

SEWASEW HAILESELASSIE ASSEFA

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EDUCATION

- 2019-Present **Ph.D. candidate** Washington University in St. Louis, Anthropology
- 2021 **M.A.** Washington University in St. Louis, Anthropology
Thesis: “Biocultural perspective on interpreting diet and health in north-central highlands of Ethiopia during the Zagwe (11th C – 1270) and Solomonic Dynasties (1270-1974)
- 2018 **M.A.** University of Colorado Denver, Anthropology
Thesis: “Borderlands between Egypt and Nubia: A Bioarcheological Analysis of the Effect of Conflict on Health”
- 2015 **B.A.** Texas Tech University, Anthropology
Minor: History
Concentration: Forensic

RESEARCH INTEREST

Biocultural anthropology, sociopolitical systems, pre-industrial urbanization, structural inequality, Africa

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2021 **Biocultural perspective on interpreting diet and health in north-central highlands of Ethiopia during the Zagwe (11th C – 1270) and Solomonic (1270-1974) Dynasties**, Washington university in St. Louis, MO
Advisor: Helina Woldekiros
- 2018 **Borderlands between Egypt and Nubia: A Bioarcheological Analysis of the Effect of Conflict on Health**, University of Colorado, Denver, Denver, CO
Advisor: Charles Musiba
- 2016 – 2017 **Paleoanthropology Lab University of Colorado, Denver**, Denver, CO
Research Assistant, Supervisor: Dr. Charles Musiba
- 2014 – 2015 **The Virginia Murray Sowell Center for Research and Education in Sensory Disabilities/ Texas Tech University department of Education**, Lubbock, TX
Research Assistant, Supervisor: Dr. Nora Griffin-Shirley

2013 – 2015 **Texas Tech University Digital Humanities lab**, Lubbock, TX
Student Researcher, Supervisor: Dr. Ann Hawkins

RESEARCH GRANTS

2023 Wenner–Gren: Dissertation Field work grant – (\$24,815)
2023 National Science Foundation: Doctoral Dissertation Improvement grant –
Award Number: 2328448 (\$31,109)
2023 Washington University in St. Louis (Anthropology) Summer Research Travel
Grant (\$1,000)
2023 Rich Smith Research Grant (\$3,000)
2022 Divided City Summer Research Fellowship Grant (\$5,000)
2022 Washington University in St. Louis (Anthropology) Summer Research Travel
Grant (\$1,000)
2022 Washington University in St. Louis (AFAS) Mugo Research Travel Grant
(\$1,200)
2021 George R. Throop Endowment Award (\$800)
2013 Undergraduate researcher scholarship CALUE for Digital Humanities (\$1080)

FIELD EXPERIENCE

2023 Gede archeological project, Kenya: Director: Chapurukha Kusimba June
2023-Aug 2023 (Trench Supervisor)
2018 Shire archeological project, Ethiopia: Directors: Willeke Wendrich and
Rachel Moy Nov 2018-Dec 2019 (Trench Supervisor)
2017 Denver County and Jefferson County coroner’s office: Supervisor Christine
Pink Oct 2016- May 2017 (Volunteer)
2016 Field School at Badia Pozzevri (University of Pisa), Italy: Directors: Gino
Fornaciari and Valentina Giuffra June 23- July 25 (Co-coordinator)
2016 Field School in Paleoanthropology, Tanzania: Director: Charles Musiba
May 30 - June 20
2015 Field School at Badia Pozzevri (Ohio State University): Accredited field
school in Bioarchaeology Directors: Gino Fornaciari and Clark S. Larsen
June 22- July 31

- 2014 Texas Tech University Study Abroad: Anthropology in Cyprus in Human Skeletal Biology and Forensic Techniques: Director: Robert R. Paine. June 2 – July 3
- 2014 Sanisera Archaeological Institute: Field School in Biological Anthropology and Archaeology; Menorca, Spain, Director: Fernando Conteras May 12 – May 31
- 2013-2015 Texas Tech University Digital Humanities Lab: Documenting Written Records and Analysis; including: Scanning, Transcribing, Tagging, Annotating, and Metadata Editing.

PUBLICATIONS

ARTICLE

- In Review Zhao, Shijie; Wu, Xiaotong; Zhao, Hui; Sun, Yufeng; ASSEFA, SEWASEW HAILESELASSIE; Zhang, Xingxiang. “Multi-evidence for origins of the sacrificial victims from the Yinxu Royal Cemetery.” *Archaeological Research in Asia*.

THESIS

- 2018 Haileselassie Assefa, Sewasew. *Borderlands Between Egypt and Nubia: A Bioarchaeological Analysis of the Effect of Conflict on Health*. MA Thesis. University of Colorado at Denver, 2018.

ABSTRACTS

- 2021 Haileselassie Assefa, Sewasew “Amda Seyon and the Use of Religion as the linchpin of social and political structure of 14th C Solomonic Ethiopia.” **97th Annual Meeting of the Medieval Academy of America**, 10-13 March, Charlottesville, VA (**Panelist**).
- 2021 Haileselassie Assefa, Sewasew “The Hansberry Society: Recovering African Antiquity” **Africa-America institute (AAI) 7th Annual State of Education on Africa Conference**. 5th November. (**Panelist**)
- 2020 Musiba, Charles M., Mecksadeck M. Mwambungu, Joshua Mwankunda, Anatoly N. Zaitsev, Anton I. Savchenok, Audax Z. Mabulla, Cassian C. Magori, Kersten Bergstrom, Alex Pelissero, and **Sewasew Assefa**. "Balancing Research, Education, Conservation and Sustainable Use of the 3.6 Million Years Old Hominin Footprint Site G and S at Laetoli in northern Tanzania." In **American Journal of Physical Anthropology**, vol. 171, pp. 194-194, WILEY, 2020.

- 2019 Vaiglova, P., G. Hartman, **S. Assefa**, E. Rehman, “Isotopic investigation of meat provisioning in Late Roman Jerusalem during time of political and religious transformation,” **Annual Meeting of the American School of Oriental Research**, 20-23 November, San Diego, CA

PRESENTATIONS

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2021 Haileselassie Assefa, Sewasew “Amda Seyon and the Use of Religion as the linchpin of social and political structure of 14th C Solomonic Ethiopia.” **97th Annual Meeting of the Medieval Academy of America**, 10-13 March, Charlottesville, VA (**Presented - Online**).
- 2017 Haileselassie Assefa, Sewasew “Borderlands between Egypt and Nubia: Effects of Conflict on Health”. Poster Presentation: **University of Colorado-Boulder Anthropology Conference (Presented September 30)** at University of Colorado, Boulder in Boulder, Colorado.
- 2017 Haileselassie Assefa, Sewasew “Borderlands between Egypt and Nubia: Effects of Conflict on Health”. Poster Presentation: **Research and Creative Activities Symposium (Presented April 28)** at University of Colorado, Denver in Denver, Colorado.
- 2017 Haileselassie Assefa, Sewasew “Experimental Study of Sheep (*Ovis aries*) Bone Weathering Under UV-B Light”. Poster Presentation: **American Association of Physical Anthropologists (Presented April 22)** at New Orleans, Louisiana.
- 2015 Haileselassie Assefa, Sewasew “Abnormal Healing of a Femoral Fracture and its Functionality in a Cypriot Geriatrician.” Poster Presentation: **TTU Lambda Alpha Symposium (Presented April 9)** at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas. **Poster Awarded.**
- 2015 Haileselassie Assefa, Sewasew “Abnormal Healing of a Femoral Fracture and its Functionality in a Cypriot Geriatrician.” Poster Presentation: **TTU Undergraduate Research Conference (Presented April 2)** at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas.
- 2015 Haileselassie Assefa, Sewasew “Abnormal healing of a Femoral Fracture and its Functionality in a Cypriot Geriatrician.” Poster Presentation: 84th meeting of **American Association of Physical Anthropologists (Presented March 27)** Washington University St. Louis in St. Louis, Missouri. **Funded.**
- 2014 Haileselassie Assefa, Sewasew “Ancient Civilizations of the Nile Valley and the Contribution Possible from Further Excavation and Ethnographic Research in Cultures in East Africa”. Podium Presentation **Lambda Alpha Symposium (Presented May 1)** at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas

2014 Haileselassie Assefa, Sewasew “The Evolving Historiography of Ancient Nile Valley Civilizations and the Struggle for Racial Equality”. Podium Presentation **Black Graduate Students Association (Presented April 11)** at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas. **Awarded.**

PANEL PRESENTATIONS

2021 Haileselassie Assefa, Sewasew “The Hansberry Society: Recovering African Antiquity” Africa-America institute (AAI) 7th Annual State of Education on Africa Conference. November 5. (**Panelist**)

2014 Haileselassie Assefa, Sewasew “Perspectives on Work and Workflow in Digital Spaces”. **Digital Frontiers** at Texas Women's University in Denton, Texas. September 18 (**Panelist**)

INVITED LECTURES

2020 Haileselassie Assefa, Sewasew “Archaeological perspectives on the Historical Origins of Axum” – African History Summer Seminar, Week 7, Department of History and African and African studies.

2020 Haileselassie Assefa, Sewasew “Axum”, AFAS 321 History of African Civilization to 1800, Department of History and African and African studies.

PUBLIC LECTURES

2019 Haileselassie Assefa, Sewasew “Introduction to Archaeology,” Archaeology and Artifacts program, Partners in Education Rockwood School District: Wild Horse elementary. October 8. Chesterfield, Mo.

TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIP

Summer 2020	The Pandemic: Science and Society – Dr. Krista Milich
Fall 2020	Archaeology of Ancient Egypt – Dr. Helina Woldekiros
Spring 2021	Humans and Animals – Prof. Fiona Marshall
Fall 2021	Human Osteology – Dr. Sarah Baitzel
Spring 2022	Introduction to Global Health – Dr. Theresa Gildner
Fall 2022	AIDS Epidemic: Inequalities, Ethnography & Ethics – Prof. Parikh

TEACHING (INSTRUCTOR OF RECORD)

Spring 2023	Introduction to Human Evolution
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WORKSHOPS

Center for Humanities: Redefining Doctoral Education in the Humanities – Community engagement

Workshop focusing on incorporating community engagement in teaching, research and service. The workshop emphasized the ethics and process of community engagement and guided participants through designing a mutually beneficial and reciprocal project or course.

DEPARTMENT COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Friday Archaeology-Co-Student coordinator (2020-2021)
Anti-Racism initiative: Decolonizing the Syllabus

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION MEMBERSHIPS

AAPA/AABA- American Association of Biological Anthropologists
SAFA – Society of Africanist Archaeologists
Black in Biological Anthropology (Member, LLC Committee co-coordinator)
William Leo Hansberry Society (Founding Member)
Medieval Academy of America (Student member)

LANGUAGES

English: Fluent speaker, advanced reading, and writing
Amharic: Native speaker, advanced reading, and writing
Swahili: Beginner

COMPUTER SKILLS

Applications: R studio (Advanced), NetLogo (intermediate), Microsoft Office Suite (Advanced), NextEngine (Advanced), Photomodeler scanner (Advanced), Agisoft (Intermediate), ArcGIS (Intermediate), QGIS (intermediate), JMP (Intermediate), SPSS (Intermediate).