

Emily S. Johnson

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Education

University of California, Santa Barbara

Department of Anthropology

- Ph.D. in Anthropology, Archaeology Specialization Pursuing 2019–Present
- M.A. in Anthropology, Archaeology Specialization Spring 2022

Boston University

College of Arts and Sciences, Department of Archaeology

May 2017

- B.A. in Archaeology, *summa cum laude*

Kilachand Honors College

May 2017

- Thesis: *Archaeological Applications for the Identification of Nixtamalized Maize Starch Granules*

Publications

N.d. **Johnson, Emily S.** *Ground-Truthing LiDAR Data and Initial Excavation of Hypothesized Raised Fields in El Desierto, Petén: 2023 Season*. Proyecto Arqueológico Regional Río Azul: Informe Final de la Temporada 2023, edited by C. Morales-Aguilar and Fred Valdez, Jr. In preparation.

2023. VanDerwarker, Amber, **Emily S. Johnson**, and Joseph Patrick. *Analysis of Plant Remains from 22TA622: Report Submitted to Cultural Resource Analysts, Inc.*

N.d. Kuehn, Steven R., Rebecca K. Albert, and **Emily S. Johnson**. Ancient Foodways: Zooarchaeology and Paleoethnobotany. In *Traces: An Open Introduction to Archaeology*, edited by J. Donahue, I. Ray, I. Scarborough, and J. Zovar. Submitted.

2020. **Johnson, Emily S.** and John M. Marston. The Experimental Identification of Starch Spherulites Recovered from Nixtamalized Maize Residue. *Journal of Archaeological Science* 113:105056. DOI:10.1016/j.jas.2019.105056.

Teaching Experience

Course Facilitator/TA, AR280: Eating and Drinking in the Ancient World, Boston University–2023

Conference Presentations

Society of American Archaeology 2022

- Paper Presentation: “**Johnson, Emily S.**, Alleen Betzenhauser, and Amber M. VanDerwarker. 2022. Nixtamalization and Culinary Traditions at the Ancient East St. Louis Site.”

Society of Ethnobiology

2017

- Poster Presentation: “Elite Feasting and Monumental Dedication at Early Phrygian Gordion, Central Turkey”

Plains Anthropological Conference

2018

- Poster Presentation: “Central Plains Tradition Plant Use: A Comparison of Archaeobotanical Remains from Four Itskari Phase Sites”

Grants & Fellowships

2023. **Sacramento Archaeological Society, Inc.** \$500, For support of field research activities.

2023. **UCSB Anthropology Research Accelerator Award.** \$2,000, To support summer research expenses.

2020-2023. **NSF Graduate Research Fellowship.** \$138,000, Stipend and cost-of-education allowance across 3 years.

2019. **Eugene Cota-Robles Central Fellowship.** UCSB, Five-year funding package with a total stipend amount of \$87,000 across three years plus payment of school fees and health insurance for all five years.

2017. **Boston University Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program Travel Grant.** \$400

2017. **Boston University Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program.** “Feasting at Gordion, Central Turkey: A Paleoethnobotanical Analysis,” \$1,650

2016. **Boston University Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program.** “Reconstructing Agriculture and Economy at Hellenistic Ashkelon, Israel,” \$1,500

2016. **Boston University Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program.** “Reconstructing Bronze Age Agriculture at Kaymakçı, Western Turkey,” \$4,200

2016. **Boston University Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program Travel Grant.** \$200

Field Experience

Río Azul Regional Archaeological Project, Guatemala

2023

Field Archaeologist

- Responsible for excavation of agricultural features at multiple locations across site, including the systematic collection of bulk soil samples for export and analysis
- Provided a final report to the Guatemalan government detailing the results of our excavations and future directions

Fandel Mounds Archaeological Project, Illinois

2022

Field Archaeologist

- Assisted with the excavation of the 11th century outpost in the Central Illinois River Valley (CIRV) which has important early connections to Cahokia
- Processed backlogged bulk soil samples from previous excavation seasons via flotation; contracted to complete the flotation and identification of remaining bulk soil samples from past and current field seasons

Gordion Archaeological Project, Turkey

2017–2018

Assistant Archaeobotanist

- Responsible for completing flotation of backlogged bulk soil samples from previous excavation seasons as well as performing flotation of newly excavated soil samples; required effective communication with multiple specialists

- Provided final reports detailing the work completed throughout the season, including a preliminary assessment of the light fraction assemblage

Kaymakçı Archaeological Project, Turkey 2016

Research Assistant

- Responsible for overseeing the recovery of bulk soil samples as well as processing these samples for future botanical, faunal, and material analyses
- Tasks included producing mid- and end-season reports on the progress and initial assessment of recovered botanical remains, as well as intensive use of data-management software such as Microsoft Access

San Bartolo-Xultun Regional Archaeological Project, Guatemala 2016

Student Researcher

- Responsible for overseeing excavation of specific units, involved communicating ideas and directions with Guatemalan workers. Experience with plan and profile drawings, artifact recovery/documentation, excavation of architectural features
- Provided a final report to the Guatemalan government summarizing the finds from the excavation units for which I was responsible

Research & Professional Experience

Cultural Resource Analysts, Inc.

Contractor–Archaeobotanical Analyst *July 2021–Present*

- Sorted, analyzed, and identified botanical samples from contract/CRM archaeology sites
- Communicated summaries of findings to supervisor

TRC, Inc.

Contractor–Archaeobotanical Analyst *Jan 2020–Present*

- Sorted, analyzed, and identified botanical samples from contract/CRM archaeology sites
- Communicated summaries of findings to supervisor

Ethnobiology Letters

Production Assistant *Aug 2017–Dec 2020*

- Responsible for copyediting manuscripts, tables, and figures for clarity, grammar, and style
- Employed Microsoft Word, Publisher, and Adobe Suite to create proofs of manuscripts for online viewing, in HTML and PDF formats
- Communicated directly with authors and editors to facilitate the publication process and resolve queries in a timely manner

Biodiversity Institute, Archaeological Division

University of Kansas *Aug 2017–Aug 2019*

Archaeobotanical Analyst

- Analyze archival archaeobotanical collections to better understand diet and environment across time and space in prehistoric North America
- Responsible for the identification and interpretation of a variety of macrobotanical plant remains from the United States central Plains, including both seeds and wood charcoal

**Environmental Archaeology Laboratory
Boston University**

September 2014– May 2017

Research Assistant

- Conducted grant-supported research involving the identification and interpretation of a variety of macrobotanical plant remains from multiple ancient sites in Turkey and Israel
- Senior thesis involved novel, experimental maize starch granule processing, analysis, and interpretation
- Managed comparative collection material and collections database including intensive use of FileMaker Pro
- Provided content for the laboratory website: sites.bu.edu/ealab

**Zooarchaeology Laboratory
Boston University**

January 2015– May 2017

Research Assistant

- Performed faunal analyses involving sorting samples by taxonomic group and skeletal element; gained familiarity with bird, mammal, and fish skeletal material
- Developed a comparative collection (cleaned and prepared skeletons, labeled specimens)
- Assisted with collections management including data entry, archival and storage best practices, and rehousing material

Awards

- Michael A. Sassano III and Christopher M. Sassano Award for Writing Excellence in the Social Sciences. For my senior honors thesis: “Archaeological Applications for the Identification of Nixtamalized Maize Starch Granules,” 2017.
- Best Poster Award, Society of Ethnobiology, 2017.
- Golden Trowel Award, Boston University Department of Archaeology, 2017.
- Alice M. Brennan Humanities Award, Boston University Center for the Humanities, 2016.

Skills

- Identification of plant macrobotanical remains (family, genus, and species level)
- Microbotanical processing and recovery of starch and phytolith remains
- Archaeological field methods, especially sampling methodology
- Flotation (SMAP-, bucket-style)
- Collections and database management
- Proficient in GIS, R, FileMaker Pro, Adobe Illustrator/Photoshop, Microsoft Suite
- Language: Spanish, working proficiency/conversational

Service

**UCSB Anthropology Graduate Students’
Association**

Co-President, *December 2022–December 2024*
Secretary, *September 2019–September 2021*

Boston University Archaeology Society

Vice President, *2015–2017*
Member, *2013–2017*

Membership

- Society for American Archaeology, *2020–Present*
- Society of Ethnobiology, *2017–2020, 2024*
- Plains Anthropological Society, *2020–2021*