# Krysten Cruz

## EDUCATION

**Ph.D. Candidate in Applied Anthropology,** Expected Graduation: Spring 2026
Texas State University, San Marcos, TX
Committee Chair: Dr. Nicholas P. Herrmann
Dissertation: "Kinship, Biological Relationships, and Mortuary Practices of Mycenaean Eleon"

**M.A. in Anthropology,** 2019
Texas State University, San Marcos, TX
Committee Chair: Dr. Daniel J. Wescott
Thesis: "The morphological and osteometric sorting of human commingled assemblages: tali and calcanei"

**B.S. in Anthropology,** 2016
Texas State University, San Marcos, Texas
Minor in Biology

## AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

**Dissertation Fellowship,** Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, $10,000 2025

**Jacob Hirsch Fellowship**, American School of Classical Studies at Athens, $11,500 2024

**Open Research/Study Semifinalist,** Fulbright U.S. Student Program 2024

**Graduate College Doctoral Research Fellowship,** Texas State University, $5000 2024

**William Sanders Scarborough Fellowship,** American School of Classical Studies at Athens 2023

**G. E. Wright/Shirlee Meyers Fellowship,** American Society of Overseas Research, $2000 2022

**Graduate College Scholarship**, Texas State University, $1000 2021, 2023

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

**Doctoral Instructional Assistant**, Texas State University, San Marcos, Texas Aug. - Dec. 2025
**Teaching Assistant:** Assisting with preparation, lecturing, and grading for an undergraduate "Bioarchaeology" course.

**Doctoral Instructional Assistant**, Texas State University, San Marcos, Texas Aug. - Dec. 2024
**Teaching Assistant:** Assisted with grading and organization of an asynchronous undergraduate "Introduction to Biological Anthropology" course.

**Doctoral Teaching Assistant**, Texas State University, San Marcos, Texas Jan. - May 2022-2024
**Instructor of Record:** Taught the undergraduate course "Human Osteology"
Formulated course structure and requirements, lectured, administered grades.

**Doctoral Instructional Assistant**, Texas State University, San Marcos, Texas Jan. - May 2024
**Teaching Assistant:** Assisting with preparation, labs, and grading for a master's level "Advanced Methods in Skeletal Biology I" course.

**Doctoral Instructional Assistant**, Texas State University, San Marcos, Texas Aug. - Dec. 2023

**Teaching Assistant:** Assisted with grading and organization of an asynchronous undergraduate "Forensic Anthropology" course.

**Doctoral Instructional Assistant**, Texas State University, San Marcos, Texas Aug. - Dec. 2021
**Teaching Assistant:** Assisted in the undergraduate course, "Human Osteology"

**Graduate Instructional Assistant**, Texas State University, San Marcos, Texas Aug. 2018 - May 2019
**Teaching Assistant:** Assisted numerous Instructors and Professors in the undergraduate course, "Human Osteology"

## FIELD AND LABORATORY EXPERIENCE

**Mycenaean Pefkakia**, Volos, Greece June 2024 - Present
**Osteological Analyst**: Assisted with the excavation, cleaning, inventory, and analysis of skeletal material from multiple time periods in Pefkakia.

**Ancient Kition Bioarchaeological Project**, Nicosia, Cyprus July - Aug. 2019, 2021 - Present
**Osteological Analyst**: Assisted with initial inventory and organization of the collection as well as with cleaning, inventory, and analysis of commingled human skeletal material. Assisted with the excavation of cremated skeletal material from an amphora as well as commingled skeletal material from sarcophagi.

**Eastern Boeotia Archaeology Project,** Arma, Greece May - July 2018, 2019, 2021 - Present
**Osteological Analyst**: Assisted in the excavation and organization of human skeletal material from early Mycenaean tombs. Participated in the inventory and analysis of the skeletal material.

**Ayioi Omoloyites Bioarchaeological Project,** Nicosia, Cyprus July - Aug. 2017-2019, 2021 - Present
**Osteological Analyst**: Assisted in the inventory and analysis of commingled human skeletal remains from three Hellenistic to Early Christian tombs. Organized and collected data and photographs of the skeletal collection.

**Doctoral Research Assistant,** Texas State University, San Marcos, Texas Oct. – Dec. 2023
**NIJ Histology Grant**: Assisted in preparing imaged histology slides from the Texas State University Donated Skeletal Collection (TXSTDSC) for data collection using ArcGIS and ImageJ software.

**Doctoral Instructional Assistant,** Texas State University, San Marcos, Texas Jan. - May 2023
**Donation Lead – WBDP**: Lead graduate students on donor pickups and intakes for the Willed Body Donation Program at Texas State University. Collected postcranial measurements for the TXSTDSC) and assisted with the labeling of donors for the collection.

**Phaleron Bioarchaeological Project**, American School of Classical Studies at Athens Sept. - Dec. 2022
**Extern**: Assisted in sample selection for ancient DNA and proteomics projects. 3D scanned dentition for ancient DNA sampling using an Artec Spyder and the Artec Studio 15 Professional software. Assisted with micro-drilling sampling of petrous temporals for ancient DNA.

**Doctoral Research Assistant**, Texas State University, San Marcos, Texas Aug. 2021 - May 2022
**Lab Manager of ORPL:** Coordinated volunteers for the processing of skeletal remains at the Osteological Research and Processing Laboratory. Prepared remains for processing via maceration and completed inventories of processed individuals.

**Nea Ionia Mycenaean Burials**, Volos, Greece Aug. 2021, Sept. 2022, May 2023
**Osteological Analyst**: Assisted with the cleaning, initial inventory, and organization of the skeletal material from Mycenaean Nea Ionia.

**Georgian Recovery, Documentation, and Identification Project,** Tbilisi, Georgia Aug. 2021-2023

**Volunteer – Field and Osteological Technician**: Assisted the Georgian Association of Forensic Anthropology in the excavation and documentation of a mass grave from the Soviet Era Terror in the late 1930s in Batumi. Participated in data collection in the field in the form of postcranial measurements. Assisted with lab analysis and reconstruction of skeletal material.

**Bois d'Arc Lake Project**, AR Consultants Inc., Richardson, Texas May 2020 - May 2021
**Crew Chief**: Coordinated, initiated, and supervised fieldwork at 41FN114 in Bonham, Texas. Operated a Trimble RTK unit for staking out units/blocks and mapping in features and artifacts. Supervised burial excavations at sites 41FN114 and 41FN244.

**Bois d'Arc Lake Project**, AR Consultants Inc., Richardson, Texas Jan. - May 2020
**Archaeological Field Technician:** Participated in the set up and general excavation of 41FN178. Participated in the excavation and documentation of burials at 41FN178.

**Graduate Research Assistant**, Texas State University, San Marcos, Texas Sept. - Dec. 2019
Created an Access database for the histological collection at the Forensic Anthropology Center at Texas State and participated in the documentation of this collection.

**Graduate Research Assistant**, Texas State University, San Marcos, Texas Feb. - May 2018
Assisted with the creation and imaging of histological slides from various skeletal elements. Aided in the documentation of the New Salem Cemetery histological collection.

**Operation Identification**, Texas State University, San Marcos, Texas 2015 - 2019, 2021, 2024 - Present
**Volunteer**: Process skeletal remains, as well as personal effects of unidentified migrants crossing the US-Mexico Border. Helped data mine and organize demographic data of unidentified individuals in Sheriff's County reports, as well as in NamUs. Participated in a pedestrian survey of a cemetery in the attempt to help find potential areas of interest for future exhumation of individuals. Participated in pedestrian searches for personal effects and skeletal remains on private ranch lands December 2018, November 2019. Participated in exhumations of unidentified migrant remains January 2019, October 2021.

**Gault Archaeological Project,** Texas State University, San Marcos, Texas Sept. 2016 - Jan. 2017
**Research Assistant**: Organized and collected histological data under Sophia Mavroudas. Mastered new technology and software (CellSens).

**Advanced Osteological Analysis in the Roman Necropolis of Sanisera,** Menorca, Spain July 2015
**Student**: Participated in a field school for advanced osteology. Sorted through and analyzed commingled human skeletal remains from multiple cist tombs and wrote tomb reports in collaboration with other students.

## OUTREACH AND INVITED LECTURES

**Schreiner University Human Remains Recovery Course,** San Marcos, Texas May 2024
Burial Recovery Lead and Course Assistant

**TEEX Skeletal Death Investigation Course,** San Marcos, Texas Apr. 2024
Burial Recovery Lead and Course Assistant

**Human Remains Recovery (HRR) Course,** San Marcos, Texas Jan. 2024
Osteology Lecture Lead, and Course and Burial Recovery Assistant

**Invited Lecture - Bioarchaeology,** Wellesley College, Massachusetts Nov. 2021
Virtual Lecture

**Advanced HRR: Fire Death Investigation,** San Marcos, Texas Sep. 2021, 2025
Course Assistant

**Human Remains Recovery Course**, Texas State University, San Marcos, Texas Jan. 2019

Burial Recovery Lead and Course Assistant

**San Marcos STEAM Fair,** San Marcos, Texas — Feb. 2019
Anthropology Graduate Student Representative and Volunteer

**Osteology Workshops**, Texas State University, San Marcos, Texas — 2018 – 2019, 2025
Course Assistant and Lead

**Two-Day HRR Course,** Texas State University, San Marcos, Texas — Mar. 2017
Burial Recovery and Course Assistant

**New Braunfels Science Fair,** New Braunfels, Texas — Oct. 2017
Anthropology Graduate Student Representative and Volunteer

**TARL Archeology Fair,** Austin, Texas — Oct. 2017
Anthropology Graduate Student Representative and Volunteer

## PUBLICATIONS/PAPERS

Herrmann NP, **Cruz KA**, Wolfe CA, Pilides D, & Violaris Y (2021) **Bioarchaeological Investigations of three Hellenistic to Early Christian tombs from the Ayioi Omoloyites neighborhood in Lefkosia**. In M. Gamble (Ed.), Overcoming Past Preservation Issues: Current Research in Cyprus Bioarchaeology. (pp. 39–52). Wien, Austria: Verlag Holzhausen.

## PRESENTATIONS

Nicholas Herrmann, **Krysten Cruz,** Trevor Van Damme, Amanda Gaggioli, Brendan Burke, Bryan Burns (2024) **The Assessment of Mortuary Activities and Burial Interactions from the Blue Stone Structure at Eleon, Greece.** Paper presented at the European Association of Archaeologists conference.

Nicholas P. Herrmann, **Krysten A. Cruz,** Jamie A. Gee (2024) **Recent biological distance assessments of the Green River Archaic burial sample from 15OH2.** Poster presented at the American Association of Biological Anthropologists conference.

Ivanna Robledo, **Krysten Cruz,** Elisabeth Cuerrier-Richer, ChristiAna Dunham, Kelsey Fox, Michelle Hamilton, and Kate Spradley (2023) **The Utility of Birthplace Prediction from Stable Isotope Analysis in Migrant Identification.** Poster presented at the American Academy of Forensic Sciences conference.

Meri Gonashvili, Kelly Kamnikar, Micayla Spiros, Nicholas Herrmann, Tea Takniashvili, Nino Tavartkiladze, Petra Banks, Keegan Beane, **Krysten Cruz**, Rhian Dunn, Amber Plemons, Ivanna Robledo, and Buba Chachkiani (2023) **Navigating Stakeholder Relationships in Humanitarian Forensic Work: Lessons Learned From Georgia.** Poster presented at the American Academy of Forensic Sciences conference.

**Krysten A. Cruz**, Nicholas P. Herrmann, Despina Pilides, and Yiannis Violaris. (2021) **Cribra Femora in Burial Samples from Ayioi Omoloyites in Lefkosia, Cyprus: An Indicator of Thalassemia or a Non-Specific Osseous Variant?** Virtual presentation at the American Society of Overseas Research.

Nicholas P. Herrmann, **Krysten A. Cruz**, Laurie J. Reitsema, Despina Pilides, and Yiannis Violaris. (2020) **Diet, Health, and Demography: Bioarchaeological Research on the Tombs from the Ayioi Omoloyites Neighborhood in Lefkosia, Cyprus.** Poster presented at American Society for Overseas Research conference.

A. Karligkioti, P. Christofi, K. Helgeson, S. Mavroudas, F. Constantinou, **K. Cruz,** E. Nikita, and N. Herrmann. (2019) **The Inhabitants of Ancient Kition: Preliminary Insights.** Poster presented at the Second International Congress on Archaeological Sciences in the Eastern Mediterranean and the Middle East.

Nicholas P. Herrmann, Christopher A. Wolfe, **Krysten A. Cruz,** Despina Pilides, and Yiannis Violaris. (2019) **Demography, Health and Diet of the Hellenistic to Early Christian burial samples from Ayioi Omoloyites neighborhood in Lefkosia, Cyprus.** Poster presented at Society of American Archaeology conference.

Christopher A. Wolfe, Nicholas P. Herrmann, **Krysten A. Cruz**, Despina Pilides, and Yiannis Violaris. (2018) **Methodological issues in the analysis of fragmentary and commingled subadult remains at the Ayioi Omoloyites tombs of Roman to Early Christian Period Cyprus.** Poster presented at American Association of Physical Anthropology conference.

Nicholas P. Herrmann, **Krysten A. Cruz**, Christopher A. Wolfe, Despina Pilides, and Yiannis Violaris. (2018) **Demography and health of the Hellenistic to Early Christian burial samples from Ayioi Omoloyites neighborhood in Lefkosia, Cyprus.** Poster presented at American Association of Physical Anthropology conference.

Monica M. Warner, Scott C. Meeks, and **Krysten A. Cruz**. (2018) **A Preliminary Analysis of Childhood Growth and Health at the Logan Site (40DV8).** Poster presented at Current Research in Tennessee Archaeology conference.

## TECHNICAL REPORTS

Herrmann NP & **Cruz KA**. 2022. **2022 Nea Ionia Preliminary Mycenaean Burial Assessments, aDNA and Isotopic Sampling, and Review of Past Finds**. Report submitted to Bartlomiej Lis, Project Director, Polish Academy of Sciences.

Herrmann NP & **Cruz KA**. 2022. **Preliminary Report on the Excavation and Osteological Analysis of Sarcophagus 1 from Tomb 5, Aeroporou Street, Larnaka, Cyprus**. Report submitted to the Polina Christofi, Archeologist, Department of Antiquities, Republic of Cyprus.

Herrmann NP & **Cruz KA.** 2021. **Nea Ionia Preliminary Mycenaean Burial Assessments for aDNA and Isotopic Sampling**. Report provided to Bartlomiej Lis, Project Director, Polish Academy of Sciences.

Herrmann NP, and **Cruz KA.** 2019. **A Preliminary report on the ΕΣΠΕΡΙΔΩΝ Cremations**. Report submitted to the Department of Antiquities, Republic of Cyprus.

Gocha TP, **Cruz KA**, High SB, Mavroudas SR, and Herrmann NP. 2019. **Histological Analysis of New Salem Cemetery Femoral Samples and Update on other Histological Samples.** Report submitted to the Center for Archaeological Research, University of Mississippi.

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

**American School of Classical Studies at Athens** 2022-2025
Student Associate Member

**Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society** 2022 - Present
Member

**Alpha Chi Honor Society** 2022 - Present
Member

**American Society of Overseas Research** 2021 - Present
Graduate Member

**Archaeological Institute of America** 2021 - Present
Graduate Member

**American Academy of Forensic Sciences** 2018 - Present
Student Affiliate

**American Association of Biological Anthropology** 2018 - Present
Student Member