

RADU IOVITA

Dept. of Anthropology, New York University
25 Waverly Place, New York, NY 10003
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

E: iovita@nyu.edu

W: as.nyu.edu/faculty/radu-iovita.html • orcid.org/0000-0001-9531-1159

Early Prehistory & Quaternary Ecology
Rümelinstr. 23, 72070 Tübingen
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

E: radu.iovita@uni-tuebingen.de

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Human evolution • Paleolithic archaeology • archaeological theory • Central Eurasia • archaeological survey • lithic use-wear analysis • controlled experiments

EDUCATION

2008 PHD in Anthropology (no grades given), University of Pennsylvania
2005 Complex Systems Summer School, Santa Fe Institute
2002 MPhil in Archaeology (*with distinction*), University of Cambridge
2001 AB (Hons.) in Anthropology (*magna cum laude*), Harvard University

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Current

2022- Associate Professor of Anthropology (*with tenure*), New York University
2016-2022 Assistant Professor of Anthropology, New York University
2017-2023 Group Leader, ERC Project [PALAEO-SILKROAD](#), University of Tübingen

Previous

2012-2016 Senior Researcher, Monrepos Research Centre, Römisch-Germanisches Zentralmuseum
2010-2012 Junior Researcher (DFG-funded), Monrepos Research Centre, RGZM
2009-2016 Adjunct Lecturer, Department of Ancient Studies, University of Mainz
2012-2021 Associated Scientist, Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology
2008-2010 Postdoctoral Fellow, Monrepos, RGZM

CAREER BREAK

Paternity leave (6 months): February 2014 and October 2014-February 2015

FELLOWSHIPS AND DISTINCTIONS

2019 [Sigma Xi](#) Member, New York University Chapter
2015 Finalist, [KUKA Innovation Award](#), Hanover Fair 2015 (RoboCut team member)
2008-2010 RGZM Postdoctoral Fellowship, RGZM (EUR 19 800 p.a.)
2007-2008 [Louis J. Kolb Fellowship](#), University of Pennsylvania (USD 23 000 p.a.)

- 2006-2007 *Dissertation Fellowship*, University of Pennsylvania, (USD 21 500 p.a.)
 2002-2006 *William Penn Fellowship*, University of Pennsylvania, (USD 14 500 p.a.)
 2001 *Phi Beta Kappa*, Alpha Iota Chapter of Massachusetts
 2001 *Thomas Temple Hoopes Prize* for undergraduate research (nominated)
 1998-2001 *John Harvard Scholarship* for academic excellence

GRANTS

Funded

Primary beneficiary: USD 2.4 million Partial (co-PI): USD 5.3 million

- 2022-2024 NSF Archaeology and Human Networks and Data Sciences Programs (co-PIs: R. Behera, C. Feng, (NYU Tandon), T. Bromage (NYU Dentistry)), *Understanding and classifying lithic use wear: a systematic study using controlled tribological experiments and computer vision*, USD 226 067.
 2022-2025 FWF (Austrian Science Fund) *The wheel of time - new approaches in optical dating of geological and archaeological rock surfaces*, collaborator (PI: Michael Meyer, U. Innsbruck), ca. EUR 20 000 of OSL ages. Total project budget EUR 399 000.
 2017-2020 University Challenge Research Fund, New York University, *Stone Age Tribology: new approaches to wear formation in ancient stone implements*, USD 13 000
 2017-2022 European Research Council (ERC), *PALAEOSILKROAD: Reconstructing Upper Pleistocene Hominin Dispersals and Adaptations in Central Asia*, EUR 1 497 643
 2017-2018 Leakey Foundation, *Pioneers in the foothills: excavations at early Upper Paleolithic Maibulak (Kazakhstan)*, USD 24 550
 2016-2020 Leibniz Association (with F. Daim, S. Gaudzinski), *Traceology at the Roman-Germanic Central Museum (RGZM)*. Research infrastructure grant, EUR 4.4 million
 2015 German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) Travel Grant, EUR 1 989
 2014-2017 ETH-Zürich Research Grant (PI: J. Buchli), *Robots carving a window to the human past: towards robot-aided paleoanthropology*, CHF 228 000
 2013 DAAD University Lecturer Exchange Program (Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, Kazakhstan), EUR 700
 2012 DAAD Travel Grant, EUR 1 450
 2011 Fritz-Thyssen Foundation, *Stone Age Weaponry Workshop*, EUR 14 000
 2010-2012 German Research Foundation (DFG), *Neandertal Projectile Technology*, EUR 146 000. Co-PIs: Sabine Gaudzinski-Windheuser (RGZM) & Frank Jäger (PTB)
 2010-2012 Max Planck Society, *Lower Danube Survey for Paleolithic Sites*, EUR 27 000
 2009 DAAD Travel Grant, EUR 1 400
 2006-2007 NSF Dissertation improvement grant (BCS #0624962), USD 12 000
 2005 Department of Anthropology Field Funds, University of Pennsylvania, USD 3 000
 2000 Radcliffe Traveling Fellowship, *Polynesian Exchange Networks*, USD 2 000
 2000 Harvard College Research Program *Polynesian Exchange Networks*, USD 1 000

Funded Student Grants

- 2022-2023 NSF Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant (co-PI: Emily Coco), *Lithic recycling and use of surface deposits in Paleolithic Kazakhstan*, USD 25 149.
 2022-2023 Leakey Foundation (co-PI: Emily Coco), *Stone tool recycling and use of surface deposits in*

- Paleolithic Kazakhstan*. USD 7 908
 2022-2023 Leakey Foundation (co-PI: Alice Rodriguez), *Investigating use-wear patterns on handaxes from Europe and Asia*. USD 5 840
 2021-2022 Leakey Foundation (co-PI: Abay Namen), *Lithic technology and raw material variability in the Inner Asian Mountain Corridor of Kazakhstan*.

PUBLICATIONS

Citation metrics - October 6, 2022: **1719 citations** | [Google Scholar](#) **H-index 22**
 ✉ corresponding author | ^P postdoc / ^G graduate / ^U undergraduate student co-author

Edited Volumes (peer-reviewed)

- 2019 2. Marreiros, J., Pereira, T., **Iovita, R.** (Eds.) [Controlled experiments in lithic technology and function](#). *Archaeological and Anthropological Sciences*, Springer.
 2016 1. **Iovita, R.** and K. Sano (Eds.) [Multidisciplinary approaches to the study of Stone Age weaponry, Vertebrate Paleobiology and Paleoanthropology](#), Springer, Dordrecht. **38 citations**

Peer-Reviewed Articles

- in press 45. Rodriguez^G, A., Yanamandra, V. S. S. K., Witek, L., Behera, R., **Iovita, R.**✉ The effect of worked material hardness on lithic polish development. *PLoS One*. [\[preprint\]](#)
 2022 44. Namen, A.^G, Varis^G, A., Taimagambetov, Z., **Iovita, R.**. Preference for Porphyry: Petrographic Insights into Lithic Raw Material Procurement from Palaeolithic Kazakhstan. *J Field Arch* [\[doi\]](#) [\[postprint\]](#)
 2022 43. Namen, A.^G, Schmidt, Patrick, Varis^G, A., Lindauer, S., Friedrich, R., Taimagambetov, Zh., **Iovita, R.** Nazugum, a new 4000 year old rockshelter site in the Ili Alatau, Tien Shan. *Arch Res Asia* 30:100370. [\[postprint\]](#)
 2022 42. Namen^G, A., Cuthbertson, P., Varis^G, A., Schmidt, P., Taimagambetov, Z., **Iovita, R.**. Preliminary results of the first lithic raw material survey in the piedmont zones of Kazakhstan. *Asian Arch*. [\[oa\]](#)
 2022 41. Namen, A.^G, Nickel, K.G., Varis, A.^G, Taimagambetov, Z. K., **Iovita, R.**, Schmidt, P. Mechanical properties of lithic raw materials from Kazakhstan: comparing chert, shale, and porphyry. *PLoS One*: 17(4): e0265640. [\[OA\]](#)
 2022 40. Varis^G, A., Miller, C., Namen^G, A., Cuthbertson, P., Taimagambetov, Zh., **Iovita, R.**, The effect of formation processes on the frequency of Palaeolithic cave sites in semi-arid zones: insights from Kazakhstan. *Geoarchaeology*. [\[oa\]](#)
 2021 39. Cuthbertson, P.^P, Ullman, T., Büdel, C., Varis, A.^G, Namen, A.^G, Seltmann, R., Taimagambetov, Z., **Iovita, R.**✉ Finding karstic caves and rockshelters in the Inner Asian Mountain Corridor using predictive modelling and field survey. *PloS One* 16(1): e0245170. [\[OA\]](#). **8 citations**

- 2021 38. Iovita, R., Braun, D., Douglass, M., Holdaway, S. J., Lin, S. C., Olszewski, D., Rezek, Z. Operationalizing niche construction theory with stone tools. *Evol Anth* 30(1):28-39. [OA] 7 citations
- 2020 37. Schmidt, P., Rodriguez^G, A., Yanamandra, V. S. S. K., Behera, R., Iovita, R. The mineralogy and structure of use-wear polish on chert. *Sci Rep* 10(1):21512. [OA] 2 citations
- 2020 36. Coco, E.^G, Iovita, R. Time-dependent taphonomic site loss leads to spatial averaging: implications for archaeological cultures. *Humanities & Social Sciences Communications* 7, 136. [OA]
- 2020 35. Fitzsimmons, K.E., Dobos, A., Probst, M.^U, Iovita, R. Thinking outside the box at open-air archaeological sites: examples from loess landscapes in southeast Romania. *Frontiers in Earth Science* 8, 561207. [OA] 8 citations
- 2020 34. Marreiros, J., Pereira, T., Iovita, R. Controlled experiments in lithic technology and function. *Arch Anthropol Sci* 12, 110. [OA] 7 citations
- 2020 33. Rodriguez, A.^G, Pouydebat, E., Chacón Navarro, M.G., Moncel, M.-H., Cornette, R., Bardo, A., Chèze, L., Iovita, R., Borel, A. Right or left? Determining the hand holding the tool from use traces. *J Arch Sci Rep* 31:102316. [DOI] 2 citations
- 2020 32. Coco, E.^G, Holdaway, S., Iovita, R. The effects of secondary recycling on the technological character of lithic assemblages. *J Paleolithic Archaeology* [DOI] [postprint]. 9 citations
- 2020 31. Smith, G. M., Noack, E. S., Behrens^G, N. M., Ruebens, K., Street, M., Iovita, R., Gaudzinski-Windheuser, S. When lithics hit bones: evaluating the potential of a multifaceted experimental protocol to illuminate Middle Palaeolithic weapon technology. *J Paleolithic Archaeology* [OA]. 6 citations
- 2020 30. Iovita, R., Varis^G, A., Cuthbertson, P., Namen^G, A., Taimagambetov, Zh., Miller, C. In search of a Paleolithic Silk Road in Kazakhstan. *Quatern Int* 559, 119-132. [DOI] [postprint] 14 citations
- 2020 29. Rezek, Z., Holdaway, S.J., Olszewski, D.I., Lin, S.C., Douglass, M., McPherron, S., Iovita, R., Braun, D.R., Sandgathe, D., 2020. Aggregates, Formational Emergence, and the Focus on Practice in Stone Artifact Archaeology. *J Arch Meth Th*. [OA] 25 citations
- 2019 28. Schmidt, P., Blessing, M., Rageot, M., Iovita, R., Pflöging^G, J., Nickel, K.G., Righetti, L., Tennie, C. Birch tar production does not prove Neanderthal behavioral complexity. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 116 (36), 17707-17711. [DOI] 31 citations
- 2019 27. Calandra, I., Schunk, L., Rodriguez^G, A., Gneisinger, W., Pedergnana, A., Paixao, E., Iovita, R., Marreiros, J. Back to the edge: relative coordinate system for use-wear analysis. *Archaeological and Anthropological Sciences* 11(11):5937-5948. [DOI] 13 citations
- 2019 26. Pflöging^G, J., Iovita, R., Buchli, J. Influence of force and duration on stone tool wear: results from experiments with a force-controlled robot. *Archaeological and Anthropological Sciences* 11(11):5921-5935. [DOI] 11 citations
- 2018 25. Gaudzinski-Windheuser, S., Noack, E.S., Pop, E., Herbst, C., Pflöging^G, J., Buchli, J., Jacob, A., Enzmann, F., Kindler, L., Iovita, R., Street, M., Roebroeks, W., 2018. Evidence

for close-range hunting by last interglacial Neanderthals. *Nature Ecol Evol* 2, 1087–1092. [37 citations](#)

- 2018 24. Fitzsimmons, KE, T. Sprafke, C. Zielhofer, C. Günter, J.-M. Deom, R. Sala, and **R. Iovita**. Loess accumulation in the Tian Shan piedmont: implications for palaeoenvironmental change in arid Central Asia.' *Quatern Int* 469A:30-43. [43 citations](#)
- 2017 23. Fitzsimmons, K.E., **Iovita, R.**, Sprafke, T., Glantz, M., Talamo, S., Horton, K., Beeton, T., Alipova, S., Bekseitov, G., Ospanov, Y., Deom, J.-M., Sala, R., Taimagambetov, Z. A chronological framework connecting the early Upper Palaeolithic across the Central Asian piedmont. *J Hum Evol* 113, 107–126. [24 citations](#)
- 2017 22. **Iovita, R.**, I. Tuvi-Arad, M.-H. Moncel, J. Despriée, P. Voinchet, and J.-J. Bahain. High handaxe symmetry at the beginning of the European Acheulian: The data from la Noira (France) in context. *PLoS One* [OA] [DOI] [>4900 views](#) [37 citations](#)
- 2017 21. Dobos, A., **Iovita, R.** La première colonisation préhistorique de la région du Nord du Danube. In *Identités culturelles et systèmes techniques au Paléolithique ancien: quelle actualité?*, R. Rocca, L. De Weyer, B. Chevrier, and E. Nicoud (Eds). @rchéo-éditions, Paris.
- 2016 20. Dibble, H.L., Holdaway, S.J., Braun, D.R., Douglass, M., **Iovita, R.**, Lin, S., McPherron, S.P., Olszewski, D., Rezek, Z., Sandgathe, D. [alphabetically listed after 2nd author] Major Fallacies Surrounding Stone Artifacts and Assemblages, 1-39. *J Arch Meth Th.* [DOI] [86 citations](#)
- 2016 19. Dobos, A., **Iovita, R.**. The Lower Paleolithic of Romania revisited: new evidence from the site of Dealul Guran. In *Paleoanthropology of the Balkans and Anatolia*, K. Harvati and M. Roksandic (Eds.), Vertebrate Paleobiology and Paleoanthropology, Springer, Dordrecht, pp. 171-186. [DOI] [14 citations](#)
- 2016 18. **Iovita, R.** and K. Sano. Summary and Conclusions: 20 years since Knecht: advances in the study of Stone Age weapons In *Multidisciplinary approaches to the study of Stone Age weaponry*, R. Iovita and K. Sano (Eds.), Vertebrate Paleobiology and Paleoanthropology, Springer, Dordrecht. [DOI]
- 2016 17. **Iovita, R.**, H. Schönekeß, S. Gaudzinski-Windheuser, and F. Jäger. Identifying weapon delivery systems using macrofracture analysis and fracture propagation velocity: a controlled experiment. In *Multidisciplinary approaches to the study of Stone Age weaponry*, R. Iovita and K. Sano (Eds.), Vertebrate Paleobiology and Paleoanthropology, Springer, Dordrecht, pp. 13-27. [DOI] [PDF] [25 citations](#)
- 2015 16. Pfleging^G, J., M. Stücheli, **R. Iovita**[✉], and J. Buchli. Dynamic monitoring reveals motor task characteristics in prehistoric technical gestures. *PloS One* 10(8): e0134570. [OA]. [>2800 views](#) [18 citations](#)
- 2015 15. Dobos, A., **Iovita, R.**, 2015. Paleoliticul inferior din România: o reevaluare din perspectiva descoperirilor din situl Dealul Guran. *Materiale si cercetari arheologice* SN. XIX, 5–17.
- 2015 14. Rolett, B., E. W. West, J. M. Sinton, and **R. Iovita** Voyaging in the East Polynesian homeland: New evidence from the Hawaiki core area *J Archaeol Sci* 53: 459–471. [PDF] [30 citations](#)

- 2014 13. **Iovita, R.** The role of edge angle maintenance in explaining technological variation in the production of Late Middle Paleolithic bifacial and unifacial tools *Quatern Int* 350:105–115. [\[DOI\]](#) [\[PDF\]](#) **35 citations**
- 2014 12. **Iovita, R.**, A. Dobos, K. E. Fitzsimmons, M. Probst, U. Hambach, M. Robu, M. Vlaicu, and A. Petculescu. Geoarchaeological prospection in the loess steppe: preliminary results from the Lower Danube Survey for Paleolithic Sites (LoDanS). *Quatern Int* 351:98–114. [\[DOI\]](#) [\[PDF\]](#) **28 citations**
- 2014 11. **Iovita R.**, H. Schönekeß, S. Gaudzinski-Windheuser, and F. Jäger Projectile impact fractures and launching mechanisms: results of a controlled ballistic experiment using replica Levallois points. *J Archaeol Sci* 48: 73-83. [\[DOI\]](#) [\[PDF\]](#) **80 citations**
- 2013 10. Fitzsimmons, K. E., U. Hambach, D. Veres, **Iovita, R.**. The Campanian Ignimbrite eruption: new data on volcanic ash dispersal and its potential impact on human evolution. *PLoS ONE* 8(6): e65839. [\[OA\]](#) **98 citations** **>14000 views**
- 2012 9. **Iovita, R.**, K. E. Fitzsimmons, A. Dobos, U. Hambach, A. Hilgers, and A. Zander Dealul Guran: evidence of Lower Paleolithic occupation of the southeast European loess steppe. *Antiquity* 86(334): 973-989. [\[PDF\]](#) **26 citations**
- 2011 8. **Iovita, R.** Shape variation in Aterian tanged tools and the origins of projectile technology: a morphometric perspective on stone tool function. *PLoS One* 6(12): e29029. [\[HTML\]](#) **108 citations** **>10000 views**
- 2011 7. **Iovita, R.** and S. P. McPherron The handaxe reloaded: a morphometric reassessment of Acheulian and Middle Paleolithic handaxes. *J Hum Evol* 61: 61-74. [\[PDF\]](#) **136 citations**
- 2011 6. Rezek, Z., S. Lin, **Iovita, R.**, and H. Dibble The relative effects of core surface morphology on flake shape and other attributes. *J Archaeol Sci* 38 (6): 1346-1359. [\[PDF\]](#) **88 citations**
- 2010 5. **Iovita, R. P.** Comparing stone tool resharpening trajectories with the aid of Elliptical Fourier Analysis. In *New Perspectives on Old Stones: Analytical Approaches to Palaeolithic Technologies*, S.J. Lycett and P. Chauhan (Eds.), pp. 235-253. Springer, Dordrecht. [\[LINK\]](#) [\[PDF\]](#) **76 citations**
- 2009 4. **Iovita, R. P.** Ontogenetic scaling and lithic systematics: method and application. *J Archaeol Sci* 36(7): 1447-1457. [\[PDF\]](#) **69 citations**
- 2009 3. **Iovita, R. P.** Re-evaluating connections between the Early Upper Paleolithic of Northeast Africa and the Levant: technological differences between the Dabban and the Emiran. In *Transitions in Prehistory: Papers in Honor of Ofer Bar-Yosef*, J. Shea and D. Lieberman (Eds.), pp. 125-142. Oxbow Books, Oxford. [\[PDF\]](#) **19 citations**
- 2005 2. Dibble, H.L., U. A. Schurmans, **Iovita, R. P.**, M. McLaughlin The measurement and interpretation of cortex in lithic assemblages. *Am Antiquity* 70 (3): 545-560. [\[PDF\]](#) **174 citations**
- 2004 1. **Iovita, R. P.**, Schurr, T. G. Reconstructing the origins and migrations of diasporic populations: the case of the European Gypsies. *Am Anthropol* 106 (2): 267-281. [\[PDF\]](#) **78 citations**

Other Publications

- 2006 2. **Iovita, R. P.** Review of “Transitions before The Transition: Evolution and Stability in the Middle Paleolithic and Middle Stone Age”, E. Hovers and S. L. Kuhn (Eds.). *Paleoanthropology* 2006, pp. 86-88. [[PDF](#)]
- 2005 1. Augenblick, E., A. Heuvelink, **R. Iovita**, and G. Ritchie “The emergence of differentiating signals within groups.” Complex Systems Summer School Final Project Papers, Santa Fe Institute, Santa Fe, NM. [[PDF](#)]

Field Reports

- 2018 5. **Iovita, R.**, Varis, A., Coco, E., Vandenberghe, D., Friedrich, R., Schoch, W., Belmaker, M., Meng, S., Schunk, L., Taimagambetov, Zh. “New excavations at the Early Upper Paleolithic site of Maibulak, Kazakhstan.” Final grant report for L. S. B. Leakey Foundation, 1 December 2018.
- 2015 4. **Iovita, R.**, K. E. Fitzsimmons, T. Sprafke, L. Schunk, E. Ospanov, G. Bekseitov. “New fieldwork at Maibulak, Almaty Province, Kazakhstan.” Report submitted to Kazakh National University, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 25 October 2015.
- 2012 3. Zirra, V. V., A. Dobos, **R. Iovita**, S. Gaudzinski-Windheuser, K. Fitzsimmons, J.-J. Hublin, S. McPherron, U. Hambach, A. Petculescu, A. Ciornei. “54. Pestera, Pestera commune, Constanta county, site: Dealu Guran. Chronicle of archaeological research in Romania, 2011 campaign.” XLVI-th National Session of Archeological Reports, Târgu Mures, 23-26 May 2014, National Heritage Institute, Bucharest: 98. (in Romanian)
- 2012 2. Zirra, V. V., A. Dobos, **R. Iovita**, S. Gaudzinski-Windheuser, M. Probst, K. Fitzsimmons, J.-J. Hublin, S. McPherron, A. Petculescu, N. Schlösser, K. Weber, C. Nica. “48. Pestera, Pestera commune, Constanta county, site: Dealu Guran. Chronicle of archaeological research in Romania, 2012 campaign.” XLVII National Session of Archeological Reports, Craiova, 27-30 May 2013, National Heritage Institute, Bucharest: 101. (in Romanian)
- 2010 1. **Iovita, R. P.**, K. E. Fitzsimmons, U. Hambach, A. Dobos, and R. Dobrescu. “Lower Danube Survey for Paleolithic Sites: a Report of the 2010 Field Season”, report submitted to the Max-Planck-Society, Leipzig 10 September 2010.

Theses

- 2008 **Iovita, R. P.** *Ontogenetic scaling in stone tools and its application to European Middle Paleolithic systematics*. PhD Dissertation, University of Pennsylvania, USA. ProQuest Dissertations and Theses. [[LINK](#)]
- 2002 **Iovita, R. P.** *The Initial Upper Palaeolithic at Ksar Akil (Lebanon) and Haua Fteah (Libya)*. MPhil Thesis, University of Cambridge, UK.
- 2001 **Iovita, R. P.** *The Initial Upper Palaeolithic at Ksar Akil (Lebanon) – a techno-typological analysis of levels XXV – XVIII*. AB Honors thesis, Harvard University, USA.

INVITED SEMINARS

- 2022 17. “From palaeolandscapes to the tool’s edge: a multiscale vision for Palaeolithic archaeology.” Oxford University School of Archaeology, Oxford, UK.

- 2021 16. "The Geography of Ancient Dispersal Corridors in Central Eurasia", The Institute for European and Mediterranean Archaeology, University at Buffalo, Buffalo NY (online).
- 2021 15. "Finding sites and reconstructing landscapes: Lessons from the Paleolithic of the Eurasian steppes", Department of Archaeology, Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Israel (online).
- 2020 14. "Reconstructing the Silk Road in the Pleistocene: new research from Kazakhstan", Down Ancient Trails, online archaeology forum, Sharma Centre for Heritage Education, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India.
- 2020 13. «Novye polevye issledovaniya po proektu PALAEOSILKROAD v Kazakhstane» [New field research of the PALAEOSILKROAD project in Kazakhstan], Institute for the History of Material Culture, Russian Academy of Sciences, St Petersburg.
- 2016 12. "A Paleolithic Silk Road? Hominins, climate, and landscape in Late Pleistocene central Asia." Department of Anthropology, Stony Brook University.
- 2016 11. "«Tales of mountains and steppes»: Pleistocene human-environmental interaction in arid central Asia." Department of Anthropology, New York University.
- 2015 10. "Microscopic methods for identifying impact traces in obsidian tools." Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Turkey.
- 2014 9. "Using secondary fracture characteristics to infer impact velocity in prehistoric stone-tipped projectiles." Max-Planck-Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Leipzig, Germany.
- 2013 8. "New geoarchaeological methods and the potential for Kazakh-German cooperation in the field of paleoanthropology". Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, Almaty, Kazakhstan.
- 2013 7. "Robo-cut? Reconstructing Neandertal gestures from wear traces on stone tools using (simple) robots." Agile and Dexterous Robotics Lab, ETH Zürich, Zürich, Switzerland.
- 2012 6. "Technological diversity in the Paleolithic: groundwork for querying a patchy record." Department of Anthropology, University of California, Davis.
- 2012 5. "Aterian tanged tools: projectile tips or general-purpose edge-tools?." Max-Planck-Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Leipzig, Germany.
- 2010 4. "The weasels and whales: an investigation of artifact shape variability at Neumark-Nord 2/o", Landesamt für Denkmalpflege, Halle, Germany.
- 2009 3. "The Lower Danube Survey for Paleolithic Sites (LoDanS)." Max-Planck-Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Leipzig, Germany.
- 2009 2. "Diversity in Middle Paleolithic bifacial tools: a use and maintenance perspective." Department of Anthropology, McGill University, Canada.
- 2007 1. "Geometric-morphometrics applications to resharpening processes in Mousterian tools." Department of Anthropology, University of Connecticut, CT.

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

Workshops and Symposia Organized

- 2023 *Karst processes and their effect on the archaeological and palaeoanthropological record* (with D. Stratford and A. Varis), XXI INQUA Congress, Rome, Italy.
- 2017 *Controlled experiments in lithic technology and function* (with J. Marreiros and T. Perreira), SAA Meetings, Vancouver, Canada.
- 2015 *From the shores of the Caspian to the Tian Shan foothills: paleoenvironments and human behavioral adaptations in Central Asia* (with K. Fitzsimmons), at XIX INQUA Congress, Nagoya, Japan, 26 July-2 August 2015.
- 2011 *Multidisciplinary Scientific Approaches to the Study of Stone Age Weaponry*, Mainz, 19-22 September 2011, funded by the Fritz-Thyssen Foundation.
- 2008 Symposium: *Advances in the study of lithic morphology* (with E. Otarola-Castillo, B. Schoville, E. Fisher), Society for American Archaeology, Vancouver, Canada.

Presentations

44 talks (3 keynote, 3 plenary, 15 invited/inv. symposium, 3 Pecha-Kucha) 12 posters |
P^G/U denotes postdoc/graduate/undergraduate student author

- 2022 56. Iovita, R., Namen, A.^G, Varis, A.^G, Cuthbertson, P.^P, Vandenberghe, D., De Grave, J., Lindauer, S., Friedrich, R., Miller, C.E., Rendu, W., Peteneva, G., Baryshnikov, G., Taimagambetov, Z. Crumbs on the earliest Silk Road: new data from the Palaeolithic of Kazakhstan. European Society for the Study of Human Evolution (ESHE), 23.9.2022, Tübingen. [plenary talk]
- 2022 55. Coto-Sarmiento, M.^P, Namen, A.^G, Iovita, R.. The impact of cooperation under climate constraints: an agent-based model perspective from the Palaeolithic of Kazakhstan. European Society for the Study of Human Evolution (ESHE), 24.9.2022, Tübingen. [Pecha-Kucha]
- 2022 54. Namen, A.^G, Schmidt, P., Varis, A.^G, Taimagambetov, Z., Iovita, R.. Lithic raw material procurement strategies in the northern Tian Shan piedmont, Kazakhstan. European Society for the Study of Human Evolution (ESHE), 23.9.2022, Tübingen. [poster]
- 2022 53. Varis, A.^G, Miller, C.E., Namen, A.^G, Toniato, G., Janas, A., Cuthbertson, P.^P, Taimagambetov, Z., Conard, N.J., Iovita, R.. The effect of formation processes on Palaeolithic settlement patterns: insights from Kazakhstan and the Swabian Jura, Germany. European Society for the Study of Human Evolution (ESHE), 23.9.2022, Tübingen. [poster]
- 2022 52. Rodriguez^G, A., Gauvrit-Roux, E., Beyries, S., Pflöging, J.^G, Iovita, R.. Towards a model of prehistoric technical gestures through monitored controlled experiments and a 3D optical profiler. Archaeological Wear and Residue Analysis Association (AWRANA) congress, Barcelona, Spain, 7.4.2022.
- 2021 51. Iovita, R. "Lithic use wear analysis: toward reconciliation between classic and new approaches", *New approaches in Digital Archaeology*, Novosibirsk. [invited talk]
- 2021 50. Iovita, R. "Triangulating lithic use wear with human and machine experiments" [keynote] *Quantitative artifact microwear analysis* workshop, Schloss Monrepos, Germany.

- 2021 49. **Iovita, R.** "The common-sense trap in artifact categorization". Session: "Between Variability and Singularity: Crossing Theoretical, Qualitative and Computer-based Approaches to Types and Typologies in Archaeology". European Association of Archaeologists, Kiel. [\[invited talk\]](#)
- 2021 48. Rodriguez^G, A., Yanamandra, V. S. S. K., Witek, L., Behera, R., **Iovita, R.** "Abrasive wear formation on chert from different raw materials: a controlled tribological experiment." Session: "Contact - 'the other' in experimental use-wear studies". European Association of Archaeologists, Kiel. [\[talk\]](#)
- 2021 47. Cuthbertson^P, Ullman, T., Büdel, C., Varis, A.^G, Namen, A.^G, Seltmann, R., Taimagambetov, Z., **Iovita, R.** "Model-led survey with mobile GIS: the prediction and survey of karstic caves and rockshelters in Kazakhstan". Computer Applications in Archaeology conference (online), Session S22. [\[talk\]](#)
- 2021 46. Coco, E.^G, **Iovita, R.** "Time-dependent taphonomic site loss leads to spatial averaging: implications for archaeological cultures", session "'GIS, Remote Sensing, and Computer Modeling in Archaeology", SAA San Francisco (online) [\[talk\]](#)
- 2020 45. Coco, E.^G, Holdaway, S. J., **Iovita, R.** "The effects of secondary recycling on the technological character of lithic assemblages." ESHE Virtual, Sept 24-25. [\[talk\]](#)
- 2020 44. Cuthbertson^P, Ullman, T., Büdel, C., Varis, A.^G, Namen, A.^G, Seltmann, R., Taimagambetov, Z., **Iovita, R.** "Finding karstic caves and rockshelters in the Inner Asian Mountain Corridor using predictive modelling and field survey." ESHE Virtual, Sept 24-25. [\[talk\]](#)
- 2020 43. Namen, A.^G, Cuthbertson^P, Varis, A.^G, Schmidt, P., Taimagambetov, Z., **Iovita, R.** "Preliminary results of the first lithic raw material survey in the piedmont zones of Kazakhstan." ESHE Virtual, Sept 24-25. [\[poster\]](#)
- 2020 42. Varis, A.^G, Miller, C. E., Cuthbertson^P, Namen, A.^G, Taimagambetov, Z., **Iovita, R.** "Preliminary results of the first geoarchaeological analysis of cave sediments from Kazakhstan." ESHE Virtual, Sept 24-25. [\[poster\]](#)
- 2019 41. **Iovita, R.**, Braun, D., Douglass, M., Holdaway, S. J., Lin, S. C., McPherron, S. P., Olaszewski, D., Rezek, Z., Sandgathe, D., Dibble, H. L. "Revisiting the evolutionary significance of stone tools," in *The Extended Evolutionary Synthesis and Human Origins: Archaeological Perspectives*, J. K. Murray (ed.), SAA 2019, Albuquerque, April 10-14. [\[invited talk\]](#)
- 2018 40. **Iovita, R.**, Cuthbertson, P.^P, Ullmann, T., Taimagambetov, Zh. "New research on the Paleolithic of Kazakhstan: introducing the PALAEOSILKROAD project", *Perspectives on the Prehistory of Central Asia*, Zwyns, N. and Krivoshapkin, A. (Eds.), XVIIIth UISPP Congress, 4-9 June. [\[talk\]](#)
- 2018 39. Rodriguez^G, A., Pflieger^G, J., Yanamandra, V. S. S. K., Behera, R. K., **Iovita, R.** "Abrasive wear formation in different raw materials: a controlled tribological experiment", Association of Wear and Residue Analysts conference, Nice, France, 25.5.2018 [\[Pecha-Kucha\]](#)
- 2018 38. Pflieger^G, J., **Iovita, R.**, Buchli, J. "Influence of force and duration on stone tool wear: results from experiments with a force controlled robot", Association of Wear and Residue Analysts conference, Nice, France, 25.5.2018 [\[Pecha-Kucha\]](#)

- 2018 37. **Iovita, R.** "Behavioral modernity (or lack thereof) and its reflection in lithic assemblages" *Archaeology of Non-Modern Humans*, French, J. and Kissel, M. (Eds.), SAA 2018, Washington, D.C. April 15th [[invited talk](#)]
- 2017 36. **Iovita, R.**, Pfleging, J., Buchli, J. "Evaluating the effect of force and duration on lithic use-wear using a force and impedance-controlled robot". International Symposium on Knappable Materials, Buenos Aires, Argentina, 7.11.2017. [[talk](#)]
- 2017 35. **Iovita, R.** "Coming of age in archaeological morphometrics: integrating process, scale, and behavior." MORPH2017 Conference, Aarhus, Denmark. [[keynote](#)]
- 2017 34. Rodriguez^G, A., M. G. Chacón Navarro, R. Cornette, E. Pouydebat, M.-H. Moncel, A. Bardo, L. Chèze, **Radu Iovita**, and A. Borel. "New application of geometric morphometrics in use-wear analysis for the identification of hand preference from stone tools" MORPH2017 Conference, Aarhus, Denmark. [[poster](#)]
- 2017 33. **Iovita, R.**, Pfleging, J., Buchli, J. "Evaluating the effect of force and duration on lithic use-wear using a force- and impedance-controlled robot" in "Controlled experiments in lithic technology and function", symposium organized by J. Marreiros, T. Pereira, **R. Iovita**, SAA Annual Meeting, Vancouver, Canada, 28 March - 2 April. [[symposium talk](#)]
- 2017 32. Fitzsimmons, K.E., **R. Iovita**, Sprafke, T., Glantz, M., Horton, K., Beeton, T., Alipova, S., Bekseitov, G., Ospanov, Y., Deom, J.-M., Sala, R., Taimagambetov, Zh. "A chronological framework connecting the early Upper Palaeolithic across the Central Asian piedmont". Paleoanthropology Meetings, Vancouver, Canada, 27-28 March. [[talk](#)]
- 2015 31. Noack^G, E., Smith, G. M., Schlösser^G, N.-M., and **R. Iovita** "New evidence of Early Mesolithic hunting injuries on animal bones from northern Germany". 9th International Conference on the Mesolithic in Europe. Belgrade, Serbia. [[talk](#)]
- 2015 30. **R. Iovita**, K. E. Fitzsimmons, M. Glantz, K. Horton, T. Beeton, S. Alipova, Z. Taimagambetov "A chronological framework for the Palaeolithic in the central Asian loess steppe" *XIX INQUA Congress*, Nagoya, Japan, in Session H21: *Paleoenvironments and human behavioral adaptations in Central Asia*, convened by **R. Iovita** and K. Fitzsimmons. [[talk](#)]
- 2015 29. Taimagambetov, Z., **R. Iovita**, K. E. Fitzsimmons, T. Sprafke, M. Glantz, S. Temirbekov, S. Alipova, E. Ospanov. "Between the steppes and the mountains: old and new data on human-environmental interactions in Kazakhstan." *XIX INQUA Congress*, Nagoya, Japan, in Session H21: *Paleoenvironments and human behavioral adaptations in Central Asia*, convened by **R. Iovita** and K. Fitzsimmons. [[poster](#)]
- 2015 28. Pfleging^G, J., M. Stücheli, **R. Iovita**, J. Buchli. "Dynamic monitoring in use-wear experiments: the case of motion in hide-scraping." Association of Wear and Residue Analysis (AWRANA) Conference, Leiden, Netherlands. [[session keynote](#), [plenary](#)]
- 2014 27. **Iovita, R.**, K. Fitzsimmons, M. Glantz, T. Beeton, K. Horton, N.-M. Schlösser, L. Schunk, Z. Taimagambetov. "A reappraisal of the Early Upper Paleolithic assemblages from Maibulak, Kazakhstan." *European Society for the Study of Human Evolution (ESHE)*, Florence, Italy. [[Pecha-Kucha](#)]

- 2014 26. Schlösser^G, N.-M. and **R. Iovita**. “Exploring Palaeolithic weapon delivery systems using a controlled and realistic experimental setup: preliminary results” *XVII World UISPP Congress*, Burgos, Spain. [talk]
- 2014 25. Schlösser^G, N.-M. and **R. Iovita** “Exploring Palaeolithic weapon delivery systems using a controlled and realistic experimental setup: preliminary results” *European Society for the Study of Human Evolution (ESHE)*, Florence, Italy. [poster]
- 2014 24. Bailey, S., **R. Iovita**, T. Higham, V. Kharitonov, A. Buzhilova, R. Pinhasi “The power of deciduous teeth in diagnosing taxa: case study of a late surviving Neandertal in the Caucasus.” *Paleoanthropology Society*, Calgary, Canada. [poster]
- 2013 23. **Iovita, R.**, H. Schönekeß, F. Jäger, and S. Gaudzinski-Windheuser “Identifying weapon delivery systems using macro-fracture analysis and fracture propagation velocity: a controlled experiment.” *European Society for the Study of Human Evolution (ESHE)*, Vienna. [poster]
- 2013 22. Schlösser^G, N., A. Dobos, K. Weber, A. Ciornei, **R. Iovita** Long-term stability in raw material economic strategies: the case of Dealul Guran, Romania. *European Society for the Study of Human Evolution (ESHE)*, Vienna. [poster]
- 2013 21. Fitzsimmons, K. E., U. Hambach, D. Veres, **R. Iovita** “The potential for catastrophic impact of the Campanian Ignimbrite (CI) tephra on human evolution: new data from the Lower Danube loess steppe.” *European Society for the Study of Human Evolution (ESHE)*, Vienna. [plenary]
- 2013 20. Rolett, B., E. West, J. Sinton, and **R. Iovita** “Voyaging in the East Polynesian Homeland: new evidence from the Hawaiki Core Area.” *SAA Annual Meeting*, Honolulu, USA. [talk]
- 2012 19. Dobos, A., **R. Iovita** “The Lower Paleolithic of Romania revisited: new evidence from the site of Dealul Guran.” *Paleoanthropology in the Southern Balkans*. International Symposium, University of Tübingen, Germany. [invited talk]
- 2012 18. Fitzsimmons, K.E., **R. Iovita**, A. Dobos, U. Hambach, A. Hilgers, A. Zander. “Integrating records of environmental change and human occupation in the lower Danube loess steppe.” *Last glacial palaeogeography and archaeology of the eastern Mediterranean and of the eastern European loess belt*, Aachen, Germany. [invited talk]
- 2012 17. **Iovita, R.**, H. Schönekeß, F. Jäger, and S. Gaudzinski-Windheuser “Factors influencing the production of projectile diagnostic impact fracture: results from a new ballistic experimental protocol.” *International conference on use-wear analysis*, Faro, Portugal. [talk]
- 2012 16. **Iovita, R.**, H. Schönekeß, F. Jäger, and S. Gaudzinski-Windheuser “Investigating Paleolithic projectile armatures and delivery systems: results from a new controlled ballistic experiment.” *European Society for the Study of Human Evolution (ESHE)*, Bordeaux. [poster]
- 2012 15. Fitzsimmons, K. E., U. Hambach, S. Markovic, A. Dobos, **R. Iovita** “Loess archives as contextual records of prehistoric human migration and environmental change in the Lower Danube loess steppe.” *European Society for the Study of Human Evolution (ESHE)*, Bordeaux. [poster]

- 2012 14. Fitzsimmons, K. E., **R. Iovita**, A. Dobos, U. Hambach, A. Hilgers, and A. Zander “Pre-historic human migration and environmental change in the Lower Danube loess steppe: perspectives from the Lower through Upper Palaeolithic”. *German Geoarchaeology Commission*, Leipzig. [talk]
- 2012 13. **Iovita, R.**, K. E. Fitzsimmons, A. Dobos, U. Hambach, A. Hilgers, and A. Zander “Dealul Guran: evidence for the Lower Paleolithic (MIS 11) occupation of the Lower Danube steppe,” *Paleoanthropology Society*, Memphis, USA. [talk]
- 2012 12. **Iovita, R.** “Aterian tanged tools: scrapers or projectile tips? A geometric scaling perspective,” *The Four Sides Of A Uniface: The Design And Use Of Simple Hafted Stone Tools*, SAA Annual Meeting, Memphis, USA. [invited symposium]
- 2012 11. **Iovita, R.**, H. Schönekeß, F. Jäger, and S. Gaudzinski-Windheuser “Controlled ballistic experiments with glass replicas of Levallois points: the effects of speed and kinetic energy,” *6th Experimental Archaeology Conference*, York, UK. [talk]
- 2011 10. **Iovita, R.**, K. E. Fitzsimmons, A. Dobos, U. Hambach, A. Hilgers, and A. Zander “Dealul Guran: investigations at a newly discovered Lower/Middle Paleolithic locality in south-east Romania,” *British Museum Palaeolithic and Mesolithic Conference*, London, UK. [talk]
- 2011 9. **Iovita, R.**, H. Schönekeß, F. Jäger, and S. Gaudzinski-Windheuser “Controlled ballistic experiments with glass replicas of Levallois points,” *Multidisciplinary Scientific Approaches to the Study of Stone Age Weaponry*, Mainz, Germany. [talk]
- 2011 8. **Iovita, R.** “Morphological variability in Aterian tanged tools and its implications for the origins of projectile technology,” *Paleoanthropology Society*, Minneapolis, USA. [talk]
- 2010 7. **Iovita, R.**, K. E. Fitzsimmons, *et al.* “Linking landscape and people: prehistoric environmental change and human migration in the Lower Danube catchment”, *Palaeoclimate in the Danube Basin*, Bayreuth, Germany. [invited]
- 2010 6. **Iovita, R.**, and S. P. McPherron “The handaxe reloaded: a morphometric reassessment of Acheulian and Middle Paleolithic handaxes”, *The Roots of the Middle Paleolithic: An Uniquely Eurasian Evolutionary Experiment*. SAA Annual Meeting, St Louis, USA. [invited symposium]
- 2010 5. McPherron, S. P. and **R. Iovita** “A morphometric reassessment of Acheulian and Middle Paleolithic bifaces,” *Hugo Obermaier Conference*, Leipzig, Germany. [talk]
- 2009 4. **Iovita, R. P.** “Made like a biface, used like a scraper: reassessing variability in Middle Paleolithic resharpened tools,” *Paleoanthropology Society*, Chicago, IL, USA. [talk]
- 2008 3. **Iovita, R. P.** “Reversed ontogenies in stone tools: a new method for investigating use-lives of Paleolithic artifacts”, in *Analytical Approaches to Paleolithic Technologies*, SAA, Vancouver, Canada. [invited symposium]
- 2007 2. **Iovita, R. P.** “Relations between bifacial and unifacial industries in the European Middle Paleolithic: a morphometric approach to resharpening patterns.” SAA Annual Meeting, Austin, USA. [invited symposium]
- 2004 1. **Iovita, R. P.**, H. L. Dibble, M. McLaughlin, U. A. Schurmans, and A. Steenhuyse “Modeling cortex in lithic assemblages: an experimental approach.” SAA, Montreal, Canada. [talk]

TEACHING

New York University

(* denotes new preps: 8)

- 2022 *Stone Age Prehistory of Eurasia* - graduate seminar.
- 2022 *Introduction to Archaeology* - undergraduate introductory.
- 2021 *Extinct Landscapes* - graduate seminar.
- 2021 *Archaeology of Climate Change* - undergraduate upper level.
- 2020 **Professional Development for Archaeologists* - graduate seminar (co-developed with J. Par-
geter and P. Crabtree)
- 2020 **Migration, Dispersal, and Mobility in Prehistory* - undergraduate upper level.
- 2020 **Stone Age Prehistory of Eurasia* - graduate seminar.
- 2018 **Archaeology of Climate Change* - undergraduate upper level.
- 2018 **Lithic Technology* - graduate seminar.
- 2017 **Extinct Landscapes* - graduate seminar.
- 2017 **Archaeology: Early Societies and Culture* - undergraduate introduction.
- 2016 **Archaeology of Modern Human Origins and Dispersal* (with R. White) - graduate seminar.

University of Mainz

New courses developed: 7

- 2015 *Middle-range approaches in the archaeology of human behavior: ethnoarchaeology and exper-
imental design* [in English and German]. Seminar.
- 2014-2016 *The digital site—a practical introduction to data processing on excavations* [in German], Practicum.
- 2013 *Quantitative Approaches for Archaeologists* [in German], Seminar.
- 2012 *Stones and Minds: the Archaeology of the Evolution of our Cognitive Capacity* [in German
and English]. Seminar.
- 2012 *Introduction to working in science—Einführung in das wissenschaftliche Arbeiten* [in Ger-
man]. Short seminar.
- 2011 *Introductory Statistics for Archaeologists* [in German]. Lecture.
- 2009 *Lithic Analysis* [in English]. Seminar.

Standard courses

- 2015; 2014
2012 *Prehistory of Europe – an outline* [in German]. Co-taught survey lecture course with S.
Gaudzinski-Windheuser, L. Kindler, O. Jöris.
- 2010-2012 *Field Practicum*. Survey, GIS, excavation in the loess-steppe of Romania.
- 2010 *Long Field Excursion - Romania* Archaeological introduction to a region.

MENTORSHIP

Current: 1 postdoctoral, 2 doctoral (2 as chair, 2 as committee member), 2 Master's
(preliminary committee)

New York University

Doctoral

- 2017– Alice Rodriguez: *A quantitative functional investigation of Acheulian handaxes* [chair]
2017– Emily Coco: *Lithic recycling and the use of surface deposits in Paleolithic Kazakhstan* [chair]
2021– Caleb Chen [member]
2021– Alex Gregory [member]
2020– Megan Corbett-Baril [member]
2017– Elizabeth Fillion: *Using Dental Microwear Texture Analysis to Examine Vegetation Change Associated with Pliocene Hominin Turnover at Laetoli, Tanzania* [member]
2018–2020 Joelle Nivens: *Coloring Materials in the Vézère Valley (France): Insights into Early Aurignacian intra-regional variability* [member]

Master's and Bachelor's

- 2017-2018 Madison J. McCartin, BA Honors [reader]
2016-2017 Tanner Kovach, BA Honors [reader]
2016-present Temporary advisory role to incoming students (5 total) in the Master's in Human Skeletal Biology program.

University of Tübingen

Postdoctoral

- 2021-2022 María Coto-Sarmiento (from January 2023 postdoc in Aarhus, Denmark)
2017-2020 Patrick Cuthbertson

Doctoral

- 2018-2022 Abay Namen: *The study of raw material exploitation in the Late Pleistocene of Kazakhstan: a multidisciplinary approach* [chair]
2018-2022 Aristeidis Varis: *Geoarchaeological context of Late Pleistocene occupation in southern Kazakhstan* [chair]

University of Mainz

- 2014-2015 Nina-Maria Behrens (née Schlösser), MA: *Exploring Palaeolithic weapon systems using a controlled and realistic experimental set-up* [supervisor]

External committees

Doctoral

- 2015-2019 Johannes Pflöging (ETH Zürich), PhD, Co-supervised with Jonas Buchli and Ludovic Righetti (NYU Tandon) *On the foundations of Robotic Use-Wear Analysis* [now postdoc at U. Kassel, Germany]
2014– Erbolat Ospanov (“al-Farabi” Kazakh National University, Almaty, Kazakhstan, PhD, Co-supervised with Zh. Taimagambetov) *The Stone Age of Kazakhstan in the scientific explorations of Kh. A. Alpysbaev*

Master's

- 2015-2016 Alice Rodriguez (National Museum of Natural History, Paris, MA, co-supervised with A. Borel and E. Pouydebat) [now Ph.D. student at NYU]

FIELDWORK

As director

- 2017-2023 [PALAEO-SILKROAD](#) Project. Co-PI: Z. Taimagambetov (National Museum of Kazakhstan).
2013-2017 *Re-evaluation of the site of Maibulak and survey in the Tien Shan foothills*, Kazakhstan. Co-PIs: Z. Taimagambetov (National Museum of Kazakhstan), K.E. Fitzsimmons (Max Planck Institute for evolutionary Anthropology, Leipzig), G. Bekseitov (al-Farabi Kazakh National University).
2011-2012 *Excavations at Dealul Guran*, Romania. [Lower Danube Survey for Paleolithic Sites](#) Project.
2010-2013 [Lower Danube Survey for Paleolithic Sites](#), Romania. Co-PIs: A. Dobos (Institute of Archaeology «Vasile Pârvan», Romanian Academy of Sciences) and K.E. Fitzsimmons (Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Leipzig).

As invited specialist

- 2008-2009 *Neumark-Nord 2*, Middle Paleolithic, Germany. Geometric morphometric analysis of Keilmesser. PIs: S. Gaudzinski-Windheuser and W. Roebroeks.
2008 [Contrebandiers](#) excavations, Morocco. *Senior scientist*. Geometric morphometric analysis of Aterian points. PIs: H.L. Dibble, U.A. Schurmans, Abd-el-Jalil el-Hajraoui.

Other fieldwork

- 2007-2008 [Abydos Survey for Paleolithic Sites](#), Egypt. PIs: H.L. Dibble, S.P. McPherron, D. Olszewski, and J. R. Smith.
2006 [Jebel Irhoud](#) excavations, Morocco. PIs: J.-J. Hublin, S.P. McPherron.
2005-2006 [Abydos Survey for Paleolithic Sites](#), Egypt. PIs: H. L. Dibble, S.P. McPherron, D. Olszewski, and J. R. Smith.
2005 [Roc de Marsal](#), Dordogne, France. *Assistant field manager*. PI: H.L. Dibble and S.P. McPherron.
2004 [Roc de Marsal](#), Dordogne, France. *Assistant laboratory manager*. PIs: H.L. Dibble and S.P. McPherron
2004 [Pech de l'Azé IV](#), Middle Paleolithic, Dordogne, France. *Lithic analyst*.
2003 *Poiana Ciresului*, Epigravettian, Romania. PI: M. Cârciumaru.
2000 *Polynesian Exchange Networks Project*, Society and Austral Islands, French Polynesia. PIs: B. Rolett and G. Sinton.
2000 *Ksiecja Józefa*, Middle Paleolithic, Poland. *Excavation*. PIs: J. Kozłowski, K. Sobczyk.
1999 [Kfar HaHoresh Field School in Prehistoric Archaeology](#), Neolithic, Israel. PI: N. Goring-Morris.
1999 [Revadim](#), Lower Paleolithic, Israel. *Excavation*. PI: I. Saragusti.

EDITORIAL AND REVIEW RESPONSIBILITIES

Editorial

- 2021– *PLoS One*, Academic Editor
2021– *Вестник Национальной Академии Наук Республики Казахстан* (*Science Bulletin of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Kazakhstan*), Member of the Editorial Board
2021– *Археология Казахстана* (*Archaeology of Kazakhstan*), Member of the Editorial Board
2014– *Ethnoarchaeology: Journal of Archaeological, Ethnographic, and Experimental Studies*, Member of the Editorial Board

Referee for peer-reviewed journals

- 2015 Outstanding Reviewer for *Quaternary International* (March 2015)

PNAS • *Nature: Ecology and Evolution* • *Scientific Reports* • *Current Anthropology* • *Journal of Human Evolution* • *Quaternary Science Reviews* • *Journal of Quaternary Science* • *PLoS One* • *Antiquity* • *American Antiquity* • *Journal of Archaeological Science* • *Journal of Archaeological Science: Reports* • *Journal of Anthropological Archaeology* • *Archaeological and Anthropological Sciences* • *Journal of Archaeological Method and Theory* • *Journal of Paleolithic Archaeology* • *Advances in Complex Systems* • *Paleoanthropology* • *Quartär* • *Quaternary International* • *Archaeometry*

Referee for granting agencies

National Science Foundation (NSF), USA (7 proposals)
European Research Council (ERC), (1 proposal)
German Research Foundation (DFG) (4)
Israel Science Foundation (2)
National Geographic Society (2)
Leakey Foundation (4)
Research Foundation Flanders (FWO), Belgium (1)
National Science Centre, Poland (1)
National Research Fund, South Africa (1)

SERVICE

New York University

University-wide

- 2022-2024 FAS Committee on Graduate Curriculum and Financial Aid
2018–2021 FAS Committee on Information, Technology, and Library Services
2019–2021 Proud to Be First, mentoring program for first-generation undergraduates
2019 Phi Beta Kappa selection committee, New York University chapter

Departmental

- 2020-2022 Diversity and inclusion committee
2018-2019 Archaeology hire (Pleistocene) search committee

2018-2019 Archaeology hire (complex societies) search committee
2018-2019 Undergraduate outreach and curriculum committee
2017-2021 Center for the Study of Human Origins (CSHO) Colloquium Committee
2017- Graduate Admissions Committee
2017-2018 Committee for Junior Faculty Mentorship
2017 Borgman Prize Honors thesis nomination committee
2016-2017 Undergraduate Studies Committee

Römisch-Germanisches Zentralmuseum

2014-2016 Scientific Librarian, Monrepos
2013-2014 Member, Process Optimization Group for Research Laboratories of the RGZM

SELECTED MEDIA COVERAGE OF PROJECTS

Kazakh Project

[Bliz Almaty arkhelogi izuchayut stoyanku kamennogo veka.](#) *Kazakh National Television*

RoboCut Project

[How to trace human evolution with robots.](#) *World Economic Forum*, Switzerland

[Archaeology robots will explore where no human can.](#) *Vice Motherboard*, UK

[Robot Arm Brings Humanity Back to the Stone Age.](#) *IEEE Spectrum Automaton*

Neandertal Projectile Technology Project

[Ancient deer skeleton may reveal how Neanderthals hunted prey](#) *Science*

[How to hunt like a Neanderthal](#) *Discover Magazine*

[Spitze Verteidigung](#) *Deutschland Funk* (German National Radio)

Lower Danube Survey Project

[Zeugen der Super-Eruption.](#) *Leipziger Volkszeitung* (German national newspaper)

[Kampanischer Ignimbrit](#) *Wikipedia.de*

[Steinzeitliche Eruption verwüstete Südosteuropa.](#) *Scinexx.de*

[Cea mai veche urma a civilizatiei antice pe teritoriul României.](#) *Ziua* (Romanian daily newspaper)

Other

[Making Neanderthal Birch Tar Isn't as Complex as Thought.](#) *Smithsonian Magazine*

[Forscher ergründen, warum die Neandertaler Pech hatten.](#) *Der Tagesspiegel*

[Der verblüffend simple Superkleber der Neandertaler.](#) *Der Standard*

PUBLIC OUTREACH

- 2017–2018 Skype a Scientist (science communication to schoolchildren via videochat).
2017 MVR2.1 "Forward to the Past: using modern technology to reconstruct ancient technical gesture", public lecture at PioneerWorks, Brooklyn, NY, February 23, 2017.
2015 LECTURE SERIES: *Archaeometry and Forensic Science - equal techniques on different time scales*. "Surfaces - not superficially examined: understanding traces of human activity and how robotics can come to the rescue" (in German). Mainz, 26 June 2015
2012 SPARKASSE LECTURE SERIES "On a journey with the Stone Age Weapons Inspector" (in German). Neuwied, 22 May 2012 [\[LINK\]](#)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- 2021– *European Association of Archaeologists*
2012– *Association of Archaeological Wear and Residue Analysis*
2011– *European Society for the Study of Human Evolution*
2005– *Paleoanthropology Society*
2004– *Society for American Archaeology*
2007– *Kolb Society*

LANGUAGES

German (proficient)
French (proficient)
Russian (proficient)
Italian (one year formal study)
Arabic (one year formal study)
Spanish (reading and conversation)
Romanian (native)

Typeset in X₂L^AT_EX