxonomic indicators, NISP, MNE, and relative distribution data.

Supervisors: Professor Lisa Nevett, Professor David Stone

Archaeological Survey in Ano Messenia University of the Peloponnese

July 10-31, 2022

- Participated in archaeological field survey.
- Analyzed, classified, and recorded pottery findings in the lab.

Supervisors: Assoc. Professor Eleni Zimi, Assoc. Prof. Emilia Banou, Assistant Prof. Maria Xanthopoulou

Mentorship and Teaching Experience

Graduate Student Instructor, University of Michigan, Department of Anthropology

2026-Present

Fall 2026: ANTHRBIO 201 *How Humans Evolved*; Course Instructor: Prof. John Kingston

Anthropology Undergraduate-Graduate Mentoring Program University of Michigan

2025-2026

Teaching Apprenticeship for Forensic Anthropology College of Wooster

2025

Course Instructor: Visiting Professor Lisa Monetti

Teaching Apprenticeship for Biological Anthropology College of Wooster

2024

Course Instructor: Visiting Professor Nigel Brush

Peer Tutor for the Academic Resource Center College of Wooster

2023-2025

Conduct one-on-one teaching with college students in earth science courses. I cover course material and aid with studying strategies.

Fieldwork Skills

- Data Collection in paleoanthropology, archaeology, and geological fieldwork
- Data Management using Microsoft Excel
- Report writing using zooarchaeological taxonomic indicators and statistical analysis for quantifying data
- Total Station set-up and use for geographic coordinate measurements
- Fossil osteological and dental reconstruction using Paraloid B-72

Theses

Senior Independent Study College of Wooster

2024-2025

- Analysis of an unpublished human skeletal assemblage from Pella, Jordan.

- Writing a comprehensive osteological report, and using strontium and oxygen isotope analysis and radiocarbon dating to uncover the age and geographical origin of several individuals.
- Conducting a paleoenvironmental reconstruction of the southern Levant by combining pollen, phytolith, and oxygen isotope data from published lake and marine cores.
- Utilizing a postcolonial perspective to explore how the human assemblage has been treated in antiquity and modern times, aided by a materiality theoretical lens.

Advisors: Visiting Professor Lisa Monetti, Professor Greg Wiles

Grade: Honors

Earth Sciences Junior Independent Study College of Wooster

Spring Semester 2024

The Climate That Shaped Our Ancestors: A Paleoenvironmental Analysis of East African Rift Lakes During the Plio-Pleistocene Transition.

- Used published stratigraphic, phytolith, microcharcoal, and paleosol carbonate data to create a paleoenvironmental reconstruction of the Turkana and Baringo Basins between 3.0 and 1.5 Ma.
- Linked paleoclimatic changes to orbitally-driven insolation cycles and monsoonal precipitation.

Advisor: Professor Greg Wiles

Grade: A

Archaeology Junior Independent Study College of Wooster

Fall Semester 2023

An Osteological Analysis of Three Hominin Outliers.

- Compiled a comprehensive record of published material on the appendicular skeletons of *Homo naledi*, *Homo floresiensis*, and *Homo habilis*.
- Contrasted certain morphological features to traditional anthropological evolutionary models through a queer theoretical perspective.

Advisor: Visiting Professor Nigel Brush

Grade: A

Academic Conference Presentations

Theoretical Archaeology Group Annual Meeting 2025, York, United Kingdom

December 15-17, 2025

An investigation of human-nonhuman relationships in bioarchaeology: Revisiting a legacy collection from Pella, Jordan

Protopapadakis, M., and Monetti, L.

Society for American Archaeology Annual Meeting 2025, Denver, CO

April 23-27, 2025

Osteobiography of Skeletal Remains from the Archaeological Site of Pella, Jordan

Protopapadakis, M. and Monetti, L.

Geologic Society of America 2025 Joint Northeastern and North-Central Section Meeting, Erie, PA

March 27-30, 2025

Alaska's First Western Red Cedar Tree-Ring Chronology

Protopapadakis, M., Flory, A., Gaglioti, B., Wiesenber, N., Buma, B., Girt, B., and Wiles, G.

Can Volcanic Events Force Decadal Cooling in the North Pacific?

Flory, A., Wiesenber, N., Protopapadakis, M., Girt, B., Gaglioti, B., and Wiles, G.

Invited Talks

Presentation on Independent Study research given to the College of Wooster Geology Club

March 2025

Presentation on Independent Study research given to the College of Wooster Geology Club	October 2024
Presentation on fieldwork experience in South Africa given to undergraduate students in biological anthropology class at the College of Wooster; Invited by Dr. Lisa Monetti	October 2024
Presentation on fieldwork experience in South Africa given to undergraduate students at the College of Wooster Archaeology Student Colloquium	September 2024
Presentation on Junior Independent Study Thesis findings given to the College of Wooster Earth Sciences Department	April 2024
Lecture on “Cradle of Humankind” South African paleoanthropological sites given to undergraduate students in biological anthropology class at the College of Wooster; Invited by Dr. Nigel Brush	April 2024

Community Service

Volunteer Service for Aspire: Adult Workforce Readiness Education, Smithville, OH	2022-2025
- Conduct weekly one-on-one teaching with adult students pursuing their GED in high school level math, social studies, and English. - Assist classroom teacher by supporting adult students learning English as a second language.	

Languages

Greek (native), English (fluent), French (intermediate)

Skills, Interests

Familiarity with RStudio	Fall Semester 2024
Used RStudio for statistical analysis of dendrochronology data.	
Geographic Information Systems	Spring Semester 2024
Attended a course in WebGIS. Learned how to collect data in the field, design maps, and use online tools.	