

# Cheng LIU (刘成)

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Department of Anthropology, Emory University

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## Education

- 2019-pres. Ph.D., Anthropology & [Certificate in Mind, Brain, and Culture](#), **Emory University**
- 2019-2022 M.A., Anthropology, **Emory University**
- 2016-2019 Master student, [The Asian Sphere: Trans Cultural Flows Special Program](#), **The Hebrew University of Jerusalem & University of Haifa**
- 2016-2019 M.A., Archaeology, **University of Haifa**
- 2013-2014 Exchange student, **Shandong University**
- 2012-2016 B.A., Archaeology, **Wuhan University**

## Academic Appointments

- 2024 Global Fellow, Senckenberg Centre for Human Evolution and Palaeoenvironment, **Eberhard Karls University of Tübingen & Leibniz Association**
- 2023 JSPS International Research Fellow, The University Museum, **University of Tokyo**

## Fellowships, Grants, & Awards

### External Sources

- 2025 [William S. Pollitzer Student Travel Award](#), American Association of Biological Anthropologists
- 2024 [IEEE CIS Conference Participation and Travel Grant](#), IEEE Computational Intelligence Society
- 2024 [Global Fellowship](#), Senckenberg Society for Nature Research
- 2023 [H. Russell Bernard Graduate Student Paper Prize](#), Society for Anthropological Sciences
- 2023 [Student Diversity Travel Grant](#), Archaeology Division of the American Anthropological Association
- 2023 [Andrew Sherratt Fund](#), University of Sheffield
- 2023-2024 [Owen Aldis Award](#), International Society for Human Ethology
- 2023 [International Fellowship for Research in Japan \(Short-term\)](#), Japan Society for the Promotion of Science
- 2022-2023 [Research Grant](#), The Leakey Foundation
- 2022 [HRAF Summer Institute Fellowship](#), National Science Foundation
- 2021 [Diverse Intelligence Summer Institute Fellowship](#), Templeton World Charity Foundation
- 2017 Chinese Student Scholarship, Israel-China Friendship Society

### Internal Sources

- 2024-2025 [SIRE Fellowship for Graduate Students in the Humanities and Social Sciences](#), Emory University
- 2024 [LGS Outstanding Scholarly Research Award](#), Emory University
- 2024 [Pedagogy Mini-grant](#), Emory University
- 2023-2024 [Graduate Community of Digital Scholars Fellowship](#), Emory University
- 2023 Laney Graduate Student Council Travel Grant, Emory University
- 2022-2025 [CMBC Graduate Certificate Program Grants](#), Emory University
- 2022-2024 [Professional Development Support Funds](#), Emory University
- 2021 [The Halle Institute Graduate Global Research Fellowship](#), Emory University

2019-2024	<a href="#">George W. Woodruff Fellowship</a> , Emory University
2018	M.A. Scholarship for Excellence in Studies, University of Haifa
2018	M.A. Conference Participation Grant, University of Haifa
2016-2018	M.A. Scholarship, The Asian Sphere Program
2016-2019	Research Encouragement Scholarship, University of Haifa

## Publications

Note: \*Correspondence, Student mentees

### Peer-reviewed Articles

- 2024 [12] [Liu, C.\\* Variation matters: Expanding the scope of experimental archaeology. \*Advances in Archaeological Practice\*. \(Accepted\). doi:10.1017/aap.2024.30](#)
- 2024 [11] [Liu, C.\\*](#), Yan, X., Zhang, Z., Ding, C., Zhao, T., [Jannati, S.](#), [Martinez, C.](#), & Stout, D. [Human Stone Toolmaking Action Grammar \(HSTAG\): A Challenging Benchmark for Fine-grained Motor Behavior Recognition](#). *2024 IEEE 11th International Conference on Data Science and Advanced Analytics (DSAA)*. doi: 10.1109/DSAA61799.2024.10722814
- 2023 [10] [Liu, C.\\*](#), Kreisheh, N., Stout, D., & Pargeter, J. [Differential effects of knapping skill acquisition on the cultural reproduction of Late Acheulean handaxe morphology: Archaeological and experimental insights](#). *Journal of Archaeological Science: Reports*, 49, 103974.
- 2023 [9] Wilson, E., Stout, D., [Liu, C.](#), Kilgore, M. B., & Pargeter, J. [Skill and core uniformity: An experiment with Oldowan-like flaking systems](#). *Lithic Technology*, 48(4), 333-346.
- 2022 [8] Pargeter, J., [Liu, C.](#), Kilgore, M. B., Majoe, A., & Stout, D. [Testing the effect of learning conditions and individual motor/cognitive differences on knapping skill acquisition](#). *Journal of Archaeological Method and Theory*, 30, 127-171.
- 2022 [7] [Liu, C.\\*](#), & Stout, D. [Inferring cultural reproduction from lithic data: A critical review](#). *Evolutionary Anthropology: Issues, News, and Reviews*, 32, 83-99.
- 2021 [6] [Liu, C.\\*](#) [A cathedral with disconnected chapels? Reassessing the cognitive capacities of Neanderthals in light of recent archaeological discoveries](#). *Journal of Cognition and Culture*, 21(3-4), 243-260.
- 2020 [5] Rosenberg, D., Pinsky, S., Shooval, T., Tzin, B., Reshef, H., [Liu, C.](#), Ktalav, I., & Chasan, R. [Lost and found: 66B, a Late Chalcolithic site in the northern Negev, Israel and its material culture](#). *Mitekufat Haeven: Journal of the Israel Prehistoric Society*, 50, 104-137.
- 2020 [4] [Liu, C.\\*](#), Shimelmitz, R., Friesem, D., Yeshurun, R., & Nadel, D. [Diachronic trends in occupation intensity of the Epipaleolithic site of Neve David \(Mount Carmel, Israel\): A lithic perspective](#). *Journal of Anthropological Archaeology*, 60, 101223.
- 2020 [3] Groman-Yaroslavski, I., Chen, H., [Liu, C.](#), Shimelmitz, R., Yeshurun, R., Liu, J., Yang, X., & Nadel, D. [Versatile use of microliths as a technological advantage in the miniaturization of Late Pleistocene toolkits: The case study of Neve David, Israel](#). *PLoS ONE*, 15(6), e0233340.
- 2019 [2] Shimelmitz, R., [Liu, C.](#), Seymore, M., Gershtein, E. C., Gershtein, K. C., Katina, A., Shtober-Zisu, N., & Nadel, D. [Nahal Shelef: A Holocene quarry and workshop site in the Menashe Hills, Israel](#). *Mitekufat Haeven: Journal of the Israel Prehistoric Society*, 49, 137-151.
- 2015 [1] He, Y., Jin, G., Zhang, B., [Liu, C.](#), Xu, S., Chen, S., Yi, H., & Jiang, F. [Investigation on the modern environment and resources at Bianbiandong site \(扁扁洞遗址现代环境与资源调查报告\)](#). *Eastern Archaeology (东方考古)*, 12, 361-368. (In Chinese with English abstract)

### Editor-reviewed Articles

- 2025 [2] [Liu, C.\\*](#), & Stout, D. [Beyond the binary: Inferential challenges and solutions in cognitive archaeology](#). *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*. 48, e13.
- 2024 [1] Nishiaki, Y., & [Liu, C.](#) [An interview with Professor Yoshihiro Nishiaki \(西秋良宏教授访谈录\)](#). *Cultural Relics in Southern China (南方文物)*. 143, 34-43. (In Chinese with English abstract)

## Translations

- 2015 [1] Erdmann, K. D. *Toward a global community of historians: The International Historical Congresses and the International Committee of Historical Sciences 1898-2000* (国际历史科学大会百年历程: 1898-2000). Chapter 11, 16 translated by Liu, C., pp. 201-223, 334-348. Beijing: China Social Science Press. (In Chinese)

## Theses

- 2019 [2] Liu, C. *From lithic production to settlement dynamics: The case study of Neve David, a Middle Epipaleolithic site at Mt. Carmel, Israel*. M.A. Thesis, University of Haifa, Israel. Advisors: Dani Nadel and Ron Shimelmitz.
- 2016 [1] Liu, C. *A preliminary study on the mobility of hunter-gatherers in South China during the Pleistocene-Holocene transition*. B.A. Thesis, Wuhan University, China. Advisor: Yinghua Li (In Chinese)

## Scholarly Presentations

### Invited Talks

- 2024 [5] Liu, C. “*Homo faber* in the making: Ethnographic and experimental insights into human toolmaking skill acquisition.” Center for Archaeological Science, Sichuan University, China, December 3.
- 2024 [4] Liu, C. “Toolmaking skill acquisition in non-industrial societies: A cross-cultural perspective.” Institute of Culture and Heritage, Northwestern Polytechnical University, China, November 28. (Virtual)
- 2024 [3] Liu, C. “How do people in non-industrial societies learn to make tools?” *Kolloquium Ältere Urgeschichte*, Department of Early Prehistory and Quaternary Ecology, Eberhard Karls University of Tübingen, July 4.
- 2023 [2] Liu, C. “Investigating biases in the cultural reproduction of lithic technologies: From Oldowan to Acheulean.” The University Museum, University of Tokyo, May 10.
- 2023 [1] Liu, C. “Inferring cultural reproduction from stone artifacts: Theoretical reflections and experimental insights.” Nagoya University Museum, Nagoya University, April 27.

### Conference Presentations

- 2025 [8] Liu, C. *Towards a computational ethology of stone toolmaking: Preliminary insights from HSTAG. The 94th Annual Meeting of the American Association of Biological Anthropologists*, Baltimore, MD, USA (Poster accepted)
- 2024 [7] Liu, C., Yan, X., Zhang, Z., Ding, C., Zhao, T., Jannati, S., Martinez, C., & Stout, D. *Human Stone Toolmaking Action Grammar (HSTAG): A Challenging Benchmark for Fine-grained Motor Behavior Recognition. The 11th IEEE International Conference on Data Science and Advanced Analytics*, San Diego, CA, USA (Podium)
- 2023 [6] Liu, C. “A cross-cultural analysis of toolmaking skill acquisition in non-industrial societies.” *The 2023 AAA/CASCA Annual Meeting*, Toronto, Canada. (Podium)
- 2023 [5] Liu, C., Kreisheh, N., Stout, D., & Pargeter, J. “Detecting skill level and mental template in Late Acheulean biface morphology: Archaeological and experimental insights.” *Society for American Archaeology 88th Annual Meeting*, Portland, OR, USA. (Podium)
- 2022 [4] Liu, C., Rogers, M., & Semaw, S. “A first look at the LSA lithic assemblage of KLT-1 (Gona, Ethiopia).” *Paleoanthropology Society 2022 Annual Meeting*, Denver, CO, USA. (Poster)
- 2018 [3] Liu, C., Shimelmitz, R., Yeshurun, R., & Nadel, D. “Reconstructing settlement dynamics in the Geometric Kebaran site of Neve David: A lithic perspective.” *Israel Prehistoric Society 2018 Annual Conference*, Jerusalem. (Podium)
- 2018 [2] Liu, C., Shimelmitz, R., Yeshurun, R., & Nadel, D. “Diachronic trends in occupation intensity of the Epipaleolithic site of Neve David (Mount Carmel, Israel).” *XVIIIe Congrès de l’UISPP*, Paris, France. (Poster)

- 2018 [1] Liu, C. “No man is an island: Reconstructing the population dynamics and maritime connectivity of Cyprus during the Pleistocene-Holocene transition.” *CROSSDEM 2018: Cross-Disciplinary Approaches to Prehistoric Demography*, Tarragona, Spain. (Podium)

## Field/Research Experience

- 2023 **Sefunim**, Middle Paleolithic-Epipaleolithic, Israel (Lithic analysis)
- 2021 **Gona (KLT-1M)**, Later Stone Age, Ethiopia (Lithic analysis)
- 2017-2018 **Skhul Terrace**, Middle Paleolithic, Israel (Excavation)
- 2017 **Tel Tsaf**, Chalcolithic, Israel (Excavation)
- 2017 **Tabun Cave**, Lower-Middle Paleolithic, Israel (Excavation)
- 2017 **el-Wad Terrace**, Epipaleolithic, Israel (Excavation)
- 2017 **66B**, Chalcolithic, Israel (Lithic analysis)
- 2016-2018 **Neve David**, Epipaleolithic-Neolithic, Israel (Excavation; Lithic analysis)
- 2016-2017 **Nahal Shelef**, Neolithic-Chalcolithic, Israel (Survey; Lithic analysis)
- 2016 **Shibei Han Tombs** (狮北汉墓), 2nd century BC-3rd century AD, China (Artifact accessioning)
- 2015 **Wulanmulun Loc. 2** (乌兰木伦第二地点), Middle Paleolithic, China (Excavation)
- 2014-2015 **Taijiashi** (台家寺), Bronze Age, China (Excavation)
- 2014 **Nanchengzi** (南城孜), Neolithic, China (Artifact refitting and accessioning)
- 2014 **Bianbiandong** (扁扁洞), Early Neolithic, China (Ethnoarchaeological survey)
- 2014 **Zhoujiadian Lock** (周家店闸), 14th-20th centuries, China (Survey)
- 2013 **Weitouhe Kiln Site** (渭头河窑址), 19th-20th centuries, China (Survey)
- 2013 **Xujiacun** (徐家村), 18th-20th centuries, China (Survey)
- 2013 **Tuojiazhou** (庾家洲), Neolithic, China (Artifact accessioning)

## Teaching Experience

### Emory University

- Spring 2025 IDS 220RW: What Does it Mean to be Human?, Co-instructor of Record (Scheduled)
- Spring 2025 SIRE 299R: SIRE Research Partner Program, Instructor of Record (Scheduled)
- Fall 2024 SIRE 299R: SIRE Research Partner Program, Instructor of Record
- Spring 2024 ANT 204: Introduction to Archaeology, Instructor of Record
- Spring 2023 ANT 304W: Paleolithic Archaeology, Guest Lecturer
- Fall 2021 ANT 204: Introduction to Archaeology, Guest Lecturer
- Spring 2021 ANT 285: Concepts and Methods in Biological Anthropology, Teaching Assistant (Virtual)
- Fall 2020 ANT 204: Introduction to Archaeology, Teaching Assistant (Virtual)
- Spring 2020 ANT 385: Foraging to Food Production, Guest Lecturer
- Spring 2020 ANT/BIOL 315: Ancient DNA and Human Evolution, Teaching Assistant

## Institutional Service

### Emory University

- 2023-2024 Honorary Degrees Committee, University Senate
- 2021-2022 Teaching Roundtable Committee, Department of Anthropology
- 2020-2021 Colloquium Committee, Department of Anthropology

## Professional Service

### Editorial Work

2025- Copyeditor, *Bulletin of the History of Archaeology*

### Manuscript Referee

2021- *Mitekufat Haeven: Journal of the Israel Prehistoric Society* • *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences* • *Peer Community In Archaeology* • *Lithic Technology* (×2) • *Evolutionary Anthropology: Issues, News, and Reviews*

### Conference Organization

2023 Chair, Symposium “*Experiential learning, experimental archaeologies*”, SAA 2023, Portland, OR, USA

## Professional Memberships

2024- International Society for Human Ethology  
2024- American Association of Biological Anthropologists  
2024- IEEE Computational Intelligence Society  
2023- Society for Anthropological Sciences  
2023- American Anthropological Association  
2022- Society for American Archaeology  
2022- Paleoanthropology Society  
2018- International Union of Prehistoric and Protohistoric Sciences  
2016- Israel Prehistoric Society

## Additional Training

2022 [HRAF Summer Institute for Cross-Cultural Anthropological Research](#), Yale University  
2021 [Applied Point Pattern Analysis in Archaeology Summer School](#), University of Kiel (Online)  
2021 [Empowering Interdisciplinary Teaching and Scholarship Graduate Workshop](#), Emory University (Online)  
2020 CommSciPaleo 2020 (Science Communication in Paleoanthropology), Perot Museum of Nature and Science  
2019 [Certification for Human Subject Research \(Social/Behavioral Focus\)](#), Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative [Expiry date: 12/29/2025]  
2018 [International Winter School of Agent-based Modeling of Social-ecological System](#), Arizona State University  
2015 JLU-SFU Human Osteoarcheology Summer School, Jilin University/Simon Fraser University  
2015 Archaeological ArcGIS Workshop, Gansu Provincial Institute of Archaeology/Harvard University

## Public Outreach

2020 Tabletop outreach, Perot Museum of Nature and Science, Dallas, TX, USA  
2012-2013 Museum docent, Changsha Jiandu Museum, Changsha, China

## Media Coverage

2020 [How did ancient people in the Carmel cut their steaks 20,000 years ago?](#) The Jerusalem Post

## Relevant Skills

### **Software**

LaTeX, Git, ArcGIS Pro, Artec Studio, AutoCAD, Photoshop

### **Programming Languages**

Proficient in: R

Familiar with: NetLogo, Python

### **Natural Languages**

Mandarin/Hunanese (native), English (fluent), French (basic competence in reading)