

Annalise Pforr

Department of Anthropology
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My research interests lie in the intersection of anthropology, material culture, and geospatial archaeology, with a focus on using digital humanity and geospatial methods to increase the accessibility of Byzantine material culture and cultural heritage. Current work of mine will be presented at the 2026 25th International Congress of Byzantine Studies, Vienna, Austria, and at the 2026 Arabo-Byzantine Workshop of École française de Rome.

EDUCATION

Current	PhD, University of Central Florida
2025	Geographic Information Systems Certificate, University of Central Florida
2022	MTS, Hellenic College Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology
2015	BA, University of Massachusetts Amherst

PUBLICATIONS

In Press	Whalen, Annalise. Deep Mapping: An Alternative Reconstruction of Byzantine Spatial Narratives and Landscape Archaeology. In “Constructing Cultural Landscapes: Spatial Perspectives on Place, Identity, and Human Experience”, edited by Bryce Peacher. Vernon Press, Wilmington, DE.
2024	Orozco et al., “Chronological Considerations for the use of the Late Roman – Migration period Cemetery at Plinkaigalis, Lithuania”, <i>Radiocarbon</i> . Published online 2024:1-18. doi:10.1017/RDC.2024.95

GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

2026	UCF College of Sciences Dean’s Conference Travel Award Rome, Italy
2026	UCF College of Graduate Studies Presentation Fellowship Vienna, Austria
2025	AVISTA Graduate Student Research Grant Association Villard de Honnecourt for Interdisciplinary Study of Medieval Technology, Science, and Art. Vienna, Austria.

- 2025 International Congress of Byzantine Studies Travel Grant
Mary Jaharis Center for Byzantine Art & Culture. Boston, Massachusetts.
- 2025 Christos and George Trakatellis Scholarship
Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. New York, New York
- 2025 Trevor Colbourn Anthropological Endowment Fund Fieldwork Award
UNESCO World Heritage Site Villa del Casale, Sicily, Italy
- 2025 Oxford Byzantine Society Conference Travel Stipend
Oxford, United Kingdom
- 2024 UCF College of Sciences Dean's Conference Travel Award
Boston, Massachusetts
- 2024 UCF College of Graduate Studies Presentation Fellowship
New York, New York
- 2024 UCF College of Sciences Dean's Conference Travel Award
Fort Pierce, Florida
- 2024 Merops Foundation Fieldwork Award
Co-PI, Kerkenes Project, Turkey
- 2024 Trevor Colbourn Anthropological Endowment Fund Fieldwork Award
Kerkenes Project, Turkey
- 2023 Graduate Teaching Assistant Fellowship
University of Central Florida, Orlando, Florida
- 2023 American Society for Overseas Research 2023 P.E. MacAllister Fieldwork
Scholarship, Kerkenes Project, Turkey
- 2012 Harvard University/National Security Language Initiative STARTALK Arabic
Teacher Training for the Next Generation, Boston, Massachusetts

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2026 Icon Museum & Study Center, Clinton, Massachusetts, USA
- 2026 USF IDEx Cadeddi-Tellaro excavation, Noto, Sicily
- 2025 University of Bologna's ArchLAB 5 excavation, Piazza Armerina, Sicily
- 2024 Kerkenes Project excavation, Kerkenes Dağ, Yozgat Province, Turkiye
- 2023 Kerkenes Project excavation, Kerkenes Dağ, Yozgat Province, Turkiye

SCHOLARLY PRESENTATIONS

Papers Presented

- 2026 “GIS Approaches to Communication and Inter-Urban Connectivity Across 9th Century Byzantine Anatolia” American Society for Overseas Research Annual Meeting. Chicago, Illinois. November.
- 2026 “Geospatial Approaches to Intervisibility and Communication Within the Byzantine Fire Beacon System” 25th International Congress of Byzantine Studies. Vienna, Austria. August. (Upcoming)
- 2026 “Medieval Data, Modern Maps: Integrating Arabo-Byzantine Sources into Modern GIS Analyses” École Française de Rome. Rome, Italy. May. (Upcoming)
- 2025 “Updates on Geospatial Approaches to Intervisibility and Communication Within the Byzantine Fire Beacon System” American Society for Overseas Research Annual Meeting. Boston, Massachusetts. November.
- 2025 “Illuminating the Byzantine Frontier: A Geospatial Study of Environmental Considerations in the Ninth Century Fire Beacon Network” Oxford University Byzantine Society’s International Graduate Conference. Oxford, UK. March.
- 2024 “Geospatial Approaches to Intervisibility and Communication of the Late Byzantine Fire Beacon System” American Society for Overseas Research Annual Meeting. Boston, Massachusetts. November.
- 2024 “GIS-Based Analysis of Byzantine Fire Signaling Beacons: Implications for Human-Environment Dynamics in the Byzantine Frontier” UCF Dept. of Anthropology’s 2024 Anthropology Symposium. Orlando, Florida. November.
- 2024 “From Taurus to Constantinople: Analyzing the Geographic and Spatial Dynamics of the Byzantine Fire Beacon System in Central Anatolia” Byzantine Studies Conference. New York, New York. October.
- 2024 “Predicting Locations of Maritime Archaeological Sites Around the United States Using Coastal Geographic Variables” American Academy of Underwater Sciences 2024 Symposium. Fort Pierce, Florida. April.
- 2023 “The 2023 Season of the Kerkenes Project” American Society for Overseas Research Annual Meeting. Chicago, Illinois. November.
- 2022 “Texts, Practices, and Embodied Experiences: Religious Experience in the White Monastery of 4th Century Upper Egypt” Middle Eastern Studies Annual Meeting. Denver, Colorado. December.
- 2022 “Post-Pharaonic Influences on Civic Organization in Shenoute’s Canons and the White Monastery of Upper Egypt” 12th Congress International Association of Coptic Studies. Brussels, Belgium. July.
- 2018 “Christian Identity Development Through Semitic Vocabulary: Evidence in

Manuscripts of the Gospel of John” World Congress of Middle Eastern Studies. Seville, Spain. July.

- 2018 “Christian Palestinian Identity in the Knesset Legal Corpus” Jil Jadid Conference for Middle Eastern Linguistics & Literature. Austin, Texas. February.

LECTURES GIVEN

- 2025 “Innovations in Underwater Imaging for Modern Theme Park Design” University of Central Florida. Orlando, Florida. April.
- 2024 “Exploring Maritime Cultural Heritage: Archaeological Techniques & Methodologies” University of Central Florida. Orlando, Florida. April.

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

- 2026 Doctoral and Postdoctoral Workshop: Introduction to Sphragistic Sources Between Antiquity and the Middle Ages: Sources, Methods, and Tools. École Française de Rome with the collaboration of the Vatican Museums and Vatican Apostolic Library. Rome, Italy. June.
- 2026 Arabo-Byzantine Workshop: Towards a Cross-Disciplinary Analysis of Eastern Mediterranean Sources. École Française de Rome in collaboration with Istituto Storico Italiano per il Medio Evo. Rome, Italy. May.
- 2025 Index of Medieval Art Database Training, Princetown University Department of Art & Archaeology. Princetown, NJ. October.
- 2024 Data Literacy for Byzantinists Workshop, Byzantine Studies Association of North America. Brookline, MA, USA. May.
- 2022 Summer School in Digital Art History, Universidad Málaga and UC Berkeley. Malaga, Spain. August.
- 2021 Vatican Coffin Project Summer School in Ancient Egyptian Sarcophagi Conservation, Université l’Orientale. Naples, Italy. October.
- 2018 Summer School in Coptic Manuscript Tradition, Universität Hamburg. Hamburg, Germany. September.
- 2018 Summer School in Corpus Linguistic Methods for Postgraduate Researchers. Lancaster University. Lancaster, UK.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2025 Instructor, Winter Park Lifelong Learning
Introduction to Arabic, Spring 2025
- 2023 – 2024 Graduate Teaching Assistant, UCF Department of Anthropology
Scientific Diving, Spring 2024
General Anthropology, Spring 2024
Cultural Anthropology, Spring 2024
Anthropology of Mesoamerica, Fall 2023
Introduction to Anthropology, Fall 2023
- 2012 – 2018 Arabic Language Instructor, Massachusetts Institute of Technology ESP
Introduction to Arabic Language
Introduction to Persian Language (Farsi)

TEACHING AREAS/COURSES PREPARED TO TEACH

Church History I, II
Middle Eastern History I, II
Spatial History
Early Christian Art & Architecture
Syriac I
Biblical Hebrew I, II
Modern Standard Arabic I, II, III
Middle Egyptian (Hieroglyphs) I
Anthropological Applications of GIS
Introduction to Anthropology
Introduction to Archaeology
Cultural Anthropology
Maritime Archaeology

RELATED PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

Certifications

AAUS Scientific Diver
FAA registered drone pilot
TDI Cave Diver I
SSI Rescue Diver
SSI Divemaster

Programs

R, Python, XRF/X-ray fluorescence, Artec Spider Spectral Light Scanning, ArcGis Pro, ArcMap, QGIS, Agisoft Metashape, Final Cut Pro, Adobe Suite, Tableau

LANGUAGES

Arabic – excellent
Biblical Hebrew – can read with dictionary
Modern Hebrew – good
Syriac – can read with dictionary
Koine Greek – good
Middle Egyptian – good
Coptic – good
Slavonic – good
Persian – elementary
Turkish – elementary

NON-ACADEMIC WORK

2026 – Current Intern, Icon Museum & Study Center, Clinton, Massachusetts.
2019 – Current Editor, Contexticon Learning & Research. Cambridge, Massachusetts.
2016 – 2017 Associate for Major Gifts, Hellenic College Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology. Brookline, Massachusetts.
2014 – 2015 Alumni Project Coordinator, UMass Department of Judaic & Near Eastern Studies. Amherst, MA.
2014 – 2015 Fundraising Assistant, UMass Newman Catholic Center. Amherst, MA.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Society of Overseas Research
Lambda Alpha National Anthropological Honors Society
Byzantine Studies Association of North America
Society for the Promotion of Byzantine Studies
American Academy of Underwater Sciences
Nautical Archaeological Society
International Association for Coptic Studies
Association Villard de Honnecourt for the Interdisciplinary Study of Medieval Technology, Science, and Art

SERVICE

Florida Public Archaeological Network (FPAN) Heritage Monitoring Scout, 2023, 2024, 2025.
Site surveys of sites in central Florida. Orlando, Florida.

Treasurer, UCF Graduate Anthropology Association 2024- 2025

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church food bank, 2024-2026
Bi-weekly food bank operation serving local Orlando communities. Orlando, Florida.

Instructor (Archaeology), Department of Defense STARBASE Central Florida, summer 2024
program. Cape Canaveral, FL, and Yozgat, Turkiye.

Volunteer, 2022 Society of Biblical Research International Meeting. Salzburg, Austria.

AWARDS

San Diego, CA *Under The Bridge* (4 minutes; 2023; executive producer, drone operator)
official selection for the 24th annual San Diego Undersea Film Festival

San Diego, CA *Diving New England* (4 minutes; 2022; executive producer, drone operator)
2022 official selection for the 23rd annual San Diego Undersea Film Festival

REFERENCES

Dr. Alan Culpepper, Dean Emeritus, Professor Emeritus, Mercer University
Director, Contexticon Learning & Research Inc.
3001 Mercer University Dr, Atlanta, GA 30341
Email: office@contexticon.net | Phone: (617) 833-7036

Dr. Alexandria Orozco, Visiting Assistant Professor, Emory University
801 Emory Street, Oxford GA, 30054
Email: AROROZC@emory.edu | Phone: (469) 247-9603