

## MARY E. PRENDERGAST

Department of Anthropology, Rice University  
P.O. Box 1892, Houston TX 77251, USA  
[mary@rice.edu](mailto:mary@rice.edu)

### RESEARCH

---

African foodways, anthropological archaeology, research ethics, zooarchaeology, biomolecular archaeology, archaeogenetics, hunting-gathering-fishing, pastoralism, Holocene, eastern Africa

### APPOINTMENTS

---

2021- Associate Professor of Anthropology, Rice University  
Affiliated with Rice University centers and programs:  
- Ancient Mediterranean Civilizations  
- Center for African and African American Studies  
- Museums and Cultural Heritage

2018-20 Chair, Division of Humanities, Saint Louis University (Madrid campus)

2010-20 Professor of Anthropology, Saint Louis University (Madrid campus)

2016-17 Fellow, Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, Harvard University

2015 Instructor, Suffolk University in Madrid

2014 Instructor, New York University in Madrid

2010 Instructor, Universidad Europea de Madrid

2009-10 Instructor, Harvard Summer School

### EDUCATION

---

2008 PhD, Anthropology, Harvard University

2005 M.A., Anthropology, Harvard University

1999 A.B., Old World Archaeology & Art, Brown University

### GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

---

#### External – PI or co-PI

Current grants:

2023-25 “Reassessing plants and pastoralist foodways in ancient eastern Africa”  
National Science Foundation, Senior Archaeology Award.  
Awarded: \$374,292.  
Lead PI: **M.E. Prendergast**. Co-PIs: A. Gidna, K. Grillo, A. Mabulla, N. Mueller.

2023-24 “Reassessing plants and pastoralist foodways in ancient eastern Africa.”  
Wenner-Gren Foundation, Post-PhD Award.  
Awarded: \$25,000.  
Lead PI: **M.E. Prendergast**. Co-PIs: K. Grillo, A. Gidna, A. Mabulla.

2023-23 “Reassessing plants and pastoralist foodways in ancient eastern Africa.”  
National Geographic Society, Committee for Research and Exploration.  
Awarded: \$98,370.  
Lead PI: K. Grillo. Co-PIs: **M.E. Prendergast**, A. Gidna, A. Mabulla, N. Mueller.

#### Previous grants and fellowships:

2018-19	National Geographic Society Committee for Research and Exploration, \$30,130
2018-19	Wenner-Gren Post-PhD Research Grant (co-PI; PI K. Grillo), \$19,940
2016-17	Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study Fellowship, Harvard University, \$75,000
2016-17	Wenner-Gren Hunt Postdoctoral Fellowship, \$33,333
2012-13	National Geographic Society Committee for Research and Exploration, \$20,000
2012-13	Wenner-Gren International Collaborative Research (co-PI A. Mabulla), \$34,985
2006-07	Wenner-Gren Doctoral Dissertation Fieldwork Grant, \$12,865
2006-07	NSF Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant (co-PI R. Meadow), \$12,000

#### External – named collaborator

2021-22	Connection Grant, Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), Canada (co-PIs E. Sawchuk, K. Sirak)
2021-22	Conference Grant, Wenner-Gren Foundation (co-PIs E. Sawchuk, K. Sirak, F.K. Manthi, E. Ndiema)

#### Internal

2022	Faculty Initiatives Fund, Rice University, \$13,695
2022	Creative Ventures Fund Conference and Workshop Grant, Rice University, \$50,000 for Meeting of Society of Africanist Archaeologists (with J. Fleisher, S. McIntosh)
2022	Creative Ventures Fund Conference and Workshop Grant, Rice University, \$2,000 for Environmental Education at Rice: solutions-focused curriculum (led by S. Dee)
2021-22	G.R. Brown Teaching Grant, Rice University, \$4,733
2020	Big Ideas Fund (co-PIs M. Eppinger, K. MacKinnon), Saint Louis University, \$10,000
2019-21	Research Growth Fund, Saint Louis University, \$30,200
2018	Saint Louis University Faculty Research Fellowship, €2,500
2014	Saint Louis University Faculty Research Fellowships, €2,500
2013	Saint Louis University Summer Research Award in the Humanities, \$3,000
2007-08	Harvard Graduate Society Dissertation Completion Fellowship, \$24,568
2006-07	Frederick Sheldon Traveling Fellowship, Harvard University, \$3,000
2005	American School of Prehistoric Research Fieldwork Grants, \$3,500
2005	Harvard Graduate Society Summer Fieldwork Award, \$3,000

## PUBLICATIONS

---

### Peer-reviewed journal articles

2023	Iminjili, V., M. Stewart, C. Culley, S. Hixon, S. Goldstein, M. Bleasdale, A. Sánchez Flores, M. Lucas, J. Ilgner, <a href="#">M.E. Prendergast</a> , A. Crowther, N. Boivin, P. Roberts. Late Pleistocene to late Holocene palaeoecology and human foraging at Kuumbi Cave, Zanzibar Island. <i>Frontiers in Environmental Archaeology</i> 2:1080785.
2023	<a href="#">Prendergast, M.E.</a> , J. Miller, O. Mwebi, E. Ndiema, C. Shipton, N. Boivin, M. Petraglia. Small game forgotten: Late Pleistocene foraging strategies in eastern

Africa, and remote capture at Panga ya Saidi, Kenya. *Quaternary Science Reviews* 305:108032.

- 2023 Brielle, E.S., J. Fleisher, S. Wynne-Jones, N. Broomandkhoshbacht, K. Callan, E. Curtis, L. Iliev, A.M. Lawson, J. Oppenheimer, L. Qiu, K. Stewardson, J.N. Workman, F. Zalzal, G. Ayodo, A.O. Gidna, A. Kabiru, A. Kwekason, A.Z.P. Mabulla, F.K. Manthi, E. Ndiema, C. Ogola, E. Sawchuk, L. Al-Gazali, B.R. Ali, S. Ben-Salem, T. Letellier, D. Pierron, C. Radimilahy, J.-A. Rakotoarisoa, B. Culleton, K. Sirak, S. Mallick, N. Rohland, N. Patterson, M.A. Mwenje, K.B. Ahmed, M.M. Mohamed, S. Williams, J. Monge, S. Kusimba, **M.E. Prendergast**, D. Reich, C.M. Kusimba. The Entwined African and Asian Genetic Roots of the Medieval Peoples of the Swahili Coast. *Nature* 615:866-873.
- 2022 Quintana Morales, E., O. Craig, **M.E. Prendergast**, S. Walshaw, C. Cartaciano, O. Mwebi, E. Nguta, V. Onduso, J. Fleisher, S. Wynne-Jones. Diet, economy and culinary practices at the height of precolonial Swahili urbanism. Submitted to *Journal of Anthropological Archaeology* 66:10146.
- 2022 Fitton, T., D.A. Contreras, A.O. Gidna, A.Z.P. Mabulla, **M.E. Prendergast\***, K.M. Grillo\*. Detecting and mapping the 'ephemeral': magnetometric survey of a Pastoral Neolithic settlement at Luxmanda, Tanzania. *Antiquity* 96(386):298–318.  
\*Co-supervising authors
- 2022 Lipson, M.\*, E.A. Sawchuk\*, J.C. Thompson\*, J. Oppenheimer, C.A. Tryon, K.L. Ranhorn, K.M. de Luna, K.A. Sirak, I. Olalde, S.H. Ambrose, J.W. Arthur, K.J.W. Arthur, G. Ayodo, A. Bertacchi, J.I. Cerezo-Román, B.J. Culleton, M.C. Curtis, J. Davis, A.O. Gidna, A. Hanson, P. Kaliba, M. Katongo, A. Kwekason, M.F. Laird, J. Lewis, A.Z.P. Mabulla, F. Mapemba, A. Morris, G. Mudenda, R. Mwafulirwa, D. Mwangomba, E. Ndiema, C. Ogola, F. Schilt, P. Willoughby, D.K. Wright, A. Zipkin, R. Pinhasi, D.J. Kennett, F.K. Manthi, N. Rohland, N. Patterson, D. Reich\*, **M.E. Prendergast\***. Ancient DNA and deep population structure in sub-Saharan African foragers. *Nature*. DOI: 10.1038/s41586-022-04430-9  
\*Co-corresponding authors.
- 2021 Alpaslan-Roodenberg, S., D. Anthony, H. Babiker, E. Bánffy, T. Booth, P. Capone, A. Deshpande-Mukherjee, S. Eisenmann, L. Fehren-Schmitz\*, M. Frachetti, R. Fujita, C.J. Frieman, Q. Fu, V. Gibbon, W. Haak, M. Hajdinjak, K.P. Hofmann, B. Holguin, T. Inomata, H. Kanzawa-Kiriyama, W. Keegan, J. Kelso, J. Krause, G. Kumaresan, C. Kusimba, S. Kusimba, C. Lalueza-Fox, B. Llamas, S. MacEachern, S. Mallick, H. Matsumura, A.Y. Morales-Arce, G. Motuzaitė Matuzeviciute, V. Mushrif-Tripathy, N. Nakatsuka, R. Nores, C. Ogola, M. Okumura, N. Patterson, R. Pinhasi, S.P.R. Prasad, **M.E. Prendergast\***, J.L. Punzo, D. Reich\*, R. Sawafuji, E. Sawchuk, S. Schiffels, J. Sedig\*, S. Shnaider, K. Sirak\*, P. Skoglund, V. Slon, M. Snow, M. Soressi,

M. Spriggs, P.W. Stockhammer\*, A. Szécsényi-Nagy, K. Thangaraj, V. Tiesler, R. Tobler, C.-C. Wang, C. Warinner, S. Yasawardene, M. Zahir. Ethics of DNA Research on Human Remains: Five Globally Applicable Guidelines. *Nature*.

\*Co-corresponding authors

- 2021 Culley, C., A. Janzen, S. Brown, **M.E. Prendergast**, J. Wolfhagen, B. Abderemane, A.K. Ali, O. Haji, M.C. Horton, C. Shipton, J. Swift, T.A. Tabibou, H.T. Wright, N. Boivin, A. Crowther. Collagen fingerprinting traces the introduction of caprines to island eastern Africa. *Royal Society Open Science* 8:202341.
- 2021 Storozum, M.C.\* , S. Goldstein, D. Contreras, A. Gidna, A. Mabulla, K. Grillo\*\* , **M.E. Prendergast\*\*** . Legacies of ancient herder settlement: soil development and landscape evolution on the Mbulu Plateau, Tanzania. *Catena* 204: 105376.  
\*Co-corresponding authors, \*\*co-supervising authors.
- 2021 Martín-Torres, M., F. d'Errico, E. Santos, A. Álvaro Gallo, N. Amano, W. Archer, S.J. Armitage, J.L. Arsuaga, J.M. Bermúdez de Castro, J. Blinkhorn, A. Crowther, K. Douka, S. Dubernet, P. Faulkner, P. Fernández-Colón, N. Kourampas, J. González García, D. Larreina, F.-X. Le Bourdonnec, G. MacLeod, L. Martín-Francés, D. Massilani, J. Mercader, J.M. Miller, E. Ndiema, B. Notario, A. Pitarch Martí, **M.E. Prendergast**, A. Queffelec, S. Rigaud, P. Roberts, M.J. Shoaee, C. Shipton, I. Simpson, N. Boivin, M.D. Petraglia. Earliest known human burial in Africa. *Nature* 593:95-100.
- 2021 Culley, C., A. Janzen, S. Brown, **M.E. Prendergast**, C. Shipton, E. Ndiema, M. Petraglia, N. Boivin, A. Crowther. Iron Age hunting and herding in coastal eastern Africa: ZooMS identification of domesticates and wild bovids at Panga ya Saidi, Kenya. *Journal of Archaeological Science* 130:105368.
- 2021 **Prendergast, M.E.**, K.M. Grillo, A.O. Gidna, A.Z.P. Mabulla. Grinding stone features from the Pastoral Neolithic at Luxmanda, Tanzania. *Antiquity*.  
DOI: 10.15184/aqy.2021.13
- 2021 Pizarro-Monzo, M. **M.E. Prendergast**, A.O. Gidna, E. Baquedano, M. Domínguez-Rodrigo. Do human butchery patterns exist? A study of the interaction of randomness and channeling in the distribution of cut marks on long bones. *Journal of the Royal Society Interface* 18:20200958.
- 2021 Shipton, C., J. Blinkhorn, W. Archer, N. Kourampas, P. Roberts, **M.E. Prendergast**, R. Curtis, A.I.R. Herries, E. Ndiema, N. Boivin, M.D. Petraglia. The Middle to Later Stone Age transition at Panga ya Saidi, in the tropical coastal forest of East Africa. *Journal of Human Evolution*. 153:102954.

- 2020 Grillo, K.M., J. Dunne, F. Marshall, **M.E. Prendergast**, E. Casanova, A.O. Gidna, A. Janzen, Karega-Munene, J. Keute, A.Z.P. Mabulla, P. Robertshaw, T. Gillard, C. Walton-Doyle, H.L. Whelton, K. Ryan, R. Evershed. Molecular and isotopic evidence for milk, meat and plants in prehistoric eastern African herder food systems. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the U.S.A.* 117(18):9793-9799.
- 2020 Lipson, M., I. Ribot, S. Mallick, N. Rohland, I. Olalde, N. Adamski, N. Broomandkshobacht, A.-M. Lawson, S. López, J. Oppenheimer, K. Stewardson, R. Neba'ane Asombang, H. Bocherens, N. Bradman, E. Cornelissen, I. Crevecoeur, P. de Maret, F.L.M. Fomine, P. Lavachery, C. Mbida Mindzie, R. Orban, E. Sawchuk, P. Semal, M.G. Thomas, W. Van Neer, K. Veeramah, N. Patterson, G. Hellenthal, C. Lalueza-Fox, S. MacEachern, **M.E. Prendergast\***, D. Reich\*. Ancient West African foragers in the context of deep human genetic history. *Nature* 577(7792):665-670.  
\*Co-supervising authors
- 2020 Roberts, P. \*, **M.E. Prendergast\***, A. Janzen, C. Shipton, J. Blinkhorn, J. Zech, A. Crowther, E.A. Sawchuk, E. Ndiema, M. Petraglia, N. Boivin. Late Pleistocene to Holocene human palaeoecology in the tropical environments of coastal eastern Africa. *Palaeogeography, Palaeoclimatology, Palaeoecology* 537:109438.  
\*Co-corresponding authors
- 2019 **Prendergast, M.E.<sup>†,\*</sup>**, M. Lipson\*, E.A. Sawchuk\*, I. Olalde, C. Ogola, N. Rohland, K.A. Sirak, N. Adamski, R. Betnardos, N. Broomandkshobacht, K. Callan, B.J. Culleton, L. Eccles, T.K. Harper, A.M. Lawson, M. Mah, J. Oppenheimer, K. Stewardson, F. Zalzal, S.H. Ambrose, G. Ayodo, H.L. Gates Jr., A.O. Gidna, M. Katongo, A. Kwekason, A.Z.P. Mabulla, G.S. Mudenda, E.K. Ndiema, C. Nelson, P. Robertshaw, D.J. Kennett, F.K. Manthi, D. Reich. Ancient DNA Reveals a Multi-Step Spread of the First Herders into Sub-Saharan Africa. *Science* 365(6448):eaaw6275.  
†Corresponding author; \*co-first authors.
- 2019 **Prendergast, M.E.**, A. Janzen, M. Buckley, K.M. Grillo. Sorting the sheep from the goats in the Pastoral Neolithic: morphological and biomolecular approaches at Luxmanda, Tanzania. *Archaeological and Anthropological Sciences* 11(6):3047-62.
- 2019 Langley, M.C., **M.E. Prendergast**, K.M. Grillo. Organic Technology in the Pastoral Neolithic: Osseous and Eggshell Artefacts from Luxmanda, Tanzania. *Archaeological and Anthropological Sciences* 11(1):1-14.
- 2019 Chritz, K., T. Cerling, K. Freeman, E. Hildebrand, A. Janzen, **M.E. Prendergast**. Climate, ecology, and the spread of herding in eastern Africa. *Quaternary Science Reviews* 204:119-132.

- 2018 [Prendergast, M.E.\\*](#) and E. Sawchuk\*. Boots on the ground in Africa's ancient DNA "revolution": archaeological perspectives on ethics and best practices. *Antiquity* 92(363):803-815. \*Co-first authors.
- 2018 [Prendergast, M.E.](#) and A. Beyin. Fishing in a fluctuating landscape: terminal Pleistocene and early Holocene subsistence strategies in the Lake Turkana Basin, Kenya. *Quaternary International* 471:203-218.
- 2018 Grillo, K.M.\*, [M.E. Prendergast\\*](#), D. Contreras, T. Fitton, A. Gidna, S. Goldstein, M. Knisley, M. Langley, A.Z.P. Mabulla. Pastoral Neolithic Settlement at Luxmanda, Tanzania. *Journal of Field Archaeology* 43(2):102-120. \*Co-first authors.
- 2018 Crowther, A., [M.E. Prendergast](#), D. Fuller, N. Boivin. Subsistence mosaics, forager-farmer interactions, and the transition to food production in eastern Africa. *Quaternary International* 489:101-120.
- 2018 Shipton, C., P. Roberts, W. Archer, S.J. Armitage, C. Bitu, J. Blinkhorn, C. Courtney-Mustaphi, A. Crowther, R. Curtis, F. d'Errico, K. Douka, P. Faulkner, H.S. Groucutt, R. Helm, A.I.R. Herries, S. Jembe, N. Kourampas, J. Lee-Thorp, R. Marchant, A.P. Marti, J. Mercader, [M.E. Prendergast](#), B. Rowson, A. Tengeza, R. Tibesasa, T.S. White, M.D. Petraglia, N. Boivin. A 78,000-year-old record of Middle and Later Stone Age innovation in an East African tropical forest. *Nature Communications* 9:1832.
- 2018 Marchant, R., S. Richer, C. Capitani, C. Courtney-Mustaphi, [M.E. Prendergast](#), D. Stump, O. Boles, P. Lane, S. Wynne-Jones, C. Ferro Vázquez, D. Wright, N. Boivin, C. Lang, A. Kay, L. Phelps, D. Fuller, M. Widgren, P. Punwong, J. Lejju, M.-J. Gaillard-Lemdahl, K.D. Morrison, J. Kaplan, J. Benard, A. Crowther, A. Cuní-Sánchez, G. de Cort, N. Deere, A. Ekblom, J. Farmer, J. Finch, L. Gillson, E. Githumbi, T. Kabora, R. Kariuki, R. Kinyanjui, E. Kyazike, V. Muiruri, C. Mumbi, R. Muthoni, A. Muzuka, E. Ndiema, C. Nzaba, D. Olago, I. Onjala, A.P. Schrijver, N. Petek, P.J. Platts, S. Rucina, A. Shoemaker, S. Thornton-Barnett, G. van der Plas, L. Watson, D. Williamson. Drivers and trajectories of land cover change in East Africa: human and environmental interactions from 6000 years ago to present. *Earth Science Reviews* 178:322–378.
- 2017 [Prendergast, M.E.](#), E. Quintana Morales, A. Crowther, M.C. Horton, N. Boivin. Dietary diversity on the Swahili coast: the fauna from two Zanzibar trading locales. *International Journal of Osteoarchaeology* 27:621-637.
- 2017 [Prendergast, M.E.](#), M. Buckley, A. Crowther, L. Frantz, H. Eager, O. Lebrasseur, R. Hutterer, A. Hulme-Beaman, W. Van Neer, K. Douka, M.-A. Veall, E.M. Quintana Morales, V.J. Schuenemann, E. Reiter, R. Allen, R.M. Helm, C. Shipton, O. Mwebi, C.

- Denys, M. Horton, S. Wynne-Jones, J. Fleisher, C. Radimilahy, H. Wright, J.B. Searle, J. Krause, G. Larson, and N.L. Boivin. Reconstructing Asian faunal introductions to eastern Africa from multi-proxy biomolecular and archaeological datasets. *PLoS ONE* 12(8): e0182565.
- 2017 Beyin, A., **M.E. Prendergast**, K. Grillo, H. Wang. New radiocarbon dates for terminal Pleistocene and early Holocene settlements in West Turkana, northern Kenya. *Quaternary Science Reviews* 168:208-215.
- 2017 Skoglund, P., J.C. Thompson, **M.E. Prendergast**, A. Mittnik, K. Sirak, M. Hajdinjak, T. Salie, N. Rohland, S. Mallick, A. Peltzer, A. Heinze, I. Olalde, M. Ferry, E. Harney, M. Michel, K. Stewardson, J. Cerezo-Roman, C. Chiumia, A. Crowther, E. Gomanichindebvu, A.O. Gidna, K.M. Grillo, I.T. Helenius, G. Hellenthal, R. Helm, M. Horton, S. López, A.Z.P. Mabulla, J. Parkington, C. Shipton, M.G. Thomas, R. Tibesasa, M. Welling, V.M. Hayes, D.J. Kennett, R. Ramesar, M. Meyer, S. Pääbo, N. Patterson, A.G. Morris, N. Boivin, R. Pinhasi, J. Krause, and D. Reich. Reconstructing Prehistoric African Population Structure. *Cell* 171(1):59-71.e21.
- 2017 Ottoni, C., W. Van Neer, B. De Cupere, J. Daligault, S. Guimaraes, J. Peters, Nikolai Spassov, **M.E. Prendergast**, N. Boivin, A. Morales-Muñiz, A. Bălăşescu, C. Becker, N. Benecke, A. Boronean, H. Buitenhuis, J. Chahoud, A. Crowther, L. Llorente, N. Manaseryan, H. Monchot, V. Onar, M. Osypińska, O. Putelat, J. Studer, U. Wierer, R. Decorte, T. Grange, E.-M. Geigl. The palaeogenetics of cat dispersal in the ancient world. *Nature Ecology & Evolution* 1(0139).
- 2016 **Prendergast M.E.**, H. Rouby, P. Punnwong, R. Marchant, A. Crowther, N. Kourampas, C. Shipton, M. Walsh, K. Lambeck, N. Boivin. Continental Island Formation and the Archaeology of Defaunation on Zanzibar, Eastern Africa. *PLoS ONE* 11(2): e0149565.
- 2016 Langley, M., **M.E. Prendergast**, C. Shipton, E. Quintana Morales, A. Crowther, N. Boivin. Poison Arrows and Bone Utensils in Late Pleistocene eastern Africa: Evidence from Kuumbi Cave, Zanzibar. *Azania: Archaeological Research in Africa* 51(2):155-177.
- 2016 Crowther, A., P. Faulkner, **M.E. Prendergast**, E. Quintana Morales, M. Horton, E. Wilmsen, A. Kotarba-Morley, A. Christie, N. Petek, R. Tibesasa, K. Douka, L. Picornell-Gelabert, X. Carah, N. Boivin. Coastal subsistence, maritime trade, and colonization of small offshore islands in eastern African prehistory. *Journal of Island and Coastal Archaeology* 11(2):211-237.
- 2016 Shipton, C., A. Crowther, N. Kourampas, **M.E. Prendergast**, M. Horton, K. Douka, J.-L. Schwenninger, P. Faulkner, E. Quintana Morales, M. Langley, R. Tibesasa, L.

- Picornell-Gelabert, E. Wilmsen, C. Doherty, M.-A. Veall, M. Petraglia, N. Boivin. Reinvestigation of Kuumbi Cave, Zanzibar, reveals Late Stone Age coastal adaptation, early Holocene abandonment, and Iron Age reoccupation. *Azania: Archaeological Research in Africa* 51(2):197-233.
- 2015 Kourampas, N., C. Shipton, W. Mills, R. Tibesasa, H. Horton, M. Horton, **M.E. Prendergast**, A. Crowther, K. Douka, P. Faulkner, L. Picornell-Gelabert, N. Boivin. Late Quaternary speleogenesis and landscape evolution in a tropical carbonate island: Pango la Kuumbi (Kuumbi Cave), Zanzibar. *International Journal of Speleology* 44(3): 293-314.
- 2014 **Prendergast, M.E.**, K. Grillo, A. Mabulla, H. Wang. New dates for Kansyore and Pastoral Neolithic ceramics in the Eyasi Basin, Tanzania. *Journal of African Archaeology* 12(1): 89-98.
- 2014 Boivin, N., A. Crowther, **M.E. Prendergast** & D. Fuller. Indian Ocean food globalisation and Africa. *African Archaeological Review* 31:547-581.
- 2014 Eren, M., A. Durant, **M.E. Prendergast**, A. Mabulla. Middle Stone Age Archaeology at Olduvai Gorge, Tanzania. *Quaternary International* 322-323:292-313.
- 2014 Crowther, A., M. Horton, A. Kotarba-Morley, **M.E. Prendergast**, E. Quintana Morales, M. Wood, C. Shipton, D. Fuller, R. Tibesasa, W. Mills, N. Boivin. Iron Age agriculture, fishing and trade in the Mafia Archipelago, Tanzania: new evidence from Ukunju Cave. *Azania: Archaeological Research in Africa* 49(1):21-44.
- 2013 **Prendergast, M.E.**, A. Mabulla, K. Grillo, L. Broderick, O. Seitsonen, A. Gidna, D. Gifford-Gonzalez. Pastoral Neolithic sites on the southern Mbulu plateau, Tanzania. *Azania: Archaeological Research in Africa* 48(4):498-520.
- 2011 Díez-Martín, F., P. Sánchez, M. Domínguez-Rodrigo, **M.E. Prendergast**. An experimental study of bipolar and freehand knapping of Naibor Soit quartz from Olduvai Gorge (Tanzania). *American Antiquity* 76(4):690-708.
- 2010 **Prendergast, M.E.** Kansyore fisher-foragers and transitions to food production in East Africa: the view from Wadh Lang'o, Nyanza Province, Kenya. *Azania* 45(1): 83-111.
- 2010 **Prendergast, M.E.** and P.J. Lane. Middle Holocene Fishing Strategies in East Africa: zooarchaeological analysis of Pundo, a Kansyore shell midden in northern Nyanza (Kenya). *International Journal of Osteoarchaeology* 20:88-112.



- 2010 Domínguez-Rodrigo, M., H.T. Bunn, A.Z.P. Mabulla, G.M. Ashley, F. Díez-Martín, D. Barboni, **M.E. Prendergast**, J. Yravedra, R. Barba, A. Sánchez, E. Baquedano and T. Pickering. New excavations at the FLK Zinjanthropus site and its surrounding landscape and their behavioral implications. *Quaternary Research* 74:315-332.
- 2009 **Prendergast, M.E.** and K. Mutundu. Late Holocene Archaeological Faunas in East Africa: Ethnographic Analogues and Interpretive Challenges. *Documenta Archaeobiologiae* 7:203-232.
- 2009 **Prendergast, M.E.**, J. Yuan and O. Bar-Yosef. Resource Intensification in the Late Upper Paleolithic: a view from Southern China. *Journal of Archaeological Science* 36:1027-1037.
- 2009 Díez-Martín, F., M. Domínguez-Rodrigo, P. Sánchez, A. Mabulla, A. Tarriño, R. Barba, **M.E. Prendergast** and L. Luque. The Middle to Later Stone Age Technological Transition in East Africa. New Data from Mumba Rockshelter Bed V (Tanzania) and their implications for the origin of modern human behavior. *Journal of African Archaeology* 7(2): 147-173.
- 2008 **Prendergast, M.E.** and M. Domínguez-Rodrigo. Taphonomic Analyses of a Hyena Den and a Natural-Death Assemblage near Lake Eyasi (Tanzania). *Journal of Taphonomy* 6(3-4):301-335.
- 2007 **Prendergast, M.E.**, L. Luque, M. Domínguez-Rodrigo, F. Díez Martín, A. Mabulla and R. Barba. New Excavations at Mumba Rockshelter (Tanzania). *Journal of African Archaeology* 5(2): 163-189.

#### Edited special issue

- 2010 **Prendergast, M.E.**, Editor. Diversity in East African Foraging and Food Producing Communities. Special issue of *Azania* 45(1).

#### Peer-reviewed encyclopedia and book chapters

- 2022 **Prendergast, M.E.**, E.A. Sawchuk, K.A. Sirak. "Genetics and the African Past," *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of African History*. (T. Spear, ed.). New York: Oxford University Press. doi:10.1093/acrefore/9780190277734.013.ORE\_AFH-00143.R1
- 2022 Sirak, K.A., E.A. Sawchuk, **M.E. Prendergast**. "Ancient Human DNA and African Population History," *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Anthropology* (S. Chirikure, ed.). New York: Oxford University Press. doi: 10.1093/acrefore/9780190854584.013.484

- 2020 [Prendergast, M.E.](#) "The History of Eastern African Foragers," In *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of African History*. (T. Spear, ed.). New York: Oxford University Press. doi:10.1093/acrefore/9780190277734.013.405
- 2017 Quintana Morales, E. & [M.E. Prendergast](#). "Animals in the Swahili World," In *The Swahili World* (S. Wynne-Jones & A. LaViolette, eds.), pp. 335-350. London: Routledge.
- 2011 [Prendergast, M.E.](#) "Hunters and herders at the periphery: the spread of herding in eastern Africa," in H. Jousse and J. Lesur, eds., *People and Animals in Holocene Africa: Recent Advances in Archaeozoology*, pp. 43-58. Frankfurt, Africa Magna Verlag.
- 2008 Eren, M. and [M.E. Prendergast](#). "Comparing and Synthesizing Lithic Reduction Indices," in *Lithic Technology: Measures of Production, Use and Curation*, edited by W. Andrefsky, pp. 49-85. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

### Book reviews

- 2012 Review of *Social Anthropology and Human Origins*, by Alan Barnard. *American Anthropologist* 114(4):698-712.
- 2009 Review of *Chasse et Élevage dans la Corne d'Afrique entre le Néolithique et les temps historiques*, by Joséphine Lesur. *Azania* 44(1):151-153.
- 2008 Review of *The Evolution of Modern Humans in Africa: A Comprehensive Guide*, by Pamela Willoughby. *Journal of African Archaeology* 6(2):271-274.

### Non peer-reviewed publications

- (2023) [Prendergast, M.E.](#) "Becoming Human," in Almécija, S. (Ed.), *Humans: Perspectives on our Evolution from World Experts*. New York: Columbia University Press.
- 2014 Eren, M., [M.E. Prendergast](#) and M. Domínguez-Rodrigo. "Mumba Rockshelter," in *Cuna de la Humanidad/Cradle of Humanity*, Museo Arqueológico Regional, Alcalá de Henares. (Exhibit catalog)
- 2011 [Prendergast, M.E.](#), J. Yuan and O. Bar-Yosef. Resource Intensification in the Late Upper Paleolithic: a view from Southern China. *Hunan kaogu jikan* 9:220-239. (Chinese version of 2009 peer-reviewed paper in *Journal of Archaeological Science*)

- 2009 **Prendergast, M.E.** Forager variability and transitions to food production in secondary settings: Kansyore and Pastoral Neolithic economies. *Azania* 44(2):276-277. (PhD dissertation abstract)

## POPULAR WRITING

---

- 2022 **M.E. Prendergast** "What's next for ancient DNA studies after Nobel Prize honors groundbreaking field of paleogenomics." *The Conversation*, Oct 4. Republished by *Sapiens, The Scientist, Salon*, others. Impact: >13,000 readers.
- 2022 E. Sawchuk & **M.E. Prendergast**. "Ancient DNA illuminates how humans travelled and interacted in Stone Age Africa." *Nature* (Research Briefings).
- 2022 Sawchuk, E., J.C. Thompson, **M.E. Prendergast**. "Ancient DNA helps reveal social changes in Africa 50,000 years ago that shaped the human story." *The Conversation*, Feb 23. Republished by *Sapiens, Smithsonian Magazine, Salon*, others. Impact: >75,000 readers.
- 2020 Sawchuk, E. & **M.E. Prendergast**. "La ciencia que estudia nuestro pasado reescribe nuestro presente cada vez más deprisa" *The Conversation España*, Feb 4. Author's translation of 2019 story. Republished by *Infobae* (Argentina), others. Impact: >48,000 readers
- 2019 Sawchuk, E. & **M.E. Prendergast**. "Archaeological discoveries are happening faster than ever before, helping refine the human story." *The Conversation*, Dec 23. Republished by *Sapiens, Smithsonian Magazine, Discover Magazine, Salon*, others. Impact: >314,000 readers
- 2019 **M.E. Prendergast** & E. Sawchuk. "Ancient DNA is revealing the origins of livestock herding in Africa." *The Conversation*, May 30. Republished by *Sapiens*, others. Impact: >24,000 readers
- 2019 Sawchuk, E. & **M.E. Prendergast**. "Ancient DNA is a powerful tool for studying the past – when archaeologists and geneticists work together." *The Conversation*, March 11. Republished by *Undark*, others. Impact: >35,000 readers

## MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS (SELECTED INTERVIEWS/QUOTES)

---

- 2022 A rare look at ancient African societies. [Nature Africa](#). May 4.
- 2022 [Science Rehashed](#) (podcast): On the traces of our African past. Apr 20.
- 2022 [Tides of History](#) (podcast): Mary Prendergast on Ancient Africa. Mar 10.
- 2022 Oldest human DNA from Africa reveals complex migrations. [Science](#). Feb 23.

- 2022 Was Facebook the original social network? Not by a long shot. *Harvard Gazette*. Feb 23.
- 2022 Earliest African DNA Reveals Population Shifts Over 50,000 Years Ago. *GEN: Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology News*. Feb 24.
- 2022 Modern Humans Began to Evolve, and Almost Immediately Split Into Three Groups. *Haaretz*. Feb 28.
- 2022 Archaeology at Varner-Hogg Plantation. *Rice University*. Feb 16.
- 2022 Ancient DNA boom underlines a need for ethical frameworks. *The Scientist*. Jan 27.
- 2022 No bones about it. *Lab Manager*. Jan 31.
- 2021 Old bones get new life in renovated Rice laboratory. *Rice News*. Sep 27.
- 2020 Genetics steps in to tell the story of human origins. *The Scientist*. Sep 1.
- 2020 Extinct human species. *Curiosity Daily podcast* (starts at 3:50). June 9.
- 2020 Newsday. *BBC World Service* (starts at 43:20). Jan 24.
- 2020 Ancient African genomes offer glimpse into early human history. *Nature*. Jan 23.
- 2020 First ancient genomes from West Africa reveal complexity of human ancestry. *National Geographic*. Jan 22.
- 2020 DNA from child burials reveals ‘profoundly different’ human landscape in ancient Africa. *Science*. Jan 22.
- 2020 Children’s graves reveal genetic diversity. *Cosmos Magazine*. Jan 22.
- 2020 Ancient DNA from West Africa Adds to Picture of Humans’ Rise. *New York Times*. Jan 21.
- 2020 What’s new in the study of what’s old. *WORT Radio Madison*. Jan 13.
- 2019 Herding genes in Africa. *Archaeology Magazine*. Sept/Oct issue.
- 2019 Live interview in program África hoy. *Radio Nacional de España*. Sep 16.
- 2019 Live interview in program El sol sale por el oeste. Canal Extremadura Radio. Jun 14.
- 2019 Live interview in program Tercer Sector. Capital Radio Madrid. Jun 11.
- 2019 DNA from 41 skeletons hints at first herders in Africa. *The Guardian* (Tz). Jun 1.
- 2019 Study raises questions about roots of lactose tolerance in Africa. *Science*, May 30.
- 2019 With Ancient Human DNA, Africa's Deep History Is Coming to Light. *Discover Magazine*. Feb 8.
- 2017 Quick Study: Mary Prendergast. Profile in *Radcliffe Magazine*. Summer issue.
- 2014 El Neolítico en el Este de África. *Radio 3 España* (Canal UNED).
- 2013 Jornadas de prehistoria Africana. *TVE 2 Noticias*.

## INVITED LECTURES AND WORKSHOPS

---

- 2022 Invited speaker at symposium “Reconstructing the Human Past using Ancient and Modern Genomics,” European Molecular Biology Laboratory, Heidelberg (Sep 15).
- 2022 ‘[Texas Historical Zooarchaeology at the Rice Archaeology Learning Lab](#),’ Invited lecture, Houston Archaeological Society (Apr 21)
- 2022 ‘[Ancient DNA and the African Past](#),’ Invited webinar, Rift Valley Network (Apr 6).
- 2021 Invited guest lectures (virtual) at: Texas State University San Marcos (Nov 19), University of Connecticut (Nov 10), University of Florida (Sep 28), University of Tennessee (Apr 21), University of California Santa Cruz (Mar 11)

- 2021 Invited panelist, [Globinar: Archaeological Science in Africa & the Diaspora](#). Apr 23.
- 2021 'Ancient DNA,' guest lecture, Introduction to Biological Anthropology, [Rice Online](#).
- 2020 'Herders on the move in Africa,' Guest lecture, Purdue University (virtual), Oct 22.
- 2020 'Herders and homes on the range: studying ancient African pastoralism with eyes on the present,' Invited lecture to National Geographic Society (virtual), May 19
- 2020 Invited workshop participant, 'Reflexive Bioarchaeology/Archaeo-Gen-Ethics,' Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History (virtual), May 19.
- 2020 'African pastoralism in the archaeological record,' Guest lecture, University of Puget Sound (virtual), April 21.
- 2019 Invited participant, 'From Homer to History,' Max-Planck-Harvard Research Center for the Archaeoscience of the Ancient Mediterranean, Cambridge MA, Nov 1-2.
- 2019 'Representing Past Lives,' SLU Gender Studies invited lecture, Madrid, Oct 1.
- 2019 'The Ancient DNA Revolution in Africa,' Magis Society Lecture, St. Louis, Sep 24.
- 2019 'Rethinking mobile pastoralism in eastern Africa,' Yale University, Feb 21.
- 2017 Ancient DNA and African Archaeology, National Museums of Kenya, Aug 20.
- 2017 Hallam L. Movius Jr. Annual Lecture, invited discussant, Harvard University, Apr 11.
- 2017 'Pastoralism on the periphery,' Harvard University, May 3.
- 2017 'Pastoralism on the periphery,' Washington University in St. Louis, Apr 14.
- 2016 'New excavations at Luxmanda, Tanzania' Stony Brook University, Dec 16.
- 2016 'Pastoralism and Land Cover in Ancient East Africa,' Invited presenter and discussant, LandCover 6K workshop, Toulouse, Jun 25.

## ORGANIZED WORKSHOPS AND SYMPOSIA

---

- 2023 "[DNAirobi](#)." Conference at National Museums of Kenya (Nairobi). May 8-11. Co-organizer with E. Sawchuk, K. Sirak, D. Reich, F.K. Manthi, C. Ogola, E. Ndiema.
- 2020 "Ethics in Ancient DNA Research." Virtual workshop with ~70 participants globally. Nov 4-5. Co-organizer with K. Sirak, J. Sedig, D. Reich, P. Stockhammer.
- 2020 "[#DNAirobiStaysHome](#)." Virtual workshop with ~60 participants globally. Nov 11. Co-organizer with E. Sawchuk, K. Sirak, F.K. Manthi, C. Ogola, E. Ndiema, D. Reich.
- 2016 "Biological Exchange in the Anthropocene." Society for American Archaeology Annual Meeting, Orlando, FL, Apr 9. Co-chair with N. Boivin.
- 2008 "The Diversity of Foraging and Food-Producing Communities in Holocene East Africa," Society of Africanist Archaeologists Biennial Conference, Frankfurt, Sep 11.

## CONFERENCE PAPERS

---

- 2022 Fitton, T., D. Contreras, A. Gidna, A. Mabulla, **M.E. Prendergast**, K. Grillo. "Detecting and Mapping an 'Ephemeral' Settlement of the Pastoral Neolithic at Luxmanda, Tanzania." Landscape Archaeology Conference, Iași-Suceava, Sep 11.

- 2022 **Prendergast, M.E.** & K. Grillo. 'Rangelands and Resilience,' Gwendolyn Carter Conference: Pasts for the Future of Pastoralism, U. Florida, virtual, Apr 8.
- 2022 Quintana Morales, E., O. Craig, **M.E. Prendergast**, S. Walsha, C. Cataciano. 'Diet, Economy, and Culinary Practices at the Height of Precolonial Swahili Urbanism.' Society for American Archaeology, Chicago, Apr 2.
- 2021 Sawchuk, E., M. Lipson, J. Thompson, D. Reich, **M.E. Prendergast**. 'Ancient DNA reveals complex population structure among Late Pleistocene and Holocene African foragers.' Canadian Association for Physical Anthropology, virtual, Oct 29.
- 2021 Janzen, A., **M.E. Prendergast**, K. Grillo, J. Krigbaum. 'Donkey mobility in the Pastoral Neolithic: new isotopic results from Luxmanda.' Society of Africanist Archaeologists, virtual, Sep 15.
- 2021 Chritz, K., S. Blumenthal, T. Cerling, S. Goldstein, K. Grillo, A. Janzen, P. Kiura, E. Ndiema, **M.E. Prendergast**, E. Sawchuk, E. Hildebrand. 'Complicated human dietary dynamics throughout the Holocene in Kenya.' Society of Africanist Archaeologists, virtual, Sep 27.
- 2020 Sawchuk, E., **M.E. Prendergast**. 'Confronting New Mysteries and Old Problems: Ancient DNA and Legacy Skeletal Collections.' Canadian Association for Physical Anthropology, virtual, Nov 6.
- 2019 **Prendergast, M.E.**, E. Sawchuk, M. Lipson, C. Ogola, E. Ndiema, F.K. Manthi, D. Reich. 'Ancient DNA reveals a multi-step spread of food production into eastern Africa.' East African Association for Palaeoanthropology and Palaeontology, Nairobi, Aug 1-4.
- 2019 Chritz, K., T. Cerling, S. Goldstein, A. Janzen, P. Kiura, E. Ndiema, **M.E. Prendergast**, E. Sawchuk, E. Hildebrand. 'Human-environment interactions throughout the Holocene in Kenya.' East African Association for Palaeoanthropology and Palaeontology, Nairobi, Aug 1-4.
- 2019 **Prendergast, M.E.**, E. Sawchuk. 'From sampling to interpretation to communication: challenges of ancient DNA research in Africa.' Peopling History of Africa: A Multidisciplinary Perspective, University of Geneva, Geneva, Jun 6-7.
- 2019 Grillo, K., **M.E. Prendergast**, A. Gidna, A.Z.P. Mabulla, D. Contreras. 'The Communalities of Pastoralist Life: Perspectives on Household Organization at the Pastoral Neolithic Site of Luxmanda, Tanzania.' Society for American Archaeology, Albuquerque, Apr 10-14.

- 2019 Sawchuk, E., **M.E. Prendergast**. 'How to choose samples for aDNA: bioarchaeological best practices for sampling human remains.' Society for American Archaeology, Albuquerque, Apr 10-14.
- 2019 Lipson, M., **M.E. Prendergast**, I. Ribot, C. Lalueza-Foz, D. Reich. 'Ancient Human DNA from Shum Laka (Cameroon) in the Context of African Population History.' Society for American Archaeology, Albuquerque, Apr 10-14.
- 2019 Janzen, A. **M.E. Prendergast**, K. Grillo. 'Early herding practices in Tanzania revealed through strontium isotope analysis.' Society for American Archaeology, Albuquerque, Apr 10-14.
- 2019 **Prendergast, M.E.**, E. Sawchuk. 'Beyond 'Boots on the Ground:': Moving Towards Ethical Analysis and Publication.' State of the Field 2019: The Ancient DNA Revolution in Archaeology, Joukowsky Institute for Archaeology and the Ancient World at Brown University, Providence, Feb 22-23.
- 2018 **Prendergast, M.E.**, K. Grillo, D. Contreras, A. Gidna, S. Goldstein, A. Mabulla, M. Storozum. 'Pastoralism and land use in the Tanzanian Rift Valley and highlands: current and prospective research.' European Association of Archaeologists, Barcelona, Sep 6.
- 2018 **Prendergast, M.E.**, E. Sawchuk. 'Boots on the ground in Africa's ancient DNA 'revolution': archaeologist perspectives on ethics, history, and the need for best practices.' Society of Africanist Archaeologists, Toronto, Jun 20.
- 2018 Janzen, A., **M.E. Prendergast**, K. Grillo. 'Early pastoralists in Tanzania: mobility and the seasonal round.' Society for American Archaeology, Washington DC, Apr 14.
- 2017 Skoglund, P., A. Mittnik, K. Sirak, M. Hajdinjak, N. Rohland, S. Mallick, T. Salie, A. Heinze, M. Meyer, A. Peltzer, M. Ferry, E. Harvey, M. Michel, K. Stewardson, J. Cerezo-Roman, C. Chiumia, A. Crowther, E. Goman-Chindebvu, R. Helm, M. Horton, A. Morris, J. Parkington, **M.E. Prendergast**, R. Ramesar, C. Shipton, J. Thompson, R. Tibesasa, V. Hayes, S. Pääbo, N. Patterson, N. Boivin, R. Pinhasi, J. Krause, D. Reich. 'Reconstructing prehistoric African population structure and adaptation.' Society of Molecular Biology and Evolution, Austin, Jul 3.
- 2017 Skoglund, P., J. Thompson, **M.E. Prendergast**, A. Mittnik, K. Sirak, M. Hajdinjak, T. Salie, N. Rohland, S. Mallick, A. Peltzer, A. Heinze, I. Olade, M. Ferry, E. Harvey, M. Michel, K. Stewardson, J. Cerezo-Roman, C. Chiumia, A. Crowther, E. Goman-Chindebvu, A. Gidna, K. Grillo, I. Taleni Helnius, G. Hellenthal, R. Helm, M. Horton, S. López, A. Mabulla, J. Parkington, C. Shipton, M. Thomas, R. Tibesasa, M. Welling,

- V. Hayes, D. Kennett, R. Ramesar, M. Meyer, S. Pääbo, N. Patterson, A. Morris, N. Boivin, R. Pinhasi, J. Krause, D. Reich. 'Reconstructing prehistoric African population structure and adaptation.' Wellcome Center Meeting: Human Evolution: Fossils, Ancient and Modern Genomes, Cambridge, Nov 20-22.
- 2017 Beyin, A., **M.E. Prendergast**, K. Grillo, H. Wang. 'Terminal Pleistocene and Early Holocene Settlements in West Turkana (Northern Kenya): New Radiocarbon Dates.' Society for American Archaeology, Vancouver, Mar 31.
- 2017 Boivin, N., **M.E. Prendergast**, J. Swift, C. Shipton, A. Crowther. 'Island Colonization and Ecological Transformation in Prehistoric Eastern Africa.' Society for American Archaeology, Vancouver, Mar 31.
- 2016 **Prendergast, M.E.**, M. Buckley, K. Grillo, A. Gidna, G. Zahradka, A. Mabulla. 'Herd composition at a Pastoral Neolithic site: zooarchaeological and ZooMS insights.' Society of Africanist Archaeologists, Toulouse, Jun 26-Jul 2.
- 2016 Grillo, K., **M.E. Prendergast**, D. Contreras, T. Fitton, A. Gidna, S. Goldstein, M. Knisley, A. Mabulla. 'New Excavations at the Pastoral Neolithic site of Luxmanda.' Society of Africanist Archaeologists, Toulouse, Jun 26-Jul 2.
- 2016 Shipton, C., A. Crowther, N. Kourampas, R. Helm, **M.E. Prendergast**, N. Boivin. 'Clues to prehistoric climate, the changing coast, and cultural transformations from East African cave sites' Society of Africanist Archaeologists, Toulouse, Jun 26-Jul 2.
- 2016 **Prendergast, M.E.**, M. Buckley, H. Eager, A. Crowther, N. Boivin. 'Biological exchange in the Swahili world: archaeofaunal and biomolecular evidence.' Society for American Archaeology, Orlando, Apr 9.
- 2015 **Prendergast, M.E.**, A. Beyin. 'Early Holocene Fisher-Foragers in the Turkana Basin, Kenya.' Jornadas de Prehistoria Africana, Centro Nacional de Investigación sobre la Evolución Humana (CENIEH), Burgos, Apr 15-16.
- 2015 **Prendergast, M.E.**, C. Shipton, R. Tibesasa, N. Kourampas, A. Crowther, N. Boivin. 'The Coastal Neolithic Revisited: New Data from Kuumbi Cave, Zanzibar.' Jornadas de Prehistoria Africana, Centro Nacional de Investigación sobre la Evolución Humana (CENIEH), Burgos, Apr 15-16.
- 2015 Faulkner, P., A. Crowther, **M.E. Prendergast**, M. Horton, N. Boivin. 'Maritime adaptations and Indian Ocean trade in East Africa: The role of small offshore islands.' Society for American Archaeology, San Francisco, Apr 15-19.



- 2014 **Prendergast, M.E.**, E. Quintana Morales, A. Crowther, N. Boivin, R. Helm, M. Horton. 'Faunal Proxies for Long-Distance Trade? Reevaluating the Swahili Coast Zooarchaeological Record.' Society of Africanist Archaeologists, Johannesburg, Jul 14-18.
- 2014 Quintana Morales, E., **M.E. Prendergast**. 'Fishers-Foragers-Traders: Early subsistence practices on the eastern African coast.' International Council for Archaeozoology, San Rafael de Mendoza, Sep 23-27.
- 2014 Petraglia, M., A. Crowther, C. Shipton, N. Kourampas, **M.E. Prendergast**, T. White, P. Faulkner, P. Roberts, D. Fuller, R. Jennings, N. Boivin. Sealinks Project in East Africa: Environmental and Archaeological Datasets. ACACIA Workshop, London.
- 2013 **Prendergast, M.E.**, E. Quintana Morales, A. Crowther, M. Horton, R. Helm, N. Boivin. 'The tales bones tell: reevaluating the animal evidence for long-distance contact.' Proto-Globalisation in the Indian Ocean World, Oxford, Nov 7-10.
- 2013 Ottoni, C., W. Van Neer, N. Boivin, **M.E. Prendergast**, T. Grange, E.-M. Geigl. 'Ancient DNA from cats hints to early trade in the Indian Ocean world.' Proto-Globalisation in the Indian Ocean World, Oxford, Nov 7-10.
- 2013 **Prendergast, M.E.**, A. Mabulla. 'Frontier archaeology: explorations at the southern edge of eastern African pastoralism.' Jornadas de Prehistoria Africana, Madrid, Mar 6-7.
- 2012 **Prendergast, M.E.**, O. Seitsonen, A. Mabulla. 'Obsidian movement and herder mobility in eastern Africa.' Society of Africanist Archaeologists, Toronto, Jun 20-23.
- 2010 **Prendergast, M.E.** 'Hunters and herders at the periphery: the spread of pastoralism in East Africa.' International Council for Archaeozoology, Paris, Aug 24.
- 2008 **Prendergast, M.E.** 'Forager variation and transitions to food production in secondary settings: a view from Lake Victoria.' Society of Africanist Archaeologists, Frankfurt, Sep 8-11.
- 2007 **Prendergast, M.E.**, A. Mabulla. 'Holocene Foragers and Food Producers: Recent Archaeological Research Near Lake Eyasi (Tanzania).' African Archaeology Research Day, Oxford, Nov 24.
- 2006 **Prendergast, M.E.** 'Complex fisher-foragers on the eve of food production: the Kansyore of Kenya and Tanzania.' Society for American Archaeology, San Juan, Apr 26-29.

2006 Eren, M., **M.E. Prendergast**. 'A Comparison of Reduction Indices on Experimental and Archaeological Stone Tool Assemblages.' Society for American Archaeology, San Juan, Apr 26-29. Winner of the Student Paper Award.

### **AWARDS AND HONORS**

---

2020 Scholarly Works Honorable Mention, Saint Louis University Research Institute  
2006 Student Paper Award, Society for American Archaeology Annual Meeting  
2005 Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, Derek Bok Center for Teaching, Harvard  
2004 Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, Derek Bok Center for Teaching, Harvard

### **EDITORIAL AND REVIEW ACTIVITY**

---

2021- Editorial Advisory Board member, *Azania: Archaeological Research in Africa*  
2020- Editorial Board member, *Journal of Archaeological Science*  
2017-18 Panelist, Wenner-Gren Foundation

Grant proposal reviewer: National Science Foundation (USA), Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (Canada), Leakey Foundation, National Research Foundation (South Africa)

Journal peer reviewer: *African Archaeological Review*, *Asian Perspectives*, *Azania: Archaeological Research in Africa*, *International Journal of Osteoarchaeology*, *Journal of African Archaeology*, *Journal of Archaeological Science*, *Journal of Taphonomy*, *Nature Scientific Reports*, *Science Advances*, *Quaternary International*, *Utafiti Journal of African Perspectives*

### **RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

---

#### **Ongoing projects**

2012- Research on the Archaeology of Pastoralism in Tanzania (RAPT)  
Field project in collaboration with National Museum of Tanzania  
Co-PI with A. Gidna, K. Grillo, A. Mabulla  
2016- Archaeological and Genetic Approaches to Ancient African Population Structure  
Museum- and lab-based project in collaboration with Harvard Medical School,  
National Museum of Kenya, National Museum of Tanzania, Livingstone Museum  
Co-PI with D. Reich

#### **Specialist analysis (zooarchaeology)**

2016-18 Songo Mnara Project, Tanzania (PIs: J. Fleisher, S. Wynne-Jones)  
2012-16 Sealinks Project, Kenya, Tanzania, Comoros, Madagascar (PI: N. Boivin)  
2014 Kalokol sites, Later Prehistory of West Turkana, Kenya (PI: A. Beyin)  
2013 Olduvai Gorge Middle Stone Age Project, Tanzania (PI: M. Eren)  
2005-07 Wadh Lang'o, Kenya (PIs: I. Onjala, F. Odede)  
2005-07 Pundo, Kenya (PI: P. Lane)  
2005-07 Yuchanyan Cave, China (PIs: J. Yuan, O. Bar-Yosef)

### **Additional fieldwork experience**

- 2005-07 Lake Eyasi Basin, Tanzania. Co-PI with A. Mabulla, M. Domínguez-Rodrigo  
2006-07 Olduvai Gorge TOPPP project, Tanzania (PIs: M. Domínguez-Rodrigo, A. Mabulla)  
2004 Hohle Fels, Germany (PI: N. Conard)  
2004 Pierce Farm at Harvard Forest, USA (Field school taught by N. Tuross)  
2003 Dzudzuana, Republic of Georgia (PIs: O. Bar-Yosef, T. Meshveliani)  
2003 Pincevent & Etiolles, France (Field directors: P. Bodu, M. Julien, M. Olive)  
1999 Kourion-Amathus Gate Cemetery Field School, Cyprus (PI: D. Parks)  
1998 Brown University Southern Temple Excavations at Petra, Jordan (PI: M. Joukowsky)

### **TEACHING**

---

- 2021- Associate Professor of Anthropology, Rice University  
Courses taught: African Archaeology; Zooarchaeology; Museums & Heritage;  
People and Animals in the Past; Senior Research Preparation  
2010-20 Professor of Anthropology, Saint Louis University in Madrid  
2015 Co-director, University of Wisconsin - La Crosse field school, Tanzania  
2015 Instructor, Suffolk University in Madrid  
2014 Instructor, New York University in Madrid  
2012-13 Co-director, University of Dar es Salaam field school, Tanzania  
2010-11 Instructor, Universidad Europea de Madrid  
2009-10 Instructor, Harvard Summer School  
2006 Co-director, University of Dar es Salaam field school, Tanzania  
2004-05 Teaching Fellow, Harvard University

### **DISSERTATION COMMITTEES (PhD)**

---

- 2021 External examiner (PhD), Louise Le Meillour, Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle  
2021 External examiner (PhD), Ruth Tibesasa, University of Pretoria

### **SERVICE**

---

#### **Service to university community**

- 2023- General Education Committee, Rice University  
2022-pres Director of Undergraduate Studies, Anthropology Department, Rice University  
2022-pres School of Social Sciences Course Review Committee, Rice University  
2021-pres Faculty Advisory Committee, Social Sciences Research Institute, Rice University  
2021-22 Anthropology Brown Bag lecture series co-coordinator, Rice University  
2018-20 Chair, Faculty Working Group on Research & Scholarship, SLU-Madrid  
2018-20 Member, Madrid Campus Leadership Council, SLU-Madrid  
2019-20 Madrid Representative, Scholarship Research Council, Saint Louis University  
2018-19 Member, President's Advisory Council, Saint Louis University  
2015-16 Executive Committee (Secretary), Faculty Senate, SLU-Madrid

**Service to professional community (see also Editorial and Review Activity section)**

- 2022-23 Co-organizing secretary, Biennial Meeting, Society of Africanist Archaeologists
- 2022-23 Executive Board member, Society of Africanist Archaeologists
- 2021-22 Co-creator, [Bibliographic Database of African Scholarship on African Archaeology](#)
- 2021-22 Mentor, “Rewriting World Archaeology: Dialogues on the Global South” program

**PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

---

International Council for Archaeozoology  
Rift Valley Network  
Society of Africanist Archaeologists

**LANGUAGES**

---

Spanish - fluent  
French - advanced intermediate  
Swahili - intermediate spoken