

SARAH WHITCHER KANSA, PH.D.

724 PERALTA AVENUE • BERKELEY, CA 94707

TEL: (415) 425-7381 • EMAIL: SARAHKANSA@GMAIL.COM

Education

University of Edinburgh, 1994-2000

Harvard University, 1998

University of California at San Diego, 1989-1993

Ph.D., Near East and East Mediterranean Archaeology

Visiting Fellow

BA, Anthropological Archaeology, *Honors*

Employment History

The Alexandria Archive Institute

Executive Director

2007 – present

The Archaeological Research Facility, UC Berkeley

Program Associate

2018 – present

The Alexandria Archive Institute

Assistant Director

2001 – 2007

Harvard University, Expository Writing Program

Administrator

2001 – 2002

Harvard University, Zooarchaeology Laboratory

Research Assistant

2000 – 2001

Memberships and Service:

- Archaeological Institute of American: Digital Technology Committee (2017 – present)
- Society for American Archaeology: Publications Committee (2012 – 2017)
- American Society of Overseas Research: Committee for Archaeological Research and Policy (2011 – 2017); Committee on Publications (2013 – 2020)
- International Council for Archaeozoology (ICAZ): Website administrator (2006 – present); Executive Committee (2010 – 2023); Vice-President (2014 – 2018); President (2018 – 2023); International Committee (2020 – present)
- Series Editor, *Archaeobiology*, Lockwood Press (since 2012)
- Editorial Board, *Internet Archaeology* (since 2015)

Grants & Awards

- 2023 Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) National Leadership Grants for Libraries program grant for *Advancing FAIR+CARE Practices in Cultural Heritage* (\$699,475)
- 2022 National Endowment for the Humanities (Digital Humanities) for *Networking Archaeological Data and Communities* (\$240,312)
- 2022 National Science Foundation *FAIR Open Science* collaborative research grant (\$159,342)
- 2020 Andrew W. Mellon Foundation grant for *Data Literacy Program and Sustainability* (\$610,000)
- 2018 National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Infrastructure and Capacity-Building Challenge Grant (\$500,000 match)
- 2016 Archaeological Institute of America (AIA) *Award for Outstanding Work in Digital Archaeology*
- 2016 Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) National Leadership Grant for Libraries (\$249,920) for the project *Building a Gazetteer of Anthropocene North America*
- 2015 National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Research & Development Grant (\$299,112) for the project *Beyond Management: Data Curation as Scholarship in Archaeology*
- 2014 International Digital Curation Conference *Best Paper Prize* for the paper "Publishing and Pushing: Mixing Models for Communicating Research Data in Archaeology" (with E. Kansa and B. Arbuckle)
- 2014 J.M. Kaplan Fund (\$30,000) for research on integrating conservation and excavation data
- 2012 NEH Digital Humanities Implementation Grant (\$261,056) for the project *Applying Linked Open Data: Refining a Model of Data Sharing as Publication*
- 2012 The Encyclopedia of Life Computable Data Challenge prize (\$33,600) in support of the project *Exploring Biogeography of Early Domestic Animals using Linked Open Data*
- 2012 National Science Foundation Archaeology program (\$191,835) for the *Digital Index of North American Archaeology* (DINAA) project (with Univ. of Tennessee and Indiana University)
- 2011 The Alfred P. Sloan Foundation (\$109,850) for the development of data publication editorial processes
- 2011 NEH Digital Humanities Start Up Grant (\$49,850) for the project *The Gazetteer of the Ancient Near East*
- 2009 NEH Digital Humanities Start Up Grant (\$49,707) for the project *The Open Modern Art Collection of Iraq*
- 2008 NEH / IMLS, Advancing Knowledge: The IMLS/NEH Digital Partnership grant (\$250,609) for the project *Enhancing Humanities Research Productivity in a Collaborative Data Sharing Environment*.
- 2003-2007 The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation series of four grants to the Alexandria Archive Institute for operating costs (\$750,000)

Selected Editorial Work

- Advances in Archaeological Practice*, May 2018 special section “Beyond the Archive: Digital Data Reuse in Archaeology” (edited by **Sarah Witcher Kansa** and Eric Kansa)
- Ethnobiology Letters* 2015, vol. 6, no. 2: Special Issue “Digital Zooarchaeology” (edited by Iain McKechnie, **Sarah Witcher Kansa**, and Steve Wolverton)
- Archaeology 2.0: New Tools for Communication and Collaboration* (eds. Eric C. Kansa, **Sarah Witcher Kansa** and Ethan Watrall) Cotsen Institute of Archaeology Press, Cotsen Digital Archaeology Series. 2011.

Selected Publications

- Austin, Anne, Ixchel M. Faniel, Brittany Brannon, and **Sarah Witcher Kansa**. 2024. Improving the Usability of Archaeological Data through Written Guidelines. *Advances in Archaeological Practice*. 1-12. <https://doi.org/10.1017/aap.2023.38>
- Kansa, Sarah Witcher** and Eric C. Kansa. 2023. Putting the Horse Before the Cart: Timelines and Cadences in Archaeological Data Publishing. In *From Households to Empires: Papers in Memory of Bradley J. Parker*, edited by Patrick Mullins and Jason R. Kennedy. Sidestone Press: Leiden. Pp.299-314. <https://doi.org/10.59641/d38e92c5>
- Kansa, Sarah Witcher**. 2023. Butchery, Meat Distribution, and Ritual Dining in Etruscan Poggio Civitate (Murlo). In *Consumption, Ritual, Art, and Society. Interpretive Approaches and Recent Discoveries of Food and Drink in Etruria*, edited by Lisa Pieraccini and Laurel Taylor. Brepols: Turnhout, Belgium. Pp. 41-56.
- Nicholson, C., **Kansa, S.**, Gupta, N., and Fernandez, R. 2023. Will It Ever Be FAIR?: Making Archaeological Data Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable. *Advances in Archaeological Practice* 11(1): 63-75. <https://doi.org/10.1017/aap.2022.40>
- Kansa, Eric C. and **Sarah Witcher Kansa**. 2022. Promoting data quality and reuse in archaeology through collaborative identifier practices. *PNAS* 119(43):e2109313118. <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2109313118>
- Kansa, Sarah Witcher** and Anthony Tuck. 2022. “Where the Wild Things Are”: Etruscan Hunting and Trophy Display at Poggio Civitate (Murlo), Italy. *European Journal of Archaeology* 1-20. <https://doi.org/10.1017/eea.2022.28>
- Davies, Neil. John Deck, Eric Kansa, **Sarah Witcher Kansa**, John Kunze, Christopher Meyer, Thomas Orrell, Sarah Ramdeen, Rebecca Snyder, Dave Vieglais, Ramona L Walls, and Kerstin Lehnert. 2021. Internet of Samples (iSamples): Toward an interdisciplinary cyberinfrastructure for material samples. *GigaScience* 10(5):giab028. <https://doi.org/10.1093/gigascience/giab028>
- Kansa, Eric C. and **Sarah W. Kansa**. 2021. Digital Data and Data Literacy in Archaeology Now and in the New Decade. *Advances in Archaeological Practice* 9(1), 81-85. <https://doi.org/10.1017/aap.2020.55>
- Kansa, Eric C., **Sarah Witcher Kansa**, David G. Anderson, Joshua G. Wells, Kelsey Noack Myers, and Stephen J. Yerka. 2021. Access to Government Information and Inclusive Stewardship of North America's Archaeological Heritage. In *Digital Mapping and Indigenous America*, edited by Janet Berry Hess, New York, pp. 121-138. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9780429295546>
- Faniel, Ixchel, Anne Austin, **Sarah Witcher Kansa**, Eric Kansa, Jennifer Jacobs, and Phoebe France. 2021. Identifying Opportunities for Collective Curation During Archaeological Excavations. *International Journal of Digital Curation* 16(1). <https://doi.org/10.2218%2Fijdc.v16i1.742>
- Kansa, Eric and **Sarah W. Kansa**. 2021. Digital Data and Data Literacy in Archaeology Now and in the New Decade. *Advances in Archaeological Practice* 9(1): 81-85. <https://doi.org/10.1017/aap.2020.55>
- Kansa, Sarah Witcher**, Levent Atici, Richard H. Meadow, and Eric C. Kansa. 2020. Archaeological Analysis in the Information Age: Guidelines for Maximizing the Reach, Comprehensiveness, and Longevity of Data. *Advances in Archaeological Practice* 8(1): 40-52. <https://doi.org/10.1017/aap.2019.36>
- LeFebvre, Michelle J., Brenskelle, Laura, Wieczorek, John, **Kansa, Sarah Witcher**, Kansa, Eric C., Wallis, Neill J., King, Jessica N., Emery, Kitty F., and Guralnick, Robert. 2019. ZooArchNet: Connecting Zooarchaeological Specimens to The Biodiversity and Archaeology Data Networks. *PLoS ONE* 14(4):e0215369. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0215369>
- Kansa, Eric, **Sarah W. Kansa**, Joshua Wells, Stephen Yerka, Kelsey Myers, R. Carl DeMuth, Thaddeus Bissett, and David Anderson. 2018. The Digital Index of North American Archaeology: Networking government data to navigate an uncertain future for the past. *Antiquity*, 92(362): 490-506. <https://doi.org/10.15184/aqy.2018.32>
- Kansa, Sarah W.** and Eric C. Kansa. 2018 Data Beyond the Archive in Digital Archaeology. *Advances in Archaeological Practice* 6(2): 89-92. <https://doi.org/10.1017/aap.2018.7>

- Faniel, Ixchel, Anne Austin, **Sarah W. Kansa**, Eric C. Kansa, Jennifer Jacobs, Phoebe France, Ran Boytner, and Elizabeth Yakel. Beyond the Archive: Bridging Data Creation and Reuse in Archaeology. 2018. *Advances in Archaeological Practice* 6(2): 105-116. <https://doi.org/10.1017/aap.2018.2>
- Lau, Hannah and **Sarah W. Kansa**. 2018. Zooarchaeology in the era of big data: Contending with interanalyst variation and best practices for contextualizing data for informed reuse. *Journal of Archaeological Science* 95: 33-39. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jas.2018.03.011>
- Kansa, Sarah Whitcher** and Carrie Dennett. 2015. Exploring Open Access for SAA Publications. *The SAA Archaeological Record* 15 (2): 5-8.
- Kansa, Sarah W.** and Eric Kansa. 2014. Data Publishing and Archaeology's Information Ecosystem. *Near Eastern Archaeology* 77(3): 223-227.
- Kansa, Eric C., **Sarah W. Kansa**, and Benjamin Arbuckle. 2014. Publishing and Pushing: Mixing Models for Communicating Research Data in Archaeology. *International Journal of Digital Curation* 9(1):57-70.
- Kansa, Eric C. and **Sarah Whitcher Kansa**. 2013. We All Know That a 14 Is a Sheep: Data Publication and Professionalism in Archaeological Communication. *Journal of Eastern Mediterranean Archaeology and Heritage Studies* 1:88-98.
- Atici, Levent., **Sarah Whitcher Kansa**, Justin Lev-Tov, and Eric Kansa. 2012. Other People's Data: A Demonstration of the Imperative of Publishing Primary Data. *Journal of Archaeological Method and Theory* 1(3): 1-19.
- Kansa, Sarah Whitcher** and Francis Deblauwe. 2011. User-Generated Content in Zooarchaeology: Exploring the "Middle Space" of Scholarly Communication. In *Archaeology 2.0: New Tools for Communication and Collaboration*, edited by E.C. Kansa, **S.W. Kansa** & E. Watrall. Cotsen Institute of Archaeology Press: Los Angeles. Pp. 185-206.

Video Production

- Organizer and host (with Nicholas Tripcevich and Katie Fleming) for a 30-episode video series *Ask an Archaeologist*, co-sponsored by the Archaeological Research Facility and the Hearst Museum, UC Berkeley
- Informational animated video about Open Context (released in 2016; participated in full production process with InGage Digital Media): <https://opencontext.org/about/>
- Promotional video for The Alexandria Archive Institute (released in 2016; participated in full production process with InGage Digital Media): <https://alexandriarchive.org/>

Selected Presentations, Symposia, and Workshops

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| Nov 2023 | Webinar: Small identifiers with big impacts: examples from archaeological fieldwork (a Sampling Nature webinar) |
| Aug 2023 | Workshop (co-organizer): Networking Archaeological Data and Communities (NADAC), Berkeley, CA, August 23-27, 2024 |
| July-Aug 2022 | Program (co-organizer): The Archaeological Research Facility 2022 Field School, a six-week local archaeological field school for ten commuter students, fully supported by grants and donations from the ARF community. Co-organized with Christine Hastorf, Nicholas Tripcevich, Meredith Reifschneider, Kent Lightfoot, and Albert Gonzalez. |
| June 2022 | Presentation: Avoiding Data "Dead Ends" In Zooarchaeology. International Council for Archaeozoology, International Committee Symposium, Stockholm, Sweden |
| July 2020 | Presentation: Sustaining Open Data: Lessons from Open Context, Human Origins – Digital Future Symposium (ROEECH Research Center, virtual) |
| 2019 – 2021 | Forum (organizer, with Charles E. Jones): Annual session on <i>Best Practices for Digital Scholarship</i> at the American Society of Overseas Research (ASOR) |
| Oct 2020 | Webinar: Designing, Timing, and Determining the Feasibility of Curatorial Interventions to Support Data Reuse (an OCLC Works in Progress Research Webinar)
https://www.oclc.org/research/events/2019/103119-designing-timing-determining-curatorial-interventions-data-reuse.html |
| Sept 2020 | Open Context Project #3: Lessons in Building Open Data from a Multi-Year Excavation Project (presented at the UCLA Cotsen Institute of Archaeology symposium honoring Elizabeth Carter) |
| Aug 8-10, 2019 | Workshop (organizer): Digital Index of North American Archaeology (DINAA), Berkeley, CA |
| 2015 – 2019 | Organized and manned an exhibit hall booth for the Digital Index of North American Archaeology project and Open Context at the annual Society for American Archaeology (SAA) conference |

Oct 2018 Overcoming Specialist Silos: Lessons from Zooarchaeology on Data Creation, Access, and Reuse (Brownbag talk at the Archaeological Research Facility, UC Berkeley)

April 2018 Forum (organizer): Making Archaeology FAIR. SAA conference, Washington DC.

April 2017 Forum (organizer): Beyond Data Management: A Conversation about "Digital Data Realities". SAA conference, Vancouver, Canada.

Apr 2016 Presentation: Questioning Data Standards in Zooarchaeology. SAA conference, Orlando, FL

Apr 2015 Forum (organizer): Evaluating and Rewarding 21st Century Archaeological Scholarship. SAA conference, San Francisco, CA

Sep 2014 Roundtable (organizer): Digital Data: Collection, Organization, and Dissemination. International Council for Archaeozoology, San Rafael, Argentina

Sep 2014 Presentation: Data as Professional Practice in Zooarchaeology. International Council for Archaeozoology, San Rafael, Argentina

Apr 2014 Presentation: Documenting and Disseminating Zooarchaeological Data in the Digital Age. Co-authored with L. Atici, R. Meadow, and E. Kansa. SAA conference, Austin, TX

Apr 2014 Forum (panelist): Publishing Archaeology in the 21st Century. SAA conference, Austin, TX

Nov 2013 Presentation: "Big Data" and Collaborative Research in Zooarchaeology. Co-authored with B. Arbuckle. American Schools of Oriental Research, Baltimore, MD

Mar 2012 Presentation: Data Sharing as Publication, Establishing Editorial Policies and Workflows around Archaeological Data Dissemination. SAA conference, Memphis, TN

Nov 2011 Forum (organizer, with C.E. Jones and E. Kansa): Topics in Cyberinfrastructure, Digital Humanities, and Near Eastern Archaeology. American Schools of Oriental Research, SF, CA

Apr 2011 Forum (moderator): Planning for Archaeological Digital Data Management: Addressing the New NSF Requirement. SAA conference, Sacramento, CA