

SEWASEW HAILESELASSIE ASSEFA

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EDUCATION

- 2019-Present **Ph.D.** 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 (1270-1974) Dynasties
- 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

Bioarcheology, biocultural anthropology, history, ancient health and disease, infectious disease, diet, structural inequality, pre-industrial urbanization, migration, osteology, Isotopic analysis, GIS, 3D Photogrammetry, 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
- Collected data from a museum collection
 - Developed and completed a research project
- 2016 – 2017 **Paleoanthropology Lab University of Colorado, Denver**, Denver, CO
Research Assistant, Supervisor: Dr. Charles Musiba
- Created digital 3D models of cultural and fossil material

- Began developing a database for department collections in association with digital models
- 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
- Wrote grant proposals
 - Developed human subject research protocols
- 2013 – 2015 **Texas Tech University Digital Humanities lab,** Lubbock, TX
Student Researcher, Supervisor: Dr. Ann Hawkins
- Documented 18th and 19th century written records
 - Co-developed the Reymund letters of The Hawkins-Kimball collection

FIELD EXPERIENCE

- 2021 (Field Season Pending) Wood Environment & Infrastructure Solutions, Inc. (Technological Professional 1- Archaeology)
- 2018 Shire archeological project: 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): Directors: Gino Fornaciari and Valentina Giuffra June 23- July 25 (Co-coordinator)
- 2016 Field School in Paleoanthropology Tanzania led by 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 led by 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.

TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIP

Summer 2020	The Pandemic: Science and Society – Dr. Krista Milich Enrollment: 1250
Fall 2020	Archaeology of Ancient Egypt – Dr. Helina Woldekiros Enrollment: 75
Spring 2021	Humans and Animals – Prof. Fiona Marshall Enrollment: 36
Fall 2021	Human Osteology – Dr. Sarah Baitzel Enrollment: 16

PUBLICATIONS

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

- 2021 Haileselassie Assefa, S. and W. Kasim, Forthcoming. Epidemiology and Sanitation in 19th and 20th century Kenya. *Social history of Health*.

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 (**Accepted**).
- 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 (**Accepted**).
- 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 “Abnormal Healing of a Femoral Spiral Fracture and its Functionality in a Cypriot Geriatrician.” Podium Presentation: **Texas Association of Biological Anthropologists Conference (Presented** November 15) at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas.
- 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.

HONORS AND AWARDS

RESEARCH GRANTS

- 2021 George R. Throop Endowment Award (\$800)
- 2013 Undergraduate researcher scholarship CALUE for Digital Humanities (\$1080)

AWARDS

- 2015 Best Undergraduate poster presentation at TTU Lambda Alpha Symposium (\$100)
- 2014 Travel funding for conference presentation at the 84th meeting of Association of American Physical Anthropologists CALUE (\$900)

COURSES TAKEN

Fall 2019

- Social theory
- Pathways to Domestication
- Theoretical Approaches in Archaeology
- Biomolecular archaeology: Are you what you eat?
- Infectious Diseases: History, Pathology, and Prevention

Spring 2020

- Osteology
- History of Africa since 1800
- Disease Ecology
- Problems in Applied Data Analysis

Fall 2020

- Social Landscapes in Global View
- Independent study
- Human Biology
- African History, Before 1800

Spring 2021

- Intro to GIS for Anthropologists
- New Advances archaeology
- Independent study

Fall 2021

- Human Anatomy and Development
- Research Methods in Cultural Ant.
- Independent study

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 and listener, advanced reading and writing
Amharic: Native speaker, advanced reading and writing

COMPUTER SKILLS

Applications: Microsoft Office Suite (Advanced), NextEngine (Advanced), Photomodeler scanner (Advanced), Agisoft (Intermediate), ArcGIS (Intermediate), QGIS (Beginner), JMP (Intermediate), SPSS (Intermediate)