

REBECCA KINASTON PHD

FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGIST AND BIOARCHAEOLOGIST

INFO

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LINKS

[LinkedIn](#)

[Researchgate](#)

[Academia.edu](#)

SKILLS

Project management

Budget management

Effective team leader

Complex problem solving

Writing reports and publications

Verbal and written communication

Excavation of human remains

Osteology

Skeletal remains analysis

DVI

Repatriation

PROFILE

I am a dedicated Forensic Anthropologist and Bioarchaeologist with over 12 years experience excavating and analyzing human skeletal remains in the Asia-Pacific region. I currently lead research expeditions to excavate prehistoric and historic cemeteries in Indonesia, Uzbekistan, and the United States. I was the key forensic anthropologist for the New Zealand Defense Force operation Te Auraki (The Return) that successfully repatriated 36 soldiers who died overseas between 1955 and 1971. In 2020, I won a University of Otago Early Career Award for Distinction in Research.

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Research Fellow, University of Otago

Dunedin, New Zealand

Nov 2017 — Present

- 40-60 hours per week.
- Principal Investigator (PI) of seven major bioarchaeological projects
- Supervision of graduate students (2 Honours and 1 PhD candidate)
- Secured grants totalling \$345,000 NZD as a PI and \$910,000 as an AI.
- Project managed and lead teams for bioarchaeological research projects in Indonesia, Uzbekistan, and California.
- Skeletal analysis for biological profiles, pathology, and trauma.
- Isotope analysis (C, N, S, Sr, O) to understand diet, health, and migration.
- Collaboration with international and national (NZ) researchers.
- Publication and dissemination of research in academic peer-reviewed journals, conferences, workshops, and public lectures.
- Obtained \$25,000 NZD to successfully set-up an isotope prep laboratory.

Forensic Anthropologist, New Zealand Defence Force

Fiji, American Samoa, Malaysia, Singapore, England and S. Korea

Apr 2018 — Oct 2018

- 40-60 hours per week work, 4 tranches over 4 months in 6 countries.
- Personally excavated over 30 deceased NZDF personnel buried between 1955-1971.
- Provided secondary IDs (age, sex, stature, ancestry, trauma, pathology) using standard forensic anthropology methods.
- Assisted forensic odontologists with primary IDs using dentitions and army dental records.
- Used the international Disaster Victim Identification (DVI) method for all IDs.
- The only forensic anthropologist to work on all four tranches in all six countries.

Postdoctoral Research Fellow, The Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History

Jena, Germany

Oct 2016 — Nov 2017

- 40 hours per week.
- Collaborator on a large Asia-Pacific ancient DNA (aDNA) project.
- Liaised with museums (Fiji Museum, Solomon Islands Museum) and universities (Universitas Airlangga, Indonesia, and the University of Otago) to collect aDNA samples.
- Experienced in the correct protocol for the collection of human bone and tooth samples for DNA research.
- Used established research network to access skeletal collections.
- Secured difficult-to-obtain research permits and sampling permits from foreign countries including Indonesia, Fiji, and the Solomon Islands.

Assistant Research Fellow , University of Otago

Dunedin, New Zealand

Jul 2013 — Jun 2014

- 30 hours per week.
- Worked independently to publish PhD and other original research.
- Focus on the analysis of human skeletal remains and isotopes to reconstruct diet and health.
- Prepared manuscripts in a timely manner and met publishing deadlines.
- Mentored graduate students.

Postdoctoral Research Fellow, University of Otago

Dunedin, New Zealand

Jan 2011 — Mar 2013

- 40-50 hours a week.
- Designed and implemented a two-year project focused on reconstructing diet and migration patterns in prehistoric Vanuatu.
- Supervisor on two excavations of a 2000-3000 year-old burial ground, over 25 skeletons discovered.
- Skeletal, dental and isotope analyses to reconstruct demography, diet, health and migration resulting in four publications.
- Large-scale isotope baseline sampling of plants and animals across Vanuatu.
- Liaison with local communities for all aspects of the project (living, access and education).

EDUCATION

PhD, University of Otago

Dunedin, New Zealand

Mar 2007 — Dec 2010

- First comprehensive research of prehistoric diet and health in the Pacific.
- Extensive laboratory experience: analyzed six skeletal assemblages (approximately 300 individuals) ranging from 3000 to 300 years old.
- Biological profiles, oral health analyses and isotope analyses.
- Team member or supervisor of six excavations of prehistoric burial grounds in Papua New Guinea (Watom) and Vanuatu (Teouma and Uripiv).

BA (Hons) Anthropology, University of Otago

Dunedin, New Zealand

Feb 2002 — Oct 2005

- Graduated with First-class Honors Degree (A average in 4th year).
- Advanced Biological Anthropology training.
- Dissertation focused on the analysis of prehistoric human remains from PNG.

PUBLICATIONS

- Thirty-nine peer-reviewed journal articles or chapters published and six more currently under review
- Articles published in high impact journals including *Science*, *Nature Ecology and Evolution*, *Nature Human Biology* and leading journals for the field including *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*, *Journal of Archaeological Science*, *Antiquity*, *Bioarchaeology International*, and *PLOS ONE*.
- Competent at using computer programs, including *Microsoft Word*, *Excel*, *Filemaker Pro*, *Endnote*, *Mendeley*, *Photoshop*, *Lightroom*, and *Stata*, in addition to database management skills.
- Ability to multitask multiple projects at one time and follow through to the final publication and dissemination stage of each research project.

PhD Thesis: *Prehistoric Diet and Health in the Pacific* (2011)

Journal Article: *Prehistoric Diet and Health in the Pacific* (2012)

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