

## Amanda G. Henry

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Plant Foods in Hominin Dietary Ecology Research Group  
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### **Research Interests:**

The role of plant foods in diet; Dietary ecology of Pleistocene hominins; The uses of phytoliths and starch grains as markers of diet and environment.

### **Current Positions:**

Leader of a Max Planck Independent Research Group on "Plant foods and hominin dietary ecology".  
Jan 2011 – present.

Visiting Scientist, Archaeobiology Laboratory, Smithsonian Institution. Sept 2010 – present

Co-director of the Malapa diet team. Jan 2010 – present

Junior Editor of the Wiley-Blackwell Encyclopedia of Human Evolution. Jan 2011– present

### **Post-doctoral Research:**

*Research assistant and copy editor*, Jan - Dec 2010

Assist Bernard Wood with the creation and editing of the Encyclopedia of Human Evolution  
(Wiley-Blackwell Press, 2011)

### **Education:**

Ph.D. 31 Jan 2010, Hominid Paleobiology, The George Washington University

Dissertation: Plant foods and the dietary ecology of Neandertals and modern humans.

Committee: Alison Brooks and Dolores Piperno, Co-Advisors. Arlene Rosen, Peter Lucas, James O'Connell, Jean-Jacques Hublin

B.A. *cum laude*, May 2002, Anthropology, Brown University

Thesis: Religion and Control: The role of the Roman Imperial Cult at the Petra Small Temple.

### **Research Funding, Honors and Awards:**

The Wenner-Gren Foundation Dissertation Fieldwork Grant: "Plant diet and the ecology of Neanderthals and modern humans." May 1, 2008; \$19344.

The Smithsonian Institution Predoctoral Fellowship: "Plant foods in Neanderthal and modern human dietary ecology." Sept 2008-May 2009; \$18500.

Grant in Aid of Research, George Washington University chapter of Sigma Xi; "Comparing Neanderthal and Early Modern Human diet from plant microfossils preserved on stone tools and in dental calculus." Spring 2007 \$500.

Lewis B. Cotlow Research fund, Department of Anthropology, The George Washington University: "Three Field Projects at Olorgesailie, Kenya." Summer 2004; \$700.

The Top Archaeologist Prize, Brown University, May 2002.

The Lydia Carpenter Premium, Brown University, May 2002.

### **Collaborations:**

Project: Testing calculus as a source of dietary information in Fremont Indian populations.

With: Joan Brenner-Coltrain, University of Utah

Project: Plant microfossil database on Paleobot.org

With: Jade D'Alpoim Guedes, Harvard University; Tina Warinner, University of Zurich

Project: Internet Conference on Starch Nomenclature

With: Linda Perry, Foundation for Archaeobotanical Research in Microfossils

Project: Environments and diets of the 'Ubeidiya fauna

With: Miriam Belmaker, The College of William and Mary; Kristin Kreuger, Arkansas State

### **Teaching Experience:**

*Head Professor*, Department of Anthropology, George Washington University.

· Introduction to Biological Anthropology. Undergraduate course. Enrollment: 17. Summer 2007

*Teaching Assistant and Lab Instructor*, Department of Anthropology, George Washington University  
· Hominid Evolution. Graduate and Undergraduate course. Enrollment: 24. Fall 2005  
· Introduction to Biological Anthropology. Undergraduate course. Enrollment in lab sections: 34-60. Fall 2003, Spring 2004, Spring 2010

### **Mentoring Experience:**

*Current students:* Robert Power (MA, UCL), Stephanie Schnorr (MA, UT), Huan Liu (MA Chinese Academy of Sciences)

*Paid research assistant:* Christine Foltz (GWU) Sep 2008 – Dec 2009

*Volunteers:* Holly Hudson (Smithsonian) Jun 2007 – Dec 2008; Sara Stickler (UCSC) Dec 2008; Nicole Herzog (Utah University) Oct 2010

### **Field Experience:**

*Member and Leader*, Smithsonian and GWU Excavations, ESA and MSA sediments including the Green Clay site, Olorgesailie Prehistoric Site, Kenya. Summer 2004.

*Member*, Brown University Excavations, The Great Temple, Petra, Jordan. Summer 2001 and 2002.

*Member*, Burlington County College Survey and Excavation of the Crosswicks Creek Lenape Indian site, NJ Summer 2000.

### **Other Work Experience:**

*Conference Organizer*, Middle Stone Age of East Africa, May-July 2005: Selected stone tool specimens from the National Museums of Kenya in Nairobi for display; summarized several Middle Stone Age African sites for the conference publication.

*Conference Organizer*, Student seminar series entitled “Our Hominin Lineage: Exploring the Spectrum of Theories” Spring 2006. Proposed seminar theme, invited speakers, arranged accommodations and lecture halls.

*Web Technician and Public Outreach Intern*, Jun 2004-May 2005

Dr. Richard Potts, Head, Human Origins Program, Smithsonian Institution

*Research Assistant and Laboratory Technician*, Jan 2003-March 2003

Dr. Eugene Chin, Pathology Division of the Biomedical Department, Brown University

### **Publications:**

#### *Refereed Journals:*

**Henry AG**, Ungar PS, Passey BH, Sponheimer M, Rossouw L, Bamford M, deRuiter DJ, Berger L (2012). The diet of *Australopithecus sediba*. *Nature*. 487:90-93.

**Henry AG** (2012). Recovering dietary information from extant and extinct primates using plant microremains. *International Journal of Primatology*. 33:702-715

**Henry AG**, Brooks AS and Piperno DR. (2011) Reply to Collins and Copeland: Spontaneous gelatinization not supported by evidence. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences USA* 108(22):E146.

**Henry AG**, Brooks AS and Piperno DR. (2011) Microfossils in calculus demonstrate consumption of plants and cooked foods in Neanderthal diets (Shanidar II, Iraq; Spy I and II, Belgium). *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences USA* 108(2):486-491.

**Henry AG** and Piperno DR. (2008) Using plant microfossils from dental calculus to recover human diet: A case study from Tell al-Raqa'i, Syria. *Journal of Archaeological Science* 35: 1943-1950.

**Henry AG**, Hudson HF and Piperno DR. (2009) Changes in starch grain morphologies from cooking. *Journal of Archaeological Science* 36: 915-922.

#### *Book Chapters:*

Wood B and **Henry AG**. (2007) Whose diet? An introduction to hominin taxonomy. In P Ungar (ed.): *Evolution of the human diet: The known, the unknown and the unknowable*. Oxford, Oxford University Press. pp 11-28.

#### *Executive Editor of, and Contributor to:*

*The Encyclopedia of Human Evolution* (2011) Bernard Wood (Ed). Wiley-Blackwell.

#### *In Press / Under Review:*

**Henry AG** (in press). Identification of plant foods in the diets of Spy I and II based on analysis of

plant microfossils trapped in dental calculus. in P. Semal, H. Rougier, C. Jungels and A. Hauzer (Eds.), *Spy Cave: State of 120 Years of Pluridisciplinary Research on the Betche-aux-Rotches from Spy (Jemeppe-sur-Sambre, Province of Namur, Belgium)*.

**Henry AG** (in press). Formation and taphonomic processes affecting starch grains. in J. D'Alpoim Guedes, J. M. Marston and C. Warinner (Eds.), *Current Methods in Paleoethnobotany*. University of Colorado Press.

*Professional Meeting Posters, Papers and Presentations:*

Power RC, Walker MJ, Salazar-García DC, **Henry AG** (2012). Evidence for Neanderthal plant food consumption at Sima de las Palomas, Southeastern Iberia. Hugo Obermeier Society meetings (Abstract and Presentation)

Power RC, Walker MJ, Salazar-García DC, **Henry AG** (2012). Neanderthal plant food consumption and environmental use at Sima de las Palomas, Southeastern Iberia. Paleoanthropology Society Meetings (Abstract and Presentation)

Salazar-García DC, Coltrain JB, Richards M, **Henry AG** (2012). Stable isotopes from dental calculus. Society for American Archaeology Meetings (Abstract and Presentation)

**Henry AG**. (2011) Plant foods and the dietary ecology of Neanderthals. American Association of Physical Anthropology Meetings (Abstract and Presentation).

**Henry AG**, Piperno DP, Brooks AS, and Rose T. (2010) Assessing dental calculus as a source of archaeological plant microfossils using ESEM/EDS. Society for American Archaeology Meetings (Abstract and Presentation)

**Henry AG**, Piperno D and Brooks AS. (2009) The record of plant foods in South Africa: USOs, Klasies River Mouth, and beyond. Darwin's Legacy: Early Human Evolution in Africa. New York Consortium in Evolutionary Primatology Conference. (Abstract and Presentation).

**Henry AG**, Piperno DP and Brooks AS. (2009) South African plant microfossils and the role of USOs at Klasies River Mouth. Paleoanthropology Appendix (Abstract and Presentation).

**Henry AG**, Piperno D. (2008) Plants in Neandertal diet: Plant microfossil evidence from the dental calculus of Shanidar III. Paleoanthropology Appendix: A9 (Abstract and Presentation).

**Henry AG**, Piperno D, Brooks AS. (2007) Reconstructing human diet from plant microfossils trapped in dental calculus: A preliminary study from Tell al-Raqa'i, Syria. Paleoanthropology Appendix: A12 (Abstract and Presentation).

**Henry AG**, Gordon KD, Trinkaus E, Brooks AS. (2006) Teeth as tools? A comparison of Neanderthal and Early Modern Human incisor microwear. Paleoanthropology Appendix: A 88 (Abstract and Presentation).

*Invited Presentations:*

Secrets from reeds: Phytoliths and starch grains as tools to recover ancient diets and environments. Rutgers University, 18 April 2008.

Plant Microfossils and the diets of Neanderthals and Modern Humans. Musée de l'Homme, Paris, 15 January 2009.

Not by meat alone: the role of plant foods in human prehistory. Inrap Colloque archéologie au laboratoire. 27 January 2012.

*Other Publications:*

Henry AG. (2011). Amateurs de viande. . . et de végétaux. *La Recherche* 45(Oct 2011):52-55.

**Outreach:**

June-August 2004: Wrote a daily web log of excavation activities from Olorgesailie, Kenya, for public and school use.

September 2004-May 2005: Replied to questions sent by the public to the Human Origins Program of the Smithsonian.

March 2008: Gave an interview for "The Human Spark" with Alan Alda, on how a unique diet might make us "human."

<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/humanspark/featured/spark-blog-video-ancient-dental-cleaning/223/>

**Professional Memberships:**

European Society for the study of Human Evolution  
Paleoanthropology Society  
Society for Phytolith Research  
Society for American Archaeology  
Society for Archaeological Sciences

**Reviewer for:**

Journal of Archaeological Science  
The National Science Foundation  
Journal of Archaeological Method and Theory  
Plains Anthropologist