

SHEELA ATHREYA
Curriculum Vitae

Department of Anthropology
Texas A&M University
4352 TAMU
College Station, TX 77843-4352

phone: (979) 845-4785
fax: (979) 845-4070
email: athreya@tamu.edu

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Middle and Late Pleistocene Hominin Evolution and Systematics; Postcolonialism in Biological Anthropology; Human Biological Variation, Craniofacial Biology; Quantitative Methods

EDUCATION

- 2003 **Ph.D., ANTHROPOLOGY**
WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY, ST. LOUIS, MO
Advisor: Erik Trinkaus
- 1996 **M.A., ANTHROPOLOGY**
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA, PHILADELPHIA, PA
Advisor: Gregory Possehl
- 1991 **B.S., BROADCASTING AND FILM**
BOSTON UNIVERSITY, BOSTON, MA
Summa cum laude and with Distinction; Liberal Arts concentration in Archaeology

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2011-present **TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY, DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY**
Associate Professor of Anthropology
- 2003-2011 **TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY, DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY**
Assistant Professor of Anthropology
- 1996-2000 **ST. LOUIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE, DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY,
SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY**
Instructor

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS

- 2017 **Athreya, S.** and Wu X. A multivariate assessment of the Dali hominin cranium from China: Morphological affinities and implications for Pleistocene evolution in East Asia. *American Journal of Physical Anthropology* 164 (4):679-701.
- 2015 **Athreya S.** Modern human emergence in South Asia: A synthesis of morphological and genetic evidence. In *Proceedings of the Symposium on the Emergence of Modern Human Behavior in Asia*, Kaifu, Y, Izumi M and Goebel FE (eds). Texas A&M University Press. Chapter 5: 61-79.

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS (CONTINUED)

- 2014 Brophy JK, DJ de Ruiter, **S Athreya** and TJ DeWitt. Quantitative morphological analysis of bovid teeth and implications for paleoenvironmental reconstruction of Plovers Lake, Gauteng Province, South Africa. *Journal of Archaeological Science* 41:376-388.
- 2013 Wu X and **Athreya S***. A description of the geological context, discrete traits and linear morphometrics of the Middle Pleistocene hominin from Dali, Shaanxi Province, China. *American Journal of Physical Anthropology* 150(1): 141-157. (*corresponding author)
- 2013 Bruner E, **Athreya S***, de la Cuétara JM and Marks, T. Geometric variation of the frontal squama in the genus *Homo*: Frontal bulging and the origin of modern human morphology. *American Journal of Physical Anthropology* 150(2): 313-323. (*corresponding author)
- 2012 Grün R, **Athreya S**, Raj R and Patnaik R. ESR response in tooth enamel to high resolution CT scanning. *Archaeological and Anthropological Sciences* 4(1): 25-28
- 2012 **Athreya S**. The frontal bone in the genus *Homo*: functional and phylogenetic sources of variation. (Invited review) *Journal of Anthropological Sciences* 90:1-22.
- 2010 **Athreya S** and R Raj. A rare tribal (*adivasi*) burial from the Lower Narmada River Valley at Rampura, Gujarat, Western India. *Anthropological Science* 118(2): 151-158.
- 2010 **Athreya S**. South Asia as a geographic crossroad: patterns and predictions of hominin morphology in Pleistocene India. In Norton, CJ and Braun D, eds. *Asian Paleoanthropology: From Africa to China and Beyond*. New York: Springer Academic Publishers, Vertebrate Paleobiology and Paleoanthropology Series. E Delson, editor, pp. 129-141.
- 2009 **Athreya S**. A comparative study of frontal bone morphology among Pleistocene hominin fossil groups. *Journal of Human Evolution* 57(6): 786-804.
- 2009 Glantz MM, **S Athreya** and T Ritzman. Is Central Asia the eastern outpost of the Neandertal range? A reassessment of the Teshik-Tash child. *American Journal of Physical Anthropology* 138(1): 45-61
- 2007 **Athreya S**. Was *Homo heidelbergensis* in South Asia? A test using the Narmada hominin from Central India. In Petraglia, M. and Allchin, B. (eds.) *The Evolution and Diversity of Humans in South Asia*. New York: Springer Academic Publishers, Vertebrate Paleobiology and Paleoanthropology Series. E Delson, editor, pp. 137-170.
- 2006 **Athreya S**. Patterning of geographic variation in Middle Pleistocene *Homo* frontal bone morphology. *Journal of Human Evolution* 50:627-643.
- 2003 **Athreya S** and MM Glantz. The impact of character correlation and variable groupings on modern human population tree resolution. *American Journal of Physical Anthropology* 122: 134-146.
- 2003 Trinkaus E, O Moldovan, S Milota, A Bilgar, L Sarcina, **S Athreya**, SE Bailey, R Rodrigo, G Mircea, T Higham, CB Ramsey and J van der Plicht. An early modern human from the Pestera cu Oase, Romania. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 100(20): 11231-11236.

INVITED ARTICLES/BOOK CHAPTERS

- Accepted **Athreya, S** and RR Ackermann. Colonialism and Narratives of Human Origins in Asia and Africa. In Porr, M. and J. Matthews (eds) *Interrogating Human Origins: Decolonisation and the Deep Past*. Archaeological Orientation Series. Routledge: Abingdon.
- Accepted **Athreya, S**. *Vital Topics*. D. Bolnick, R. Smith and A. Fuentes, eds. *American Anthropologist*.
- 2018 **Athreya, S**. Picking a bone with evolutionary essentialism. *Anthropology News* 59(5):10-13.
- 2018 **Athreya S**. Major issues in South Asian prehistory and early history: a view from the genome. In Korisettar, R. (ed.) *Rethinking Indian Archaeology: Prehistory to Early History*. Bangalore: The Mythic Society. Chapter 5: 150-179.
- 2017 **Athreya, S**. East Asian Fossil Record. In Trevathan, W (ed.) *International Encyclopedia of Biological Anthropology*. New York: Wiley-Blackwell. *In Press*
- 2014 **Athreya S**. Comment on "Craniofacial feminization, social tolerance, and the origins of behavioral modernity." *Current Anthropology* 55(4): 431-432.
- 2013 **Athreya S** and Rougier H. Cranial Contours of Oase 2. In Trinkaus E, Constantin S, and Zilhao J (eds.) *Life and Death at the Pestera cu Oase: A Setting for Modern Human Emergence in Europe*. Oxford: Oxford University Press Human Evolution Series. Chapter 22:321-331.
- 2006 **Athreya S**. Comment on "Modern human versus Neandertal evolutionary distinctiveness" *Current Anthropology* 47(4): 608-609.

EXTERNAL RESEARCH GRANTS

- 2018 National Science Foundation Senior Award. *A Multidisciplinary Study of Early Homo sapiens in India: Re-evaluating "Anatomical Modernity."* Principal Investigator.
- 2018 Wenner-Gren Foundation Post-Ph.D. Research Grant. *A Multidisciplinary Study of Early Homo sapiens in India: Re-evaluating "Anatomical Modernity."*
- 2009 National Science Foundation High Risk Research in Anthropology (BCS-0941237) *Testing the Southern Dispersal Hypothesis: the Search for Late Pleistocene Hominin Occupation in the Lower Narmada Valley, Western India*. Principal Investigator
- 2006 National Science Foundation Small Grant for Exploration and Research (BCS-0645368) *Analysis of Late Pleistocene Human Fossil Remains from a Burial in Rampura, Gujarat, Western India*. Principal Investigator.
- 2006 National Geographic Expeditions Council Grant *Identification of Hominin Fossil Localities in the Lower Narmada Valley, Gujarat, Western India* Principal Investigator
- 2001 National Science Foundation Dissertation Improvement Grant (BCS-0004193) *A Quantitative Assessment of Frontal Bone Morphological Variation in Middle Pleistocene Homo Using Fourier Analysis*. Principal Investigator: Erik Trinkaus; Co-PI: Sheela Athreya
- 2000 Wenner-Gren Foundation Dissertation Fieldwork Grant *Assessing Temporal and Regional Changes in mid-Pleistocene Homo Frontal Bone Morphology Using Fourier Analysis*
- 2000 Sigma Xi Grant in Aid of Research *A Quantitative Assessment of Frontal Bone Morphology in Middle Pleistocene Hominids Using Fourier Analysis*

INVITED SYMPOSIUM PRESENTATIONS

- 2019 **Athreya, S.** *Middle Pleistocene hominin systematics: Homo heidelbergensis, Homo sapiens, and the species concept revisited.* To be presented at “*Homo heidelbergensis*: What’s in a name or rather, who actually belongs?” Organizers: Mirjana Roksandic and Christopher Bae. 88th Annual Meeting of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists, Cleveland, OH, March 27-30.
- 2017 **Athreya, S.** *Biocultural Perspectives on Human Evolution: Integrating Marginalized Populations into Conceptualizations of ‘Anatomically Modern’ Homo sapiens.* Presented at “Crossing the Divide: Biocultural and Biosocial Approaches to Anthropology.” Organizers: Deborah Bolnick and Lauren Springs. 116th Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Washington, D.C., November 29-Dec 3.
- 2017 **Athreya, S.** *‘Dead end evolutionary lineage’ says the White Man: the evolution of Homo erectus and Homo sapiens in Asia.* Presentation at “Beyond Visibility: How Academic Diversity is Transforming Scientific Knowledge.” Organizers: Deborah Bolnick and Rick Smith. 86th Annual Meeting of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists, New Orleans, LA, April 20-23. Abstract: *American Journal of Physical Anthropology* 162(S64): 104.
- 2016 **Athreya S.** *Genetic and fossil evidence on the peopling of South Asia: An integrative approach.* Presentation at “Workshop on the Prehistory of South Asia in Light of Recent Archaeological and Genetic Findings.” Organizers: A.H.M.H. Abayarathna, A. Manatunga and L. Ranaweera. Centre for Asian Studies, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka, January 8.
- 2014 **Athreya S.** *An examination of modern human cranial variation using frontal bone morphometrics.* Poster presentation at “The intersection of hominin fossil studies, human variation and life history: a symposium in honor of Alan Mann.” Organizers: Michelle Glantz and Janet Monge. 83rd Annual Meeting of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists, Calgary, AB, Canada, April 10-13. Abstract: *American Journal of Physical Anthropology* 153(S58): 69-70.
- 2011 Wu X, **S Athreya** and H Shang. *Does the Dali cranium belong to Homo heidelbergensis?* Oral presentation at “Muddles in the Middle: Current Perspectives on Middle Pleistocene Human Evolution,” Organizers: Steve Wang and Sarah Freidline. 80th Annual Meeting of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists, Minneapolis, MN, April 12-16. Abstract: *American Journal of Physical Anthropology* 144(S52): 315.
- 2011 **Athreya S.** *Modern human emergence in South Asia: A synthesis of the morphological and genetic evidence.* Oral presentation at “The Emergence and Diversity of Modern Human Behavior in Palaeolithic Asia.” Organizers: National Museum of Nature and Science, Tokyo and the Japanese Palaeolithic Research Association, Tokyo, Japan, November 28-December 1.
- 2009 **Athreya S.** *Dispersals from the east? Morphological and genetic evidence for the Pleistocene peopling of South Asia.* Oral presentation at the International Symposium on Paleoanthropology in Commemoration of the 80th Anniversary of the Discovery of the First Skull of Peking Man and the First Asian Conference on Quaternary Research. Organizers: Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology and Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing, China, October 19-23.
- 2007 **Athreya S.** *South Asia as a geographic crossroad: patterns and predictions of hominin morphology in Pleistocene India.* Oral presentation at “The Nature of the Earliest Asian Hominin Lifeways: The Current State of Evidence,” Organizers: Christopher J. Norton, John W.K. Harris, David R. Braun. 76th Annual Meeting of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists, Philadelphia, PA, March 29-31. Abstract: *American Journal of Physical Anthropology* 132(S44): 66.
- 2004 **Athreya S.** *Assessing the relationship of Asian Middle Pleistocene Homo to other regional populations using frontal bone morphology.* Oral presentation at “The Current State of Paleoanthropological Research in East and Southeast Asia.” Organizers: Sheela Athreya and Michelle M. Glantz. 73rd Annual Meeting of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists, Tampa, FL, April 14-17. Abstract: *American Journal of Physical Anthropology* 123(S38): 55.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2019 Shackelford, LL and **S Athreya**. *Neanderthal-Upper Paleolithic H. sapiens population dynamics*. Poster presentation at the 88th Annual Meeting of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists, Cleveland, OH, March 27-30.
- 2013 **Athreya S**, Bruner E, de la Cuétara JM and Marks, T. A morphometric analysis of the frontal squama in fossil and recent humans. Poster presentation at the 82nd Annual Meeting of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists, Knoxville, TN, April 10-13. Abstract: *American Journal of Physical Anthropology* 150(S56): 70.
- 2009 **Athreya S**. *A comparative study of frontal bone morphology among Pleistocene hominin fossil groups*. Oral presentation at the 78th Annual Meeting of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists, Chicago, IL, April 1-4, 2009. Abstract: *American Journal of Physical Anthropology* 138(S43): 111.
- 2006 **Athreya S**. *Was Homo heidelbergensis in South Asia? A test using the Narmada fossil from Central India*. Poster presentation at the Paleoanthropology Society Meetings, San Juan, Puerto Rico, April 24-26.
- 2006 Ritzman, T, M Glantz and **S Athreya** *Opening the stone: a multivariate reassessment of the Neandertal status of the Teshik-Tash child*. Oral presentation at the Paleoanthropology Society Meetings, San Juan, Puerto Rico, April 24-26.
- 2006 Chauhan, P, R Patnaik, M Rao, V Sathe, B Blackwell, A Skinner and **S Athreya**. *The Narmada Basin Palaeoanthropology Project (central India): preliminary results and future directions*. Oral presentation at the Paleoanthropology Society Meetings, San Juan, Puerto Rico, April 24-26.
- 2003 **Athreya S**. *An assessment of patterns of geographic variation in the frontal bone morphology of Middle Pleistocene Homo*. Oral presentation at the 2003 Paleoanthropology Society Meetings, Tempe, Arizona, April 22-23.
- 1999 **Athreya S**, M Chang, MM Glantz and MS Murphy. *An investigation of structural and functional correlations between cranial characters and character complexes used in the determination of human phylogeny*. Oral presentation at the 68th Annual Meeting of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists, Columbus, Ohio, April 26-May 1. Abstract: *American Journal of Physical Anthropology* 108(S28): 85.

SYMPOSIA ORGANIZED

- 2019 Cowgill, L., **S Athreya**, J Willman and S Maddux, Session Organizers. *From Pedestrian to Cerebral in the Pleistocene: A Symposium in Honor of Erik Trinkaus*. 88th Annual Meeting of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists, Cleveland, OH, March 27-30.
- 2004 **Athreya S** and MM Glantz, Session Organizers. *The Current State of Paleoanthropological Research in East and Southeast Asia*. 73rd Annual Meeting of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists, Tampa, FL, April 14-17. Abstract: *American Journal of Physical Anthropology* 123(S38): 29.
- 2004 Glantz MM and **S Athreya**, Session Organizers. *Paleoanthropological Research at the Asian Frontiers*. 73rd Annual Meeting of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists, Tampa, FL, April 14-17. Abstract: *American Journal of Physical Anthropology* 123(S38): 32.

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

- 2015 College of Liberal Arts Distinguished Achievement in Teaching Award
- 2001-2002 American Association of University Women American Dissertation Fellowship
- 2001 Washington University ArtSci Council Faculty Award for Undergraduate Teaching
- 1996-2002 Olin Graduate Fellowship for Women, Washington University
- 1994-1995 Graduate Fellowship in Archaeology, University of Pennsylvania
- 1994-1995 Writing Fellowship, South Asia Regional Studies, University of Pennsylvania

COURSES TAUGHT**TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY: UNDERGRADUATE**

Cultural Diversity and Ethics
 Fossil Evidence for Human Evolution
 Human Biological Variation
 Introduction to Anthropology (Four-field)
 Introduction to Biological Anthropology
 The Neanderthals

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY: GRADUATE

Biological Anthropology
 Human Biological Variation
 Issues in Human Evolutionary Theory
 Origin and Evolution of the Genus *Homo*
 Pleistocene Peopling of the Old World
 The Neanderthals

ST. LOUIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE AT FLORISSANT VALLEY: UNDERGRADUATE

ANT 101 Introduction to Physical Anthropology and Archaeology
 ANT 102 Introduction to Cultural Anthropology

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SCHOLARS ADVISED

2017-2018 Danielle Manley, "Exploring an Oceanic Influence on the Peopling of South America."
 2013-2014 Emilie Condon-Heck (Melton), "Frontal Bone Morphometrics and the Tierra del Fuegians"
 2007-2008 Stephanie Shively (Darrow), "The Myths of Maternity: A Comparative Study of the Medical and Mythological Practices of Highland Tibetan Populations to Prove Cultural Adaptations to High-Altitude Hypoxia."

GRADUATE STUDENTS ADVISED

Doctoral Committee Chair:	Victoria Springer	Ph.D. awarded May 2013
	Lauren Butaric	Ph.D. awarded May 2013
	Rachael Bible	Ph.D. awarded December 2016
	Bonny Christy	Ph.D. awarded August 2018
	Brittany Staff	M.A. awarded 12/2017; Ph.D. candidate
	Hyein Kim	precandidacy
	Missy Gandarilla	precandidacy
	Harshita Jain	precandidacy
	Debraj Sarkar	precandidacy
Doctoral Committee Member:	Eric Bartelink	Ph.D. awarded 2006
	Jason Wiersema	Ph.D. awarded 2006
	Cassady Yoder	Ph.D. awarded 2006
	Juliet Brophy	Ph.D. awarded 2011
	Larkin Kennedy	Ph.D. awarded 2016
	Kristin Hoffmeister	Ph.D. candidate
	Kersten Bergstrom	precandidacy
M.A./External Committee Member:	Shannon Bowman	M.A. awarded May 2014
	Ricci Grossman	M.A. awarded May 2009
	Terrence Ritzman	M.A. awarded Spring 2005
	Department of Anthropology, Colorado State University	
	Wayne Justin Downs	M.A. awarded Fall 2009
	Department of Philosophy, Texas A&M University	

SERVICE**NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL**

- 2010- 2013 *HUMAN BIOLOGY*
Book Review Editor
- 1999-2001 *AMERICAN ANTHROPOLOGIST*
Editorial Assistant

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY:

- 2017-2019 UNIVERSITY GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE
College of Liberal Arts Representative (elected position)
- 2017- FRIENDS OF INDIA FACULTY NETWORK
Executive Committee
- 2012-present TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY PRESS
Faculty Advisory Committee

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS:

- 2017-present UNDERGRADUATE INSTRUCTION COMMITTEE
- 2014-2015 DEAN SEARCH ADVISORY COMMITTEE
- 2012-2014 GRADUATE INSTRUCTION COMMITTEE
- 2003-2007;
2017-2018 DIVERSITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE, COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY:

- 2018-present DIRECTOR OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES, DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY
- 2012-2014 DIRECTOR OF GRADUATE STUDIES, DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY
- 2016-2017 CLIMATE AND INCLUSION COMMITTEE, DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY
Co-chairperson;
- 2014-present UNDERGRADUATE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE
- 2010-2011 DIVERSITY COMMITTEE, DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY
- 2005-2012 CURRICULUM COMMITTEE, DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY
Chairperson (2006-2007, 2012-2014)
- 2007 DEPARTMENT HEAD SEARCH COMMITTEE
- 2006-2007 FACULTY COORDINATOR, DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY
Annual Women's Week Speaker Series

MEMBERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- American Anthropological Association
- American Association for the Advancement of Science American Association of Physical Anthropologists
Member, Committee on Diversity
Member, Program Committee, 80th and 81st Annual Meetings
Member, Nominations Committee, 2014-2016 Executive Committee Elections
- Paleoanthropology Society
- Graduate Women in Science