

Helina Solomon-Woldekiros

Curriculum vitae

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ADDRESS

Department of Anthropology
Washington University in St. Louis
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St. Louis, MO 63130
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EDUCATION

- 2014 **Ph.D.** in Anthropology, Washington University in St. Louis, MO
Dissertation Title:
The Afar Caravan Route: Insights into Aksumite (50 BCE-CE 900) Trade and Exchange from the Low Deserts to the North Ethiopian Plateau
- 2008 **M.A.** in Anthropology, Washington University in St. Louis
- 2006 **M.A.** in Anthropology, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- 2017-Present Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, Washington University in St. Louis
- 2016-2017 Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Department of Anthropology, Washington University in St. Louis
- 2015-2016 Research Associate and Department Tutor in Anthropology, Department of Anthropology, Washington University in St. Louis
- 2014-2015 Volkswagen Foundation Post-doctoral Fellow, Institute of Palaeoanatomy and History of Veterinary Medicine, Ludwig Maximilian University, Germany

RESEARCH INTERESTS

State formation and power relations, agricultural organization and change, pastoralism, landscape history, anthropology of food and human-animal relations, boundaries and faunal exchanges, GIS analysis, the integration of archaeological, historical, and ecological analysis, death belief and ritual, globalization, Africa.

RESEARCH LANGUAGES

Amharic: Fluent: reading, writing, and speaking

Arabic: fair ability in written and spoken communication
French: fair ability in written and spoken communication, fair reading ability

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

International Council for Archaeozoology (ICAZ)
American Anthropological Association (AAA)
Society of Africanist Archaeologists (SAFA)
Society for American Archaeology (SAA)
Institute for Ethiopian Studies (IES)
National Collegiate Honors Society for Anthropology, (Lambda Alpha)
Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Lifetime Membership

HONORS AND AWARDS

2012 Inducted into Bouchet Graduate Honor Society, Yale, New Haven, Connecticut
2009 Washington University in St. Louis, Arts and Sciences Dean's Award for Teaching Excellence

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS (*PI or co-PI*)

External Grants and Awards

2018-2023 One Health --Horn project (the University of Liverpool, <https://news.liverpool.ac.uk/2017/07/21/one-health-regional-network-for-the-horn-of-africa/>), Co-director of Archaeological and field research
2016-2017 Going places: women and chickens in Ethiopia, The Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC), UK (University of Nottingham), Co-director of Archaeological and field research
2016 AAUW fellowship Grant
2014-2015 Volkswagen Post-doctoral Fellowship, Ludwig Maximilian University Munich
2012 Society of Africanist Archaeologists (SAfA) Travel Award
2011 Fulbright-Hays Dissertation Fieldwork Grant
2010 The Wenner-Gren Foundation Dissertation Fieldwork Grant
2009 National Science Foundation: Dissertation Improvement Grant
2008 International and Area Studies: Pre-Dissertation Research Grant

Internal Grants and Awards

2013-2014 Dissertation Writing Fellowship, Washington University in St. Louis
2006-2012 Washington University in St. Louis Graduate Fellowship
2011-2013 Graduate School of Arts and Sciences travel award (4 awards), Washington University in St. Louis
2007 Washington University in St. Louis: Pre-Dissertation Fieldwork Grant

2004-2006 University of Florida: Title VI FLAS (Foreign Language Area Studies) Fellowship

PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Articles

- 2019 **Woldekiros, H.S., D'Andrea, A.C., Thomas, R., Foster, A., Lebrasseur, O., Miller, H., Roberts, J. and Sykes, N.**
Archaeological and biometric perspectives on the development of chicken landraces in the Horn of Africa. *International Journal of Osteoarchaeology*.
<https://doi.org/10.1002/oa.2773>
- 2019 **Woldekiros, H.S.**
The Route Most Traveled: The Afar Salt Trail, North Ethiopia 1. *Chungara*, 51(1): 95-110. DOI:10.4067/S0717-73562019005000502
- 2019 Harrower, M.J., I.A. Dumitru, C. Perlingieri, S. Nathan, Kifle Zerue, J.L. Lamont, A. Bausi, J.L. Swerida, J.L. Bongers, H.S. **Woldekiros**, L.A. Poolman, C.M. Pohl, S.A. Brandt, E.A. Peterson (in press). Discovery and Excavations of an Aksumite Town, Beta Samati (Ethiopia). *Antiquity*.
- 2017 B. Clarkson, P., Santoro, C., E. Levy, T., Núñez, L., Nielsen, A., Rosen, S., Forster, F., Capriles, J., Khazanov, A., Frachetti, M., Valenzuela, D., G. Standen, V., Cases, B., Pimentel, G., Lecoq, P., Medinacelli, X., Briones, L., Wink, A., Tripcevich, N., **Woldekiros, H.** A worldwide network for comparative studies on caravans: past, present and future. *Journal of Chilean Anthropology* 49(3): 297-307.
- 2016 **Woldekiros, Helina S., and Catherine A. D'Andrea.** Earliest evidence for domestic chickens (*Gallus gallus*) in Africa. *International Journal of Osteoarchaeology* 27(3): 329-341. <https://doi.org/10.1002/oa.2540>
- 2011 D'Andrea, Catherine A., Michael P. Richards, Laurence A. Pavlish, Shannon Wood, Andrea Manzo, and Helina S. **Woldekiros.** Stable Isotopic Analysis of Human and Animal Diets from Two Pre-Aksumite/Proto-Aksumite Archaeological Sites in Northern Ethiopia. *Journal of Archaeological Science* 38: 367-374.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jas.2010.09.015>

Book review

- 2018 Woldekiros, Helina S. Ancient settlement patterns in the area of Aksum (Tigray, northern Ethiopia) – ca. 900 BCE–800/850 CE, *Azania: Archaeological Research in Africa*, DOI: 10.1080/0067270X.2018.1440953

Manuscripts submitted, reviewed, and in press

Articles

- 2018 **Woldekiros**, Helina S. Beyond the invisible: Ethnoarchaeological insights into the logistics and social context of salt trade in northern Ethiopia between 400 BC – 900 AD. *Journal of Anthropological Archaeology*. (Requiring revisions before a decision will be reached)

Book chapters

- 2019 **Woldekiros**, Helina S and Marshall, Fiona. Engines of ancient trade: Ethnobiology of pack animal management on the Afar Salt Route. *Documenta Archaeobiologiae* (Veröffentlichungen der Staatsammlung für Anthropologie und Paläoanatomie, München, Verlag M. Leidorf, Rahden/Westf.). (In press).
- 2018 **Woldekiros**, Helina S. Aksumite Foodways and Economic Strategy in the North Ethiopian Highlands. In Arbuckle, B.S. and Atici, Levent, *Food Provisioning in Complex Societies*. University Press of Colorado. (In press)

RESEARCH REPORTS

- 2015 Results from Zooarchaeological Analysis at Ona Adi, Ethiopia. *Early Social Complexity in the Horn of Africa*. Report prepared for “Eastern Tigrai Archaeological Project” (ETAP), a collaborative project between Simon Fraser University, Canada and Mekelle University, Ethiopia.
- 2013 Results from Zooarchaeological Analysis at Mezber, Ethiopia. *The pre-Aksumite Period in Northern Ethiopia*. Report prepared for “Eastern Tigrai Archaeological Project” (ETAP), a collaborative project between Simon Fraser University, Canada and Mekelle University, Ethiopia.
- 2011 Results from Zooarchaeological Analysis at Mezber, Ethiopia. *The pre-Aksumite Period in Northern Ethiopia*. Report prepared for “Eastern Tigrai Archaeological Project” (ETAP), a collaborative project between Simon Fraser University, Canada and Mekelle University, Ethiopia.
- 2010 Results from Zooarchaeological Analysis at Mezber, Ethiopia. *Early State Development in Northern Ethiopia*. Report prepared for “Eastern Tigrai Archaeological Project” (ETAP), a collaborative project between Simon Fraser University, Canada and Mekelle University, Ethiopia.
- 2009 Results from Zooarchaeological Analysis at Mezber, Ethiopia. *Early State Development in Northern Ethiopia*. Report prepared for “Eastern Tigrai

Archaeological Project” (ETAP), a collaborative project between Simon Fraser University, Canada and Mekelle University, Ethiopia.

- 2008 Results from Zooarchaeological Analysis at Nora, Ethiopia. Report prepared for “Gendebelo/Nora Program”, French Center for Ethiopian Studies, Addis Ababa; Agence Nationale de la Recherche; Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique.
- 2007 Results from Zooarchaeological Analysis at Mezber, Ethiopia. *Early State Development in Northern Ethiopia*. Report prepared for “Eastern Tigray Archaeological Project” (ETAP), a collaborative project between Simon Fraser University, Canada and Mekelle University, Ethiopia.

Abstracts

- 2010 D’Andrea, Catherine and **Woldekiros**, Helina S. “Animal Remains from the Pre-Aksumite site of Mezber (Ethiopia)”. *Bone Commons*, Item #1073.

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

Panels Organized

- 2019 Salt Roads: Rethinking the Place of Salt In Prehistory, Towards a Global Dialogue, (84th Annual meeting of the Society of American Archaeology – Albuquerque, NM, April 10 – April 14, 2019)
- 2013 Pushing Pastoral Boundaries: Patterns and Particulars in Pastoral/Non-Pastoral Relationships, (78th Annual meeting of the Society of American Archaeology – Honolulu, Hawaii, April 3 – April 7, 2013)
- 2012 Mobility and interactions in Africa’s recent past, in honor of Diane Gifford-Gonzalez, (20th Meeting of the Society of Africanist Archaeologists – Toronto, Canada, June 21 – June 25, 2012)

Chair

- 2012 SAA General Africanist Session (77th Annual meeting of the Society of American Archaeology – Memphis, TN, April 18 – April 22, 2012)

INVITED TALKS

- 2018 “Salt, Food Security, and Wealth in Ancient Ethiopia in the First Millennium AD”, Washington University in St. Louis, September 2018
- 2016 “Early Chicken Exploitation in Africa: Why the chicken crossed the Red Sea”, Department of Archaeology, University of Nottingham, United Kingdom. December 2016
- 2016 “Early Chicken Exploitation in Africa”, Animals: Cultural Identifiers in Ancient Societies. Symposium in honor of the 50th Anniversary of the Institute of Palaeoanatomy and History of Veterinary Medicine, Ludwig Maximilian University, Munich. March 2016

- 2016 “The Afar Salt Caravan Route: Insights into the role of Trade and Exchange in Creation of the Aksumite State (50 BCE-CE 900)”, Johns Hopkins University. February 2016
- 2015 “The Afar Salt Caravan Route: Insights into the Role of Trade and Exchange in Creation of the Aksumite State (50 BCE-CE 900)”, George Mason University. January 2015

WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS

- 2017 Woldekiros, Helina S. The Route Most Traveled: The Afar salt caravan route. Presented at – Caravan Archaeologies Workshop, Pica, Chile, May 3- May 5 2017

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2018 Woldekiros, Helina S. Human and Animal foodways on the Afar salt route, North Ethiopia. Presented at the 83rd Annual meeting of the Society of American Archaeology – Washington, DC, April 11–15, 2018
- 2017 Woldekiros, Helina S. Early Farming Communities in East Africa and the Horn: new zooarchaeological evidence from Mezber, northern Ethiopia. Presented at 82nd Annual meeting of the Society of American Archaeology – Vancouver, Canada, March 29 – April 2, 2017
- 2013 Woldekiros, Helina S. Salt caravan trade as a means of interaction between the ancient Aksumites of the Northern Ethiopian Highlands and their pastoralist neighbors. Presented at 78th Annual meeting of the Society of American Archaeology – Honolulu, Hawaii, April 3 – April 7, 2012
- 2012 Woldekiros, Helina S. The Salt Trade of the Afar: Insights into interactions among Ethiopians of the highlands and low deserts. Presented at 20th Meeting of the Society of Africanist Archaeologists – Toronto, Canada, June 21 – June 25, 2012
- 2012 Woldekiros, Helina S. The Ethnoarchaeology of the Afar Salt Trade. Presented at 9th Annual Yale Bouchet Conference – New Haven, Connecticut, March 30 – 31, 2012
- 2012 Woldekiros, Helina S. The Afar Caravan Route: insights into Aksumite (150 C.E.-C.E 900) trade and exchange from the low deserts to the North Ethiopian plateau. Presented at 77th Annual meeting of the Society of American Archaeology – Memphis, TN, April 18 – April 22, 2012
- 2011 Woldekiros, Helina S. Animal remains from the pre-Aksumite site of Mezber (Ethiopia). Presented at 11th International Conference of International Council for Archaeozoology – Paris, France, August 23 – August 28, 2010
- 2008 Woldekiros, Helina S. Pre-Aksumite and Aksumite settlement of Northeastern Tigray, Ethiopia. Presented at Friday Archaeology Seminar Series, Washington University in St. Louis
- 2008 Woldekiros, Helina S. Medieval Archaeology in Ethiopia. Presented at Friday Archaeology Seminar Series, Washington University in St. Louis

- 2005 Woldekiros, Helina S. Chipped stone technological organization and early agricultural settlements. Paper presented at 70th Annual meeting of the Society of American Archaeology – Salt Lake City, UT, March 30 – April 3, 2005

PUBLIC LECTURES

- 2019 “Early Chicken Exploitation in Africa”, Authority for Research and Conservation of the Cultural Heritage, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. June 2019
- 2018 “Caravan Archaeology: Prehistoric Journeys, Trade Networks, and Salt Trails”, Victoria College, University of Toronto, Canada. June 17, 2018
- 2018 “Integration of Endogenous and Exogenous Agricultural Systems: Domestic Chickens and Biodiversity in Ancient Africa”, Washington University in St. Louis (*Living Earth Collaborative*), September 2018
- 2017 “The Route Most Traveled: Camel and Donkey caravans of the Afar Salt Trail, North Ethiopia”, Washington University in St. Louis, October 2017
- 2016 “The Domestication History of *Equus africanus asinus*”, Being Human: Hopes and Fears Public Lecture Series, Natural History Museum, University of Oxford, United Kingdom. November 2016
- 2016 “Saltiness and Power: trade, niche economies, and Aksumite (50 BCE-900 CE) social organization”, Washington University in St. Louis, February 2016
- 2015 “Ethnoarchaeology of the Afar Salt Caravan Route: Insights into Aksumite (50 BCE-CE 900) Trade and Exchange”, ArchaeoBioCenter, Public lecture series 2015, Ludwig Maximilian University, Munich, Germany. January 2015
- 2011 “Donkeys, Camels, Bread and Salt: The Last Caravaners in the Ethiopian Danakil Depression”, Washington University in St. Louis, August 2011
- 2008 “Pre-Aksumite and Aksumite Settlement of Northeastern Tigray, Ethiopia”, Washington University in St. Louis, November 2008

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Washington University in St. Louis

The Archaeology of Ancient Egypt (2018-2019)
Out of the Wild: Domestication and Socioeconomic Diversity in Ancient Africa (2019)
Topics in Anthropology: Archaeology of Ancient Egypt (2017)
Ancient Africa: Social Mosaics and Environmental Challenges (2018-2019)
Archaeology of Food and Drink (2018)
Anthropology of Death and Ritual, Instructor, (Fall 2013)
Introduction to Archaeology, Instructor, (Fall 2010)

FIELD AND LABORATORY EXPERIENCE

Project Director

2007-2019 *The Afar Salt Caravan Route Project*, Ethiopia

- 2014-2015 *Archaeozoological project* Munich, Germany
 2001-2013 *Ethnographic study of Death belief and Ritual in the North-Ethiopian Highlands*, Ethiopia

Co-Director

- 2018-present *One Health Horn Project-Archaeology and cultural heritage project*, Ethiopia
 2016-2018 *Going places: women and chickens in Ethiopia*

Research Teams: Project Zooarchaeologist

- 2007-18 Simon Fraser University, *Eastern Tigray Archaeological Project (ETAP)*, Ethiopia
 2013-18 Johns Hopkins University, *Southern Red Sea Archaeological Histories (SRSAH) Project*, Faunal Specialist
 2011-18 University of Naples “L’Orientale” (UNO) Archaeological Expedition at Aksum, Faunal Specialist
 2014-18 University of Naples “L’Orientale” (UNO) Archaeological Expedition, Southern Sudan, Faunal Specialist
 2011-12 *Washington University*, zooarchaeological study of fauna from Turkmenistan. Site: AMMD Turkmenistan
 2011 Ethiopian-German project. Zooarchaeological study of fauna from the Almaqah temple of Meqaber GaKewa (Tigray, Ethiopia)
 2008 French Center for Ethiopian Studies, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, *Gendebelo/Nora Program*, Ethiopia, Africa: Faunal Specialist
 2005 Assisted Dr Fiona Marshall on zooarchaeological study of fauna from Guli Wabayo, Somalia
 2003 *University of Florida*, zooarchaeological study of fauna from St. Augustine, Florida. Site: SA-30-3 (Block 30 lot 3)

Field Experience

- 2007-2018 *The Afar Salt Caravan Route Project*, Ethiopia. Director of survey, excavation, GIS, and database. Faunal and ceramic analysis specialist. Ethnoarchaeology expert
 2016-2017 *Going places: women and chickens in Ethiopia project*. Research director, field lab supervisor and faunal Specialist
 2008 French Center for Ethiopian Studies, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, *Gendebelo/Nora Program*, Ethiopia, Africa: Excavation Supervisor and Faunal Specialist
 2005 *Southeastern Archaeological Research Inc. (SEARCH)*, Florida, USA: Survey and Excavation crew
 2004 *Silver Creek Archaeological Research Project*, University of Arizona field school; participated in “mapping of Pueblo and Apache sites, archaeological survey, surface collection, damage assessment, stabilization and preservation of

architecture and looter-damaged deposits, laboratory processing and analyses, and excavation”

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

2019 Peer-Reviewer for PLOS One
2018 Peer-Reviewer for Journal of African Archaeology
2018 Peer-Reviewer for Azania: Archaeological Research in Africa
2009-2017 Member of the Advisory board for *The Center for the Study of African and Africa Diaspora Museums and Communities* (CFSAADMC), Atlanta, Georgia, USA
2016 Peer-Reviewer for *International Journal of Osteoarchaeology*
2016 Peer-Reviewer for National Geographic Committee for Research and Exploration
2012 Peer-Reviewer for *African Journal of Agricultural Research, International Journal of Livestock Production*

SERVICE

2018 Served in the ad-hoc committee for graduate planning
2018 Archaeology search committee
2018 A speaker on a diversity panel entitled pathway to WUSTL education (ZENASH)
2017-2019 Friday Archaeology Seminar series organizer
2010 Representative of Graduate students in Arts and Science to *Board of Trustees Research-Graduate Affairs Committee*, Washington University in St. Louis
2007-2009 Served on the Committee of Three for the subfield- Archaeology, Leadership position for Graduate Students, *Washington University in St. Louis, Department of Anthropology*

MEDIA COVERAGE

News

2014. Gerry Everding. Sifting the sands of time. *The Record*, St. Louis, MO May 2014.
<http://commencement.wustl.edu/class-acts-shaping-future/>

2011. **Woldekiros**, Helina. New Perspectives: Graduate Students in Arts and Sciences. *Art and Science Magazine*, Washington University. Spring 2011: 20-21.

2011. **Woldekiros**, Helina. Travels on the Afar Salt Route in Ethiopia. Washington University Anthropology News.

Online link to news:

<http://artsci.wustl.edu/~anthnews/Archives/Winter%202011/ethiopia.html>

2010. Girma. 2010. The First Female Archaeologist Working in the Danakil Depression, Ethiopia. *The Reporter News Paper*. Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. June 20.

2014. Interviewed by Radio FANA (Ethiopian National Radio) on the Afar Salt Caravan Project.

News coverage on Research (Chicken)

<https://source.wustl.edu/2016/11/chicken-crossed-red-sea/>

<http://www.foxnews.com/science/2016/11/04/not-joke-scientists-study-how-chickens-made-historic-crossings.html>

<http://www.cbc.ca/radio/quirks/quirks-quarks-for-november-12-2016-1.3845355/chicken-bone-discovery-reveals-a-rich-backstory-1.3845435>

https://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2015-03/msu-hdt032615.php

<http://www.thepoultrysite.com/poultrynews/37792/how-did-chickens-cross-from-asia-to-africa/>

<http://www.newhistorian.com/domesticated-chickens-arrived-africa-much-earlier-thought/7499/>

<http://phys.org/news/2016-11-africa-oldest-domestic-chicken-bones.html>

<http://www.natureworldnews.com/amp/articles/31203/20161105/why-chicken-cross-red-sea-genetic-diversity-fowls-explained.htm>

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2016/11/161103091312.htm>

<http://www.digitaljournal.com/tech-and-science/science/a-discarded-chicken-bone-tells-the-story-of-early-domestication/article/478836>

<http://www.heritagedaily.com/2016/11/how-the-chicken-crossed-the-red-sea/113083>

<http://archaeologicalnews.tumblr.com/post/152682137249/how-the-chicken-crossed-the-red-sea>

<https://knowridge.com/2016/11/how-the-chicken-crossed-the-red-sea-thousand-years-ago/>

<http://www.ooyuz.com/newsarticles?term=helina%20woldekiros>

<https://habanahaba.wordpress.com/2011/04/28/tz-restaurant-review-black-tomato-dar-es-salaam/>

<https://agilience.com/en/topic/History>

<http://www.jeffkendall.org/aggregator/sources/5>

<http://www.scoop.it/t/fragments-of-science>

<http://www.digitaljournal.com/tech-and-science/science/a-discarded-chicken-bone-tells-the-story-of-early-domestication/article/478836>

<https://www.sparrho.com/item/earliest-economic-exploitation-of-chicken-outside-east-asia-evidence-from-the-hellenistic-southern-levant/7ee5e7/>

<http://antropogenez.ru/single-news/article/610/>

<http://www.journaltochs.hw.ac.uk/index.php?action=browse&subAction=subjects&publisherID=67&journalID=6307&pageb=4&userQueryID=>

<http://sciencelib.ge/en/aggregator/news.sciencemag.org/paulbrenner.de/www.wired.com/www.wired.com/wiredscience/2012/06/msl-mars-new-discoveries?page=12>

<http://www.worlduniversitydirectory.com/ivideosearch/Ethiopia/University>

Documentary

Woman the Toolmaker: Hide working and Stone Tool Use in Konso, Ethiopia. *An Educational Film Series*. **Directors:** Steven Brandt, Kathryn Weedman, Justin Shipley. **Producer:** Tara Belkin. **Voiceover:** Helina **Woldekiros**. 2006. Left Coast Press Inc.