

Rebecca Rogers Ackermann

curriculum vitae

contact details

Department of Archaeology
University of Cape Town
Private Bag
Rondebosch 7701
South Africa

department +27.21.650.2356
dept fax +27.21.650.2352
home +27.21.423.8304
becky.ackermann@uct.ac.za
www.stillevolving.com

research interests

Evolutionary Process and Theory ❖ Hybridization ❖ Genetic Drift ❖ Anthropoid Variation & Integration
❖ Hominin Craniofacial Development & Morphology ❖ Mammalian Models ❖ Decolonisation

education

- Washington University in St Louis** 1994-1998
Ph.D. Anthropology (Biological)
Thesis: *A Quantitative Assessment of Variability in the Australopithecine, Human, Chimpanzee, and Gorilla Face.*
Supervisor: Richard J. Smith.
Committee: Jim Cheverud, Glenn Conroy, Charles Hildebolt, Alan Templeton.
- University of Arizona** 1991-1994
M.A. Anthropology (Biological/Forensic)
Thesis: *From Calipers to Computers: Three-Dimensional Imaging in Forensic Anthropology.*
Committee: Walter Birkby, William Stini, Steve Zegura.
- The University of Chicago** 1987-1991
A.B. Anthropology (Biological)

academic positions

- Professor** 2018-present
University of Cape Town, Department of Archaeology, Faculty of Science, South Africa.
- Co-Director, Human Evolution Research Institute (HERI)** 2022-present
University of Cape Town, South Africa.
- Deputy Dean: Transformation** 2019-2021
Faculty of Science, University of Cape Town, South Africa.
- Deputy Director, Human Evolution Research Institute (HERI)** 2020-2021
University of Cape Town, South Africa.
- Director, Human Evolution Research Institute (HERI)** 2016-2019
University of Cape Town, South Africa.
- Associate Professor** 2008-2017
University of Cape Town, Department of Archaeology, Faculty of Science, South Africa.
- Senior Lecturer** 2004-2007
University of Cape Town, Department of Archaeology, Faculty of Science, South Africa.
- Lecturer** 2000-2003

University of Cape Town, Department of Archaeology, Faculty of Science, South Africa.

Postdoctoral Research Associate	1998-2000
Washington University School of Medicine, Dept of Anatomy and Neurobiology, St. Louis, Missouri.	
Lecturer (summer sessions)	1996-1997
Washington University, Department of Anthropology, St. Louis, Missouri.	
Lecturer (Anatomy for Artists)	1999
Webster University, College of Fine Arts, St. Louis, Missouri.	
Laboratory Instructor (Gross Anatomy)	1996
Washington University Medical Center, Physical Therapy Program, St. Louis, Missouri.	

honours and awards

National Research Foundation Rating: B2, Internationally acclaimed researcher	2025-2030
UCT Creative Works Award , for Iziko SA Museum exhibit HUMANITY	2024
Inspiring Fifty South Africa	2021
Research Fellow , University of Tubingen	March 2021
The Raymond Dart Lecture (Griffith University)	2020
Mail & Guardian Women Changing South Africa: STEMI	2019
Visiting Fellow , University of Tubingen	Oct 2018
National Research Foundation Rating: B2, Internationally acclaimed researcher	2011-2016, 2017-2022
Distinguished Teacher Award , University of Cape Town	2006
Africa Human Genome Initiative Darwin Lecture	2005
National Research Foundation Rating: C1, Established researcher	2005-2010
Keynote Lecture 2005 SASOL Science Festival , Grahamstown	2005
J. Lawrence Angel Award , National Academy of Forensic Sciences	1995
Maroon Key Society & Dean's List , University of Chicago	1989-1991
Washington University Dean's Summer Fellowship	1995
Mr. and Mrs. Spencer T. Olin Fellowship (Wash U)	1994-1998
University of Arizona Graduate Registration Fellowship	1991-1994
Thomas J. Watson Memorial Scholarship (IBM; U Chicago)	1987-1991

grant funding

Wenner-Gren Foundation Global Initiatives Grant	2026-2027
<i>Capacity Building and Network Expansion for the Pan-African Consortium for Human Evolution (PANACHE) Training Network.</i> (\$20,000; co-PI)	
National Research Foundation, African Origins Platform	2025-2027
<i>Understanding African hominin variation.</i> (R1,300,000; Grant no. AOP240509218040)	
Wenner-Gren Foundation Conference and Workshop Grant	2025

- Theorising a More Socially Responsive Practice in African Palaeoanthropology.* (\$20,000; PI. L Schroeder Co-PI)
- Wenner-Gren Foundation Global Initiatives Grant** 2024-2025
Building capacity in Africa through the formation of the Pan-African Consortium for Human Evolution (PANACHE) Training Network. (\$20,000; PI; Grant no. GIG-26)
- UEC Equipment Grant** 2024
Biological Safety Cabinet Class II. (R135 420; PI)
- National Research Foundation, African Origins Platform** 2022-2024
Pattern and process in human evolution. (R1,439,000; PI; Grant no. 136512)
- European Research Council Advanced Grant** 2022-2026
BACKWARD: Overcoming the frontiers of biomolecular studies on human history and adaptation using palaeoproteomics (€2.5 million; PI E Cappellini; Collaborators RR Ackermann, J Cox, F Demeter, O Kullmer, J Olsen, F Racimo, F Schrenk, L Schroeder, W Wang, E Willerslev, C Zanolli).
- National Geographic Society** 2020-2021
Further exploration of newly discovered Pleistocene hominid-bearing deposits in Ethiopia (\$50 000; PI Y Sahle; Collaborators RR Ackermann & Y Beyene). Award #NGS-73721R-20
- PUSH Marie Sklodowska-Curie European Training Network** 2020-2024
Palaeoproteomics to Unleash the Study of Human History. (International doctoral training funding; PI E Cappellini; UCT/Ackermann Associated network partner)
- Advancing Womxn: Womxn by womxn** 2019-2023
The next great South African palaeoanthropologist: where is she? (R3,750,000; PI R Pickering, Co-PIs RR Ackermann, J Wilkins)
- National Research Foundation, African Origins Platform** 2019-2021
Gene flow and drift in human evolution. (R1,935,000; PI)
- National Research Foundation, Human and Social Dynamics Call** 2018-2020
Connecting cultural identities through oral histories and genetics. (R858,000; Collaborator; PI Dr Wendy Black)
- Centre of Excellence, Evolutionary Studies Institute, University of the Witwatersrand** 2018
New mammal models for hybridization in human evolution. (R60,000; PI)
- National Science Foundation (USA), Research grant** 2017-2020
Morphological consequences of hybridization in primate and human evolution: a macaque model. (\$387,556; PI T Weaver; Co-PIs RR Ackermann, L Hlusko, D Katz, S Kanthaswamy). Award# 1720128
- Centre of Excellence, Evolutionary Studies Institute, University of the Witwatersrand** 2017
Investigating the relative roles various evolutionary processes (e.g. drift, selection, gene flow) played in shaping human evolution. (R80,000; PI)
- National Science Foundation (USA), RAPID funding** 2016
Morphological consequences of admixture in human and non-human primates. (\$50,000; PI T Weaver; Co-PIs RR Ackermann, S Kanthaswamy)
- The Leakey Foundation, General grant** 2016
Morphological consequences of admixture in human and non-human primates. (\$25,000; PI D Katz; Co-PIs: RR Ackermann, S Kanthaswamy, T Weaver)
- Centre of Excellence, Evolutionary Studies Institute, University of the Witwatersrand** 2016
Evolutionary processes shaping the phenotype in human evolution. (R50,000; PI)
- National Research Foundation, Competitive Funding for Rated Researchers** 2015-2017
Hybrid models for human evolution. (R1,351,000; PI)
- Centre of Excellence, Evolutionary Studies Institute, University of the Witwatersrand** 2015
Non-adaptive processes shaping human evolution. (R77,350; PI)

Palaeontological Scientific Trust (PAST) <i>Investigation of hybridization in Krapina Neanderthals: International visit.</i> (R45,744; PI)	2015
University of Cape Town Research Committee Block Grant (R9190)	2015
Centre of Excellence, Evolutionary Studies Institute, University of the Witwatersrand <i>Using mouse models to assess the phenotypic effects of hybridization.</i> (R60,000; PI)	2014
University of Cape Town Research Committee Travel Grant (R13,404) and Block Grant (R3634)	2014
National Research Foundation, African Origins Platform <i>Investigating the hybrid phenotype.</i> (R960,432; PI)	2013-2015
University of Cape Town Research Committee Block Grant (R6409)	2013
National Research Foundation, Competitive Funding for Rated Researchers <i>Investigating the hybrid phenotype.</i> (R940,000; PI)	2012-2014
University of Cape Town Research Committee Block Grant (R6567)	2012
National Research Foundation, Incentive Funding for Rated Researchers Support of research (R480,000; PI)	2011-2016
University of Cape Town Research Committee Travel Grant (R20,434) and Block Grant (R7953)	2011
National Lottery Funding <i>Infrastructure development at the West Coast Fossil Park.</i> Granted to the WCFP Trust. (R67,000,000)	2010-2012
University of Cape Town Research Committee Block Grant (R8447)	2010
Centre for Higher Education Technology (UCT) Teaching with Technology Grant (R20,000)	2010
National Research Foundation, Incentive Funding for Rated Researchers Support of research (R80,000; PI)	2009-2010
University of Cape Town Research Committee Travel Grant (R27,000) and Block Grant (R8097)	2009
National Research Foundation, African Origins Platform <i>Maximising the research, educational and tourism potential of the West Coast Fossil Park (Langebaanweg).</i> (R2,700,000; PI: R Smith; Co-PI: RR Ackermann)	2008-2010
University of Cape Town Research Committee Block Grant (R10,427)	2008
University of Cape Town Research Committee Travel Grant (R17,000) and Block Grant (R8007)	2007
National Research Foundation, Team Grant <i>Human evolution, diets and environments.</i> (R3,047,172; PI: J Sealy; Co-PIs RR Ackermann, N vd Merwe)	2006-2009
University of Cape Town Research Committee Block Grant (R6465)	2006
National Research Foundation, Team Grant <i>Human evolution, diets and environments.</i> (R596,793; PI: J Lee-Thorp, Co-PIs RR Ackermann, J Sealy, N vd Merwe)	2005

National Research Foundation International Science Liaison Grant (R20,000; PI)	2005
University of Cape Town Research Committee Travel Grant (R18,000) and Block Grant (R7632)	2005
University of Cape Town Research Committee Travel Grant (R8000)	2004
National Research Foundation, Team Grant (R1,248,000; PI: J Lee-Thorp; Co-PIs RR Ackermann, J Sealy, N vd Merwe)	2003-2004
University of Cape Town Research Committee Team Block Grant (R56,000)	2003
National Research Foundation, Team Grant (R456,000; PI: J Sealy; Co-PIs RR Ackermann, J Lee-Thorp, N vd Merwe)	2002
University of Cape Town Research Committee Travel Grant (R15,000) and Team Block Grant (R34,000)	2002
National Science Foundation Dissertation Improvement Grant (\$11,750; Supervisor/grantee RJ Smith)	1996
L.S.B. Leakey Foundation Grant (\$7520; PI)	1996
Sigma Xi Grant-in-Aid of Research (\$2000; PI)	1996

publications (* designates postgraduates)

Orcid ID: 0000-0001-8757-6878

- 2026 Madupe PP, AJ Taurozzi, C Koenig, I Patramanis, F Munir, MR Dickinson, M Mackie, G Troché, G Parker, P Kyriakidou, P Mahoney, G McFarlane, B Zipfel, J Cox, K Penkman, L Schroeder, **RR Ackermann**, JV Olsen, J Hawks, L Berger, E Cappellini. Enamel proteomic analysis of 20 *Homo naledi* individuals show no male markers. *Cell*.
- 2026 Hlazo N*, L Schroeder, T Ritzman, **RR Ackermann**. The role of selection in shaping the craniomandibular morphology of *Paranthropus*. In: Wood, B., Constantino, P., Reed, K. (Eds.) *Paranthropus: the forgotten lineage*. Springer.
- 2026 Schroeder L, Y Sahle, S Athreya, **RR Ackermann**. Narratives of “other” in the emergence of the genus *Homo*. In: Alterity and Human Evolution: Deep Time and Multispecies Perspectives on Difference and Variation. O Moro-Abadia and M Porr, eds. Berghahn.
- 2025 Madupe P*, C Koenig, I Patramanis, PL Ruther, N Hlazo*, M Mackie, M Tawane, J Krueger, A Taurozzi, G Troche, J Kibii, R Pickering, M Dickenson, Y Sahle, D Kgotleng, C Musiba, F Manthi, L Bell, M DuPlessis, C Gilbert, B Zipfel, LFK Kuderna, E Lizano, F Welker, P Kyriakidou, J Cox, C Mollereau, C Tokarski, J Blackburn, JR Madrigal, T Marques-Bonet, K Penkman, C Zanolli, L Schroeder, F Racimo, JV Olsen, **RR Ackermann**, E Cappellini. Enamel proteins reveal biological sex and genetic variability in southern African *Paranthropus*. *Science*. Vol 388, Issue 6750, pp. 969-973. *BioRxiv* preprint: <https://doi.org/10.1101/2023.07.03.547326>

- 2025 Buck LT, DC Katz, **RR Ackermann**, L Hlusko, S Kanthaswamy, TD Weaver. A macaque model for the effects of hybridization on body size. *American J Biological Anth* 186:e25062.
- 2025 Schroeder L, P Madison, **RR Ackermann**. Why heads matter in palaeoanthropology: the impacts and consequences of collecting skulls. *South African J Science* 121 (1/2).
- 2025 **Ackermann RR**, K Molopyane, S Athreya. Unpacking the “explorer” narrative and its impacts in African palaeoanthropology. *South African J Science* 121 (1/2).
- 2025 **Ackermann RR**, R Pickering, Y Sahle, L Schroeder. Taung Child then and now: commemorating its centenary in a postcolonial age. *South African J Science* 121 (1/2).
- 2025 Madupe PP*, F Munir, M Dickinson, AJ Taurozzi, M Mackie, M Tawane, C Mollereau, N Hlazo, K Penkman, L Schroeder, C Zanolli, JV Olsen, **RR Ackermann**, E Cappellini. Results from an *Australopithecus africanus* dental enamel fragment confirm the potential of palaeoproteomics for South African Plio-Pleistocene fossil sites. *South African J Science* 121 (1/2).
- 2025 **Ackermann RR**, S Athreya, W Black, R Humphreys, R Pickering, Y Sahle, L Schroeder. Paleoanthropology: decolonizing and building for the future. *The International Encyclopedia of Anthropology*. P 1-9. DOI: 10.1002/9781118924396.wbiea2549
- 2024 **Ackermann RR**. Neocolonialism and paleoanthropology: reflections on privilege, practice and safety. In: *The Routledge Handbook of Feminist Anthropology*, PL Geller, ed. P. 45-56.
- 2024 Malukiewicz J, K Warren*, V Boere, ILC Bandeira, NHA Curi, FT das Dores, LS Fitorra, HR Furuya, CS Igayara, L Milanelo, SB Moreira, CV Molina, MS Nardi, P Nicola, M Passamani, VS Pedro, LCM Pereira, B Petri, A Pissinatti, AA Quirino, J Rogers, CR Ruiz-Miranda, DL Silva, IO Silva, MOM Silva, JL Summa, **RR Ackermann**. Pelage variation and morphometrics of closely related *Callithrix* marmoset species and their hybrids. *BMC Ecology and Evolution*, Vol 24, article #122.
- 2023 **Ackermann RR** and W Black. Evolution revolution: how a Cape Town museum exhibit is rewriting the story of humankind. *The Conversation*. October 18. <https://theconversation.com/evolution-revolution-how-a-cape-town-museum-exhibit-is-rewriting-the-story-of-humankind-214788>
- 2023 Athreya S and **Ackermann RR**. Response to: N Lavi, A Rudge and G Warren, “Rewild your inner hunter-gatherer: how an idea about our ancestral condition is recruited into popular debate in Britain and Ireland” *Current Anthropology*.
- 2023 Schroeder L and **RR Ackermann**. Moving beyond the adaptationist paradigm for human evolution, and why it matters. *Journal of Human Evolution*. Special Virtual Anniversary Edition. Vol 174: 103296.
- 2022 Harvati K and **RR Ackermann**. Merging morphological and genetic evidence to assess hybridization in Eurasian Late Pleistocene hominins. *Nature Ecology and Evolution* 6(10):1573-1585. doi: 10.1038/s41559-022-01875-z.
- 2022 Schroeder L, S Elton, **RR Ackermann**. Skull variation in Afro-Eurasian monkeys results from both adaptive and non-adaptive evolutionary processes. *Nature Scientific Reports* 12:12516. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-022-16734-x>
- 2022 Popadin K, K Gunbin, L Peshkin, S Annis, Z Fleischmann, M Franco, V Kraysberg, N Markuzon, **RR Ackermann**, K Khrapko. Mitochondrial pseudogenes suggest repeated inter-species hybridization among direct human ancestors. *Genes*: 13(5), 810.

- 2022 **Ackermann RR.** On the science and scientists behind our origin narrative: A review of Higham (2021). *American Journal of Biological Anthropology*. 2022:1-2. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ajpa.24530>
- 2022 Devine J, M Vidal-García, W Liu, A Neves, LD Lo Vercio, RM Green, HA Richbourg, M Marchini, CM Unger, AC Nickle, B Radford, NM Young, PN Gonzalez, RE Schuler, A Bugacov, C Rolian, CJ Percival, T Williams, L Niswander, AL Calof, AD Lander, A Visel, FR Jirik, JM Cheverud, O Klein, RY Birnbaum, AE Merrill, **RR Ackermann**, D Graf, M Hemberger, W Dean, ND Forkert, SA Murray, H Westerberg, RS Marcucio, B Hallgrímsson. MusMorph, a database of standardized mouse morphology data for morphometric meta-analyses. *Nature Scientific Data* 9(1). 1-18. Preprint: *bioRxiv* <https://doi.org/10.1101/2021.11.11.468142>
- 2021 Zdjelar N, L Nagendran, C Kendall, **RR Ackermann**, L Schroeder. The hybrid skull of the eastern coyote (*Canis latrans* var.): nonmetric traits and craniomandibular shape. *Journal of Morphology*. 282(12): 1745-1764. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jmor.21417>
- 2021 Buck LT*, DC Katz, **RR Ackermann**, L Hlusko, S Kanthaswamy, TD Weaver. Effects of hybridisation on pelvic morphology: a macaque model. *Journal of Human Evolution*. 159, 1030-1049. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jhevol.2021.103049>
- 2020 Athreya S and **RR Ackermann**. Colonialism and narratives of human origins in Asia and Africa. In: Interrogating Human Origins: Decolonisation and the Deep Human Past (pp. 71-95). M Porr and J Matthews, Eds. Archaeological Orientation Series. Routledge: Abingdon. (Series editors: Christopher Witmore and Gavin Lucas). Preprint (2018) *AfricaArxiv* DOI: 10.31730/osf.io/jtkn2
- 2020 Humphreys R*, J Bam-Hutchison, **RR Ackermann**. Archaeology is changing, slowly, but it's still too tied up in colonial practices. *The Conversation*. May 27. <https://theconversation.com/archaeology-is-changing-slowly-but-its-still-too-tied-up-in-colonial-practices-133243>
- 2020 **Ackermann RR** and L Schroeder. The emergence of complexity and novelty in the human fossil record. In: Theology and Evolutionary Anthropology: Dialogues in Wisdom, Humility and Grace. C Deane-Drummond and A Fuentes, Eds. Routledge, 226pp. Pages 29-46. Preprint *AfricArxiv* DOI: 10.31730/osf.io/k39h2
- 2019 **Ackermann RR**, S Athreya, W Black, GS Cabana, V Hare, R Pickering, L Schroeder. Upholding “good science” in human origins research: A response to Chan et al (2019). *AfricArxiv* DOI: 10.31730/osf.io/qtjfp
- 2019 **Ackermann RR**, M Bezanson, M Hammer, D Raichlen. Stephen Zegura (2 July 1943-26 May 2019). *Human Biology*, Winter 2019, v. 91, no. 1. DOI: 10.13110/humanbiology91.1.03
- 2019 Fuentes A, **Ackermann RR**, S Athreya, D Bolnick, T Lasisi, S-H Lee, SA McLean, R Nelson. AAPA statement on race and racism. *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*. 169(3), 400-402. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ajpa.23882>
- 2019 **Ackermann RR**, ML Arnold, MD Baiz, J Cahill, L Cortes-Ortiz, B Evans, BR Grant, PR Grant, B Hallgrímsson, R Humphreys*, CJ Jolly, J Malukiewicz, CJ Percival, T Ritzman*, C Roos, CC Roseman, L Schroeder*, FH Smith, K Warren*, R Wayne, D Zinner. Hybridization in human evolution: insights from other organisms. *Evolutionary Anthropology* 28:4, p. 189-209. Preprint (2018) *AfricArxiv* DOI: 10.31730/osf.io/y3bp7
- 2019 **Ackermann RR**. Reflections on the history and legacy of scientific racism in South African palaeoanthropology and beyond. *Journal of Human Evolution*. 126: 106-111. DOI: 10.1016/j.jhevol.2018.11.007 Preprint *AfricArxiv* DOI: 10.31730/osf.io/t3v9a

- 2018 Warren, K*, T Ritzman*, R Humphreys*, C Percival, B Hallgrímsson, **RR Ackermann**. Craniomandibular form and body size variation of first generation mouse hybrids: a model for hominin hybridization. *J Hum Evol.* 116: 57-74.
- 2017 Gunbin K, L Peshkin, K Popadin, S Annis, **RR Ackermann**, K Khrapko. Data on the time of integration of the human mitochondrial pseudogenes (NUMTs) into the nuclear genome. *Data in Brief.* DOI: 10.1016/j.dib.2017.05.024
- 2017 Schroeder L* and **RR Ackermann**. Evolutionary processes shaping diversity across the *Homo* lineage. *J Hum Evol.* 111: 1-17. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jhevol.2017.06.004> (Preprint: *BioRxiv* DOI: 10.1101/136507)
- 2017 Gunbin K, L Peshkin, K Popadin, S Annis, **RR Ackermann**, K Khrapko. Integration of mtDNA pseudogenes into the nuclear genome coincides with critical periods in human evolution. A hypothesis. *Mitochondrion.* 34: 20-23. DOI: 10.1016/j.mito.2016.12.001
- 2017 Laird MF, Schroeder L*, HM Garvin, JE Scott, M Dembo, D Radovčić, CM Musiba, **RR Ackermann**, P Schmid, J Hawks, LR Berger, DJ de Ruiter. The skull of *Homo naledi*. *J Hum Evol.* 104: 100-123. DOI: 10.1016/j.jhevol.2016.09.009
- 2017 Schroeder L*, JE Scott, HM Garvin, MF Laird, M Dembo, D Radovčić, LR Berger, DJ de Ruiter, **RR Ackermann**. Skull diversity in the *Homo* lineage and the relative position of *Homo naledi*. *J Hum Evol.* 104: 124-135. DOI: 10.1016/j.jhevol.2016.09.014
- 2016 Dembo M, D Radovčić, HM Garvin, MF Laird, L Schroeder*, JE Scott, **RR Ackermann**, C Musiba, DJ de Ruiter, A Mooers, M Collard. The evolutionary relationships and age of *Homo naledi*: An assessment using dated Bayesian phylogenetic methods. *J Hum Evol.* 97: 17-26.
- 2016 Eichel, K & **RR Ackermann**. Variation in the nasal cavity of baboon hybrids with implications for late Pleistocene hominins. *J Hum Evol.* 94:134-145.
- 2016 **Ackermann RR**, A Mackay, ML Arnold. The hybrid origin of “modern” humans. *Evol Biol.* Vol 43, Issue 1, pp.1-11. DOI: 10.1007/s11692-015-9348-1
- 2015 Berger LR, J Hawks, DJ de Ruiter, SE Churchill, P Schmid, SA Williams, JM DeSilva, T Kivell, M Skinner, CM Musiba, N Cameron, TW Holliday, W Harcourt-Smith, **RR Ackermann**, Bastir M, Bogin B, Bolter D, Brophy J, Cofran ZD, Congdon KA, Deane AS, Dembo M, Drapeau M, Elliott M, Feuerriegel EM, Garcia-Martinez D, Green DJ, Gurtov A, Irish JD, Kruger A, Laird MF, Marchi D, Meyer MR, Nalla S, Negash EW, Orr CA, Radovcic D, Schroeder L*, Scott JE, Throckmorton Z, Tocheri MW, VanSickle C, Walker CS, Wei P, & Zipfel B. *Homo naledi*, a new species of the genus *Homo* from the Dinaledi Chamber, South Africa. *eLife.* 4:e09560. DOI: 10.7554/eLife.09560
- 2015 Harvati K, C Bauer, FE Grine, S Benazzi, **RR Ackermann**, KL van Niekerk, CS Henshilwood. A human deciduous molar from the Middle Stone Age (Howiesons Poort) of Klipdrift Shelter, South Africa. *J Hum Evol.* 82:190-196.
- 2015 Warren K*, S Hall, **RR Ackermann**. Cranio-dental evidence for between-population homogeneity in the archaeological record of southern African Iron Age peoples. *S African Archaeological Bulletin* 70(201): 76-88.

- 2015 Sithaldeen R*, **RR Ackermann**, JM Bishop (2015) Pleistocene aridification cycles shaped the contemporary genetic architecture of southern African baboons. *PLoS ONE*. 10(5): e0123207. DOI:10.1371/journal.pone.0123207
- 2014 Schroeder L*, CC Roseman, JM Cheverud, **RR Ackermann**. Characterizing the evolutionary path(s) to early *Homo*. *PLoS ONE*. 9(12): e114307. DOI:10.1371/journal.pone.0114307
- 2014 **Ackermann RR**, L Schroeder*, J Rogers, JM Cheverud. Further evidence for phenotypic signatures of hybridization in descendant baboon populations. *J Hum Evol*. 74: 54-62. DOI: 10.1016/j.jhevol.2014.05.004.
- 2014 Irish, JD, W Black*, JC Sealy, **RR Ackermann**. Questions of Khoesan continuity: Dental affinities among the indigenous Holocene peoples of South Africa. *Am J Phys Anth*. 155(1): 33-44. DOI: 10.1002/ajpa.22526.
- 2014 Fuzessy LF, IO Silva, J Malukiewicz, FFR Silva, MC Ponzio, V Boere, **RR Ackermann**. Morphological variation in wild marmosets (*Callithrix penicillata* and *C. geoffroyi*) and their hybrids. *Evolutionary Biology*. 41(3): 480-493. DOI: 10.1007/s11692-014-9284-5.
- 2014 Warren K*, S Hall, **RR Ackermann**. Cranio-dental continuity and change between Iron Age peoples and their descendants. *South African Journal of Science*. 110(7/8), Art. #2013-1275, 11 pp. DOI: 10.1590/sajs.2014/20130275.
- 2013 de Ruiter DJ, TJ DeWitt, KB Carlson, JK Brophy, L Schroeder*, **RR Ackermann**, SE Churchill, LR Berger. Mandibular remains support taxonomic validity of *Australopithecus sediba*. *Science* **340**. DOI: 10.1126/science.1232997.
- 2012 Govender R*, A Chinsamy, **RR Ackermann**. Anatomical and landmark morphometric analysis of phocid seal remains from Langebaanweg, West Coast of South Africa. *Transactions of the Royal Society of South Africa*. 67(3):135-149.
- 2012 Williams FL, L Schroeder*, **RR Ackermann**. The mid-face of lower Pleistocene hominins and its bearing on the attribution of SK 847 and StW 53. *Homo: J of Comp Human Biology*. 63: 245-257.
- 2011 Wood, B.A., Henry, A., Baker, J., Claxton, A., Mikels, E., Bishop, L., Goodrum, M., Stone, A., Tyron, C., **Ackermann, RR.**, et al. (eds). *Blackwell Encyclopedia of Human Evolution*. New York: Blackwell, pp. 1264.
- 2010 **Ackermann RR**. Phenotypic traits of primate hybrids: recognizing admixture in the fossil record. *Evolutionary Anthropology*. 19: 258-270.
- 2010 **Ackermann RR** and JM Bishop. Morphological and molecular evidence reveals recent hybridization between gorilla taxa. *Evolution*. 64: 271-290. DOI: 10.1111/j.1558-5646.2009.00858.x
- 2010 **Ackermann RR**, JS Brink, S Vrahimis, B de Klerk. Hybrid wildebeest (Artiodactyla: Bovidae) provide further evidence for shared signatures of admixture in mammalian crania. *South African Journal of Science*. 106(11/12), Art. #423: 5 pp. DOI:10.4102/sajs.v106i11/12.423
- 2009 Sithaldeen R*, JM Bishop, **RR Ackermann**. Mitochondrial DNA analysis reveals Plio-Pleistocene diversification within the chacma baboon. *Molecular Phylogenetics & Evolution*. 53: 1042-1048. DOI:10.1016/j.ympev.2009.07.038.
- 2009 Neeser R*, **RR Ackermann**, J Gain. Comparing the accuracy and precision of three techniques used

- for estimating missing landmarks when reconstructing fossil hominin crania. *Am J Phys Anth.* 140(1):1-18. DOI: 10.1002/ajpa.21023
- 2009 **Ackermann RR.** Morphological integration and the interpretation of fossil hominin diversity. *Evolutionary Biology.* 36: 149-156.
- 2008 Fourie NH*, JA Lee-Thorp, **RR Ackermann.** Biogeochemical and craniometric investigation of dietary ecology, niche separation and taxonomy of Plio-Pleistocene cercopithecoids from the Makapansgat Limeworks. *Am J Phys Anth.* 135(2): 121-135.
- 2007 Stynder DD*, **RR Ackermann,** JC Sealy. Craniofacial variation and population continuity during the South African Holocene. *Am J Phys Anth.* 134(4): 489-500.
- 2007 Stynder DD*, **RR Ackermann,** JC Sealy. Early to mid-Holocene South African Later Stone Age human crania exhibit a distinctly Khoesan morphological pattern. *S African J Science.* 103: 349-352.
- 2007 **Ackermann RR** & RJ Smith. The macroevolution of our ancient lineage: what we know (or think we know) about early hominin diversity. *Evolutionary Biology.* 34(1):72-85.
- 2007 **Ackermann RR.** Craniofacial variation and developmental divergence in primate and human evolution. In: Tinkering: the micro-evolution of development. Novartis Foundation Symposium 284. Wiley, Chichester, pp. 262-279.
- 2007 Williams FL, **RR Ackermann,** SR Leigh. Inferring Plio-Pleistocene southern African biochronology from facial affinities in *Parapapio* and other southern African papionins. *Am J Phys Anth.* 132(2):163-174.
- 2006 **Ackermann RR,** J Rogers, JM Cheverud. Identifying the morphological signatures of hybridization in primate and human evolution. *J Hum Evol.* 51:632-645.
- 2005 **Ackermann RR.** Ontogenetic integration of the hominoid face. *J Hum Evol.* 48:175-197.
- 2005 **Ackermann RR.** Variation in Neandertals: A response to Harvati (2003). *J Hum Evol.* 48:643-646.
- 2004 **Ackermann RR** and JM Cheverud. Detecting genetic drift versus selection in human evolution. *Proc Nat Acad Sci.* 101:17946-17951.
- 2004 **Ackermann RR** and JM Cheverud. Morphological integration in primate evolution. In: Pigliucci, M and Preston, K, eds., Phenotypic Integration: Studying the Ecology and Evolution of Complex Phenotypes. Oxford University Press, pp. 302-319.
- 2003 **Ackermann RR.** Using extant morphological variation to understand fossil relationships: a cautionary tale. *S African J Science.* 99:255-258.
- 2002 **Ackermann RR.** Patterns of covariation in the hominoid craniofacial skeleton; implications for paleoanthropological models. *J Hum Evol.*, 43:167-187.
- 2002 **Ackermann RR** and GE Krovitz. Common patterns of facial ontogeny in the hominid lineage. *The Anatomical Record (New Anat),* 269:142-147.
- 2002 **Ackermann RR** and JM Cheverud. Discerning evolutionary processes in patterns of tamarin (genus *Saguinus*) craniofacial variation. *Am J Phys Anth.* 117:260-271.

- 2000 **Ackermann RR** and JM Cheverud. Phenotypic covariance structure in tamarins (genus *Saguinus*): A comparison of variation patterns using matrix correlation and common principal component analysis. *Am J Phys Anth*, 111:489-501.
- 1997 **Ackermann RR**. Mrs. Ples Now and Then. In: 50 Years of 'Mrs. Ples'. *S African J Science*. 93:167.
- 1997 **Ackermann RR**. Three-dimensional imaging in forensic anthropology: A test study using the Macintosh. *J Forensic Sci* 42(1): 93-99.

significant professional service – off campus

AABA Professional Development Committee	2024-2025
Editorial Board, Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B	2022-present
AABA Committee on Diversity Women's Initiative (COD-WIN)	2022-2026
Chair, Committee on Diversity International (COD-I), American Association of Biological (Physical) Anthropologists (AAB(P)A)	2018-2025
Co-organizer, AAPA Committee on Diversity Women's Initiative (COD-WIN) International Workshop for Women Biological Anthropologists, Cape Town, South Africa	2018
National Geographic "Umsuka" Public Palaeoanthropology Project's Curriculum Advisory Committee	2017-2020
American Association of Physical Anthropologists Program Committee	2017-2018
AAPA Committee on Diversity International (COD-I)	2016-2017
Editorial Board, American Anthropologist	2016-2020
Organisation for Women in Science for the Developing World (OWSD) South African National Chapter	2016-present
AAPA Committee on Diversity Women's Initiative Workshop, Graduate Student Mentor	2016
American Association of Physical Anthropologists Student Awards Committee	2016-2018
Physical Anthropology Women's Mentoring Network (PAWMN), Discussion Leader Discussion topic: "How to be a Good Ally"	2016
Associate Editor, Journal of Human Evolution	2014-2020
Associate Editor, Primate Biology	2014-2022
External Examiner Palaeoanthropology Module, University of Johannesburg	2012
Advisory Editor and Contributor <i>Blackwell Encyclopedia of Human Evolution</i> <i>Blackwell Dictionary of Human Evolution</i> <i>Blackwell Concise Dictionary of Human Evolution.</i>	2009-2011
Book Review Editor, Journal of Human Evolution	2008-2012
External Examiner Human Biology Honours Programme, School of Anatomical Sciences, U Witwatersrand	2006
Founding Trustee, West Coast Fossil Park Trust (Langebaanweg)	2005-2015
Associate Editor, Journal of Human Evolution	2004-2007

Commissioning Editor, Special Edition of South African Journal of Science 2003
Current issues in human origins research in South Africa.

Advisory Panel, Science in Africa (www.scienceinafrica.co.za). 2003-2010

Member (ongoing): American Association of Biological (Physical) Anthropologists, American Academy of Forensic Sciences, Society for the Study of Evolution, Paleoanthropology Society, International Primatological Society, European Society for Human Evolution.

Journal reviewer for: American Journal of Physical Anthropology; American Journal of Primatology; Annals of the Transvaal Museum; Biological Journal of the Linnean Society; Current Anthropology; Evolution; Evolutionary Anthropology; Evolutionary Biology; International Journal of Evolutionary Biology; International Journal of Primatology; Journal of Anatomy; Journal of Biogeography; Journal of Experimental Zoology Part B: Molecular and Developmental Evolution; Journal of Human Evolution; Journal of Morphology; Journal of Zoology; Molecular Ecology; Nature; New Anatomist (The Anatomical Record); Paleobiology; Palaeontologica Africana; South African Archaeological Bulletin; South African Journal of Science; Transactions of the Royal Society of South Africa; Systematic Biology; Trends in Ecology and Evolution; Zoologia; Zoological Studies.

Thesis examiner: Ntuthuzelo Makhasi, MSc U Fort Hare, 2013; Craig Richards, MSc UCT (Health Sciences), 2017; Susan Dykes, PhD U Witswatersrand, 2017.

Grant reviewer for: L.S.B. Leakey Foundation (USA), National Research Foundation (South Africa), National Science Foundation (USA), DST-NRF Centre of Excellence in Palaeosciences (CoE-Pal), Claude Leon Foundation.

significant professional service – on campus

Core member, Committee of Assessors for Doctoral Degrees for Science	2025-present
Working Group to Review Ad Hom Promotion (Approach, Criteria, Documentation)	2024/5
Iziko-UCT Advisory Board	2024-present
Anti-Racism Working Group	2022
Encountering (Decentring) Whiteness Programme	2021-2022
EE Forum Employment Equity Representative, DVC Transformation selection committee	2021
Core Member, Faculty of Science Promotion and Remuneration Committee	2020-2023
Chair, Transformation Committee, Science Faculty	2019-2021
Transformation Forum	2019-2021
Employment Equity Forum	2019-2021
Science Faculty Teaching and Learning Committee	2019-2021
Senate	2018-present
Employment Equity Representative, Science Faculty	2017-present
Senate, Co-opted member	2016-2017
Chair, Faculty Research Committee, Science Faculty	2016-2019
Faculty Research Committee, Science Faculty	Jan-June 2012, 2013-2019
University Postgraduate Studies Funding Committee	2013-2014
Deputy Chair, Faculty Animal Ethics Committee, Science Faculty	2013-2014

Faculty Animal Ethics Committee, Science Faculty	2012-2014
Selection Committee, Curator of Cenozoic Collections, Iziko Museums of Cape Town	2010
Senate Panel for Committees of Review: Unsatisfactory Performance	2010-2013
Faculty Ethics in Research Committee, Science Faculty	2008-2009
Selection Committee, Curator of Cenozoic Collections, Iziko Museums of Cape Town.	2007
Communication and Marketing Committee, Science Faculty	2005-2014
Academic Selection Committees, University of Cape Town	2005-present
Lecturer, Department of Archaeology, 2005	
Lecturer, Department of Archaeology, 2006	
Postgraduate Programme Coordinator, Environmental and Geographical Sciences Department, 2007	
Lecturer in Human Geography, Environmental and Geographical Sciences Department, 2007/8	
Lecturer in Atmospheric Science, Environmental and Geographical Sciences Department, 2008	
Lecturer, Department of Archaeology, 2009	
Lecturer/Senior Lecturer, Department of Archaeology, 2011	
Research Chair in Archaeology and Stable Isotopes, Department of Archaeology 2012	
Professor/Lecturer (Open Rank), Department of Archaeology, 2012/13	
Lecturer/Senior Lecturer, Department of Archaeology, 2017/18	
SARChI Chair, Department of Astronomy, 2018	
Head of Drug Discovery, H3D, 2019	
Lecturer, Department of Archaeology, 2019	
Lecturer/Senior Lecturer, Department of Archaeology, 2019	
Lecturer/Senior Lecturer, Department of Biological Sciences, 2020	
Lecturer, Department of Biological Sciences, 2021	
Orientation Committee, Science Faculty	2004
Biological, Earth and Environmental Sciences Programme Committee	2003-2009

graduated postgraduate students

Postdoctoral Research Fellows:

Dr Stella Basinyi. 2021-2022. PhD Justus-Liebig-University Giessen (2017).

Dr Tessa Campbell. 2019-2020. PhD UCT (2019).

Dr Terrence Ritzman. 2014-2016. PhD Arizona State (2014).

Dr Kerryn Warren. 2018-2020. PhD UCT (2017).

PhD students:

Wendy Black, PhD. 2014. Curator of Archaeological Collections, Iziko Museums of Cape Town. Thesis: Dental morphology and variation across Holocene Khoesan people of southern Africa. Primary supervisor: RR Ackermann. Co-supervisor: JC Sealy.

Tessa Campbell, PhD. 2019. Thesis: Investigating the emergence and spread of tuberculosis in South Africa. Recipient of the Wadsworth African Fellowship from the Wenner-Gren Foundation. Primary supervisor: RR Ackermann. Co-supervisor: A Stone (Arizona State University).

Nomawethu Hlazo, PhD. 2025. Investigating niche differentiation through adaptation and proteomics in the genus *Paranthropus*. Supervisor: RR Ackermann. Co-supervisor: L Schroeder (University of Toronto).

Robyn Humphreys, PhD. 2025. Critically engaged archaeology: Prestwich Street burial grounds as a case study. Supervisor: RR Ackermann. Co-supervisors: J Bam-Hutchison and W Black.

Eileen Off, PhD. 2009. Quantification of craniofacial variation, integration, and evolutionary diversification in baboons. Recipient of PAST grants in 2004 & 2005. Supervisor: RR Ackermann.

Palesa Madupe, PhD. 2024. Palaeoproteomic investigation of the genetic variation in South African early hominins. Supervisor: Enrico Cappellini (Copenhagen); Co-supervisor: RR Ackermann.

Trish Parsons, PhD. 2011. (University of Calgary). A developmental analysis of the variation of shape of the chondrocranium and its effects on the evolution of the mammalian skull. Primary supervisor: B Hallgrímsson. Co-supervisor: H Jamniczky. Committee: RR Ackermann, SK Boyd, F Jirek, J Theodor.

Joshua M. Polanski, PhD. 2009. (University of Iowa). Morphological integration of the cranium during ontogeny of *Homo sapiens* and *Pan troglodytes*. Primary supervisor: RG Franciscus. Committee: RR Ackermann, J Canady, R Ciochan, N Ting.

Lauren Schroeder, PhD. 2015. Associate Professor, Dept of Anthropology, University of Toronto. Thesis: The evolution and diversification of Pleistocene *Homo*. Recipient of Leakey Foundation Baldwin Fellowship. 2015 Mail and Guardian Top 200 Young people you should know. Supervisor: RR Ackermann.

Riashna Sithaldeen, PhD. 2011. Deputy Director, CHED, University of Cape Town. Thesis: Phylogeny and phylogeography of the chacma baboon (*Papio ursinus*): the role of landscape in shaping contemporary genetic structure in the southern African baboon. Primary supervisor: RR Ackermann. Co-supervisor: J Bishop (Zoology).

Deano Stynder, PhD. 2006. Associate Professor, Department of Archaeology, University of Cape Town. Thesis: A quantitative assessment of variation in Holocene Khoesan crania from South Africa's western, south-western, southern and south-eastern coasts and coastal forelands. Primary supervisor: RR Ackermann. Co-supervisor: JC Sealy.

Kerryn Warren, PhD. 2017. Thesis: Using the craniomandibular morphology of hybrid mice to better understand hybrid morphologies in the hominin fossil record. Winner of National 3 Minute Thesis competition for the Science and Technology division. Supervisor: RR Ackermann.

Masters students:

Nicolaas Fourie, MSc (with distinction). 2006. Dietary ecology and niche separation in three genera (*Parapapio*, *Theropithecus* and *Cercopithecoidea*) of South African Plio-Pleistocene Cercopithecoidea. Co-supervisors: RR Ackermann & J Lee-Thorp.

Nomawethu Hlazo, MSc (with distinction). 2018. The relative role of genetic drift versus selection in shaping cranial variation in *Paranthropus*. Supervisor: RR Ackermann.

Robyn Humphreys, MSc. 2018. Coat colour variation in hybrid mice and its relevance to developmental divergence. Supervisor: RR Ackermann

Annelize Kotze, MSc. 2024. Khoe, San, Coloured, controvert or conform: Physical attributes influencing the formation of cultural identity in "Coloured" women of the Western and Northern Cape. Supervisor: RR Ackermann. Co-supervisor: W Black (Iziko).

Megan Malherbe, MSc. 2020. The evolution of *Equus capensis*. Supervisor: D Stynder. Co-supervisor: RR Ackermann

Rudy Neeser, MSc (with distinction). 2007. A comparison of statistical and geometric reconstruction techniques: guidelines for correcting fossil hominin crania. Primary supervisor: J Gain (Computer Science). Co-supervisor: RR Ackermann.

Lauren Powell, MSc. 2023. Detecting admixture in South African late Holocene human crania. Supervisor: RR Ackermann.

Kerryn Warren, MSc. 2013. Dental and facial variation in Iron Age southern African peoples. Primary supervisor: RR Ackermann. Co-supervisor: S Hall.

Honours students:

Akira Banwari. 2023. Diagnosing potential cases of Paget’s disease in Holocene remains from South Africa. Supervisor: RR Ackermann. Co-supervisor: T Campbell (Iziko Museums)

Kyla Bluff. 2009. The morphological expression of hybridization in a chacma baboon hybrid zone. Supervisor: RR Ackermann.

Erica Forbes. 2003. Sexual dimorphism in the tibiae of Khoesan populations. Primary supervisor: RR Ackermann. Co-supervisor: JC Sealy.

Nicolaas Fourie (with distinction). 2003. Primate models of human evolution: an isotope study of chacma baboons (*Papio ursinus*). Co-supervisors: RR Ackermann & J Lee-Thorp.

Nomawethu Hlazo. 2015. Cranial variation in *Paranthropus*. Supervisor: RR Ackermann.

Lahliwe Kumalo. 2025. A reassessment of the demographic composition of Fort Knokke individuals using standard anatomical methods and FORDISC, for the purpose of repatriation. Supervisor: RR Ackermann.

Jenna Larangeira. 2022. Examining hand variation in hybrid macaques as a model for human evolution. Supervisor: RR Ackermann.

Jenna Lavin. 2007. The lost tribes of the peninsula: history and demography of chacma baboons on the Cape Peninsula. Supervisor: RR Ackermann.

Lauren Mathee. 2020. Analysis of skeletal asymmetry in marmoset (*Callithrix*) hybrids and its relevance to human evolution. Supervisors: RR Ackermann, K Warren.

Tariq Dale Miller. 2025. Hybrid legacies: adaptive archaic DNA and functional variation in West African genomes. Supervisor: RR Ackermann.

Lyle Petersen. 2025. Evaluating the accuracy of established sex estimation techniques on known-sex Holocene Khoisan skeletons. Supervisor: RR Ackermann.

Lauren Powell. 2016. Quantifying “ruggedness” in the snout of baboon hybrids. Supervisor: RR Ackermann.

Chantal Rossouw. 2012. Morphometric analysis of hybrid baboon crania. Supervisor: RR Ackermann

Jordan Saltzman. 2006. Shape variation in early Holocene Khoesan crania. Supervisor: RR Ackermann.

Lauren Schroeder (with distinction). 2007. Using Mahalanobis' generalized distances to investigate morphological relationships and variation in early *Homo* dental specimens. Supervisor: RR Ackermann.

Kelly-Anne Shaw. 2023. Skeletal signatures of hybridisation in the hominin skeleton: A case study of the hands and feet of Chinese-Indian hybrid Rhesus macaques. Supervisor: RR Ackermann.

Riashna Sithaldeen. 2002. Sexual dimorphism in chacma baboons (*P. ursinus*) from the Western Cape Province, South Africa. Supervisor: RR Ackermann.

Keane Wanza. 2023. Preliminary study of the feasibility of extracting ancient proteins from Plio-Pleistocene eastern African contexts. Supervisor: RR Ackermann. Co-supervisor: P Madupe (Copenhagen)

Kerryn Warren. 2010. Dental variation in Iron Age peoples. Supervisor: RR Ackermann.

current postgraduate students

Masters and PhD students:

Akira Banwari (MSc). Paget's disease and osteoporosis in Holocene remains from South Africa. Supervisor: RR Ackermann. Co-supervisor: T Campbell (Iziko Museums)

Tarryn Sasha Fullerton (MSc). A survey of academic field experiences in South Africa: an assessment of sexual and racial harassment, and assault.

Georgina Luti (PhD). The age of *Paranthropus* at the sites of Kromdraai and Gondolin, South Africa. Supervisor: Robyn Pickering. Co-supervisor: RR Ackermann

Christina Mutinda (PhD). Thesis: Reconstructing Chesowanja's (1.4 Mya) Pleistocene faunal community and their overall diets to provide insights into environments of *Paranthropus boisei*. Recipient of the Wadsworth African Fellowship from the Wenner-Gren Foundation. Primary supervisor: RR Ackermann. Co-supervisor: F Manthi (Kenya National Museums).

Kelly-Anne Shaw (MSc). The hands and feet of Chinese-Indian hybrid Rhesus macaques. Supervisor: RR Ackermann.

Kirsten Van der Heyden (MSc). Palaeoproteomic sex estimation in hominin dental enamel from Klasies River Mouth, South Africa. Supervisor: RR Ackermann. Co-supervisor: P Madupe, E Cappellini.

Keane Wanza (MSc). Ancient proteins from Plio-Pleistocene eastern African contexts. Supervisor: RR Ackermann. Co-supervisor: P Madupe (Copenhagen)

Honours students:

Robyn Law. 2026. TBD

conference presentations & published abstracts (last 10 years)

- 2024 **Ackermann RR**, T Campbell, N Mazibuko, A Sephton, R Pickering, W Black. Socially responsive practice in human evolution: a case study of the HUMANITY museum exhibition. European Society for Human Evolution, Zagreb, Croatia.
- 2024 Buck, LT, **RR Ackermann**, T. Ebrahim, E. Hirasaki, T. Ito, S. Kanthaswamy, D. C. Katz, Y. Kawamoto, A. Mounier, T. Nishimura, C. B. Stringer, T. D. Weaver. The search for the perfect proxy? A comparison of the effects of hybridisation in two non-human primate models for hominin evolution. European Society for Human Evolution, Zagreb, Croatia.
- 2024 **Ackermann RR**, T Campbell, N Mazibuko, A Sephton, R Pickering, W Black. Decolonizing human evolution museum displays: a case study of the HUMANITY exhibition. EAAPP, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
- 2024 Madupe P, C Koenig, I Patramanis, M Mackie, M Tawane, NP Hlazo, AJ Taurozzi, C Mollereau, C Zanolli, L Schroeder, F Racimo, JV Olsen, **RR Ackermann** and E Cappellini. Comparative palaeoproteomic insights from southern African hominins. EAAPP, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
- 2024 Shaw, K-A & **Ackermann RR**. Skeletal signatures of hybridisation in the hominin skeleton: a case study of the hands and feet of Chinese-Indian hybrid rhesus macaques. ASAPA, Lesotho.
- 2024 Black W, T Campbell, N Mazibuko, A Sephton, R Pickering, **RR Ackermann**. HUMANITY exhibition: a model for decolonizing human evolution museum displays. AABA Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, California.
- 2024 Wanza K, P Madupe, G Troche, Y Sahle, **RR Ackermann**, E Cappellini. Preliminary study of the feasibility of extracting ancient proteins from Plio-Pleistocene eastern African contexts. AABA Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, California.
- 2024 Buck L, D Katz, **RR Ackermann**, L Hlusko, S Kanthaswamy, T Weaver. The effect of hybridisation on variation: a macaque model. AABA Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, California.
- 2024 Madupe P, et al, **RR Ackermann**, E Cappellini. Initial results from the palaeoproteomic analysis of Australopithecus africanus dental enamel. AABA Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, California.
- 2024 Pickering R, W Black, T Campbell, N Mazibuko, A Sephton, **RR Ackermann**. Decolonizing geoscience communication: a case study of a new human evolution exhibition at the Iziko South African Museum. EGU24, Vienna, Austria.
- 2023 Athreya S, **RR Ackermann**. How (not!) to perpetuate biological race in palaeoanthropology. AABA Annual Meeting, Reno, Nevada.
- 2023 Madupe P, PL Ruther, C Koenig, I Patramanis, N Hlazo, M Mackie, A Taurozzi, M Tawane, F Welker, L Schroeder, C Zanolli, F Racimo, JV Olsen, **RR. Ackermann**, E Cappellini. The dental enamel proteome of *Paranthropus robustus*. AABA Annual Meeting, Reno, Nevada.
- 2023 Harvati K, **RR Ackermann**. What morphological and genetic data can tell us about hybridization in Late Pleistocene Eurasia. AABA Annual Meeting, Reno, Nevada.
- 2022 Zaffarini E, M Vidal-Garcia, K Warren, **RR Ackermann**, B Hallgrimsson. Genetic architecture of cephalo-pelvic covariation in hybrid mice as a model for human obstructed labour. EuroEvoDevo 2022, Napoli, Italy.
- 2022 Basinyi S, **RR Ackermann**. Human origins in southern Africa: reflections on the influence of scientific narratives on society. AAPA Annual Meeting, Denver, CO.

- 2022 Buck LT, DC Katz, **RR Ackermann**, LJ Hlusko, S Kanthaswamy, TD Weaver. A macaque model for the effects of admixture on body size. AAPA Annual Meeting, Denver, CO.
- 2022 Fullerton S, Warren K, **RR Ackermann**. A survey of microaggression, discrimination and harassment within the Faculty of Science at the University of Cape Town. AAPA Annual Meeting, Denver, CO.
- 2022 Humphreys RA, J Bam Hutchison, W Black, **RR Ackermann**. Giving back the past: the role of biological anthropology in recovering histories of the marginalized. AAPA Annual Meeting, Denver, CO.
- 2022 Madupe P, N Hlazo, PL Ruther, M Mackie, F Welker, JR Madrigal, I Patramanis, F Racimo, L Schroeder, JV Olsen, **RR Ackermann**, E Cappellini. The feasibility of palaeoproteomics for studying ancient hominins from South Africa. AAPA Annual Meeting, Denver, CO.
- 2022 Warren K, CT Mushangwe, LK Hunter, **RR Ackermann**. Acceptance of evolution among South African matric (final year high school) learners. AAPA Annual Meeting, Denver, CO.
- 2021 Pickering R, **RR Ackermann**, W Black, Y Sahle, J Wilkins. How HERI (Human Evolution Research Institute) is disrupting, transforming and decolonising long held patriarchal narratives of human evolution in South Africa. EGU General Assembly.
- 2021 Schroeder L, S Elton, **RR Ackermann**. Old World monkey divergence: adaptive, neutral, or both?. AAPA Annual Meeting, virtual.
- 2021 Humphreys R, W Black, J Bam Hutchison, **RR Ackermann**. What does it mean to practice decolonial biological anthropological research?. AAPA Annual Meeting, virtual.
- 2020 Athreya S and **RR Ackermann**. The fuzzy nature of paleopopulations defies typology. AAPA Annual Meeting, Los Angeles. Presentation cancelled due to COVID-19.
- 2020 Zdjelar N, C Kendall, L Nagendran, **RR Ackermann**, L Schroeder. Morphological signatures of hybridization in North American canids: a new model for detecting hybrids in the human fossil record. AAPA Annual Meeting, Los Angeles. Presentation cancelled due to COVID-19.
- 2020 Buck LT, DC Katz, **RR Ackermann**, LJ Hlusko, S Kanthaswamy, TD Weaver. The effects of admixture on the pelvis. AAPA Annual Meeting, Los Angeles. Presentation cancelled due to COVID-19.
- 2020 Warren K, R Humphreys, **RR Ackermann**. The efficacy of human evolution education in South Africa. AAPA Annual Meeting, Los Angeles. Presentation cancelled due to COVID-19.
- 2020 Hlazo N, L Schroeder, **RR Ackermann**. Is dental morphology in *Paranthropus* the result of drift or selection? AAPA Annual Meeting, Los Angeles. Presentation cancelled due to COVID-19.
- 2020 Humphreys R, W Black, J Bam Hutchinson, **RR Ackermann**. Bio-anthropological practice in contemporary South Africa: engaged critical approaches to research on human remains. AAPA Annual Meeting, Los Angeles. Presentation cancelled due to COVID-19.
- 2020 Malherbe M, D Stynder, **RR Ackermann**. Dental occlusal form and function in *Equus capensis*: evaluating a controvertible taxonomic status. AAPA Annual Meeting, Los Angeles. Presentation cancelled due to COVID-19.

- 2019 Schroeder L, RR Ackermann. The path to *Homo*, revisited. *Am J Phys Anth*, Supp 66. AAPA Annual Meeting, Cleveland, OH, March 2019.
- 2019 Katz DC, LT Buck, J Devine, **RR Ackermann**, B Hallgrímsson, LJ Hlusko, S Kanthaswamy, TD Weaver. Predicting skull shape from admixture in a multigenerational macaque cross sample. *Am J Phys Anth*, Supp 66. AAPA Annual Meeting, Cleveland, OH, March 2019.
- 2018 Schroeder L, **RR Ackermann**. The hybrid phenotype of the “coywolf”: a new mammalian model for detecting hybridization in hominin evolution. Canadian Association for Physical Anthropology Annual Meeting, London, ON, October 2018.
- 2018 Hlazo N, T Ritzman, L Schroeder, **RR Ackermann**. The role of selection in shaping the craniomandibular morphology of *Paranthropus*. *Am J Phys Anth*, Supp 64. AAPA Annual Meeting, Austin, TX, April 2018.
- 2018 Powell L, **RR Ackermann**. Detecting migration and admixture in South African Holocene human crania. *Am J Phys Anth*, Supp 64. AAPA Annual Meeting, Austin, TX, April 2018.
- 2017 Gunbin K, Popadin K, L Peshkin, S Annis, Z Fleischmann, N Markuzon, Y Kravtsov, **RR Ackermann**, K Khrapko. Pseudogenes of mtDNA suggest repeated distant inter-species hybridization in evolution of the human lineage. Society for Molecular Biology and Evolution (SMBE) Annual Meeting, Austin Texas, July 2017.
- 2017 Warren KA, CJ Percival, T Ritzman, B Hallgrímsson, RR Ackermann. Of hybrid mice and hominins: disintegration key to understanding hominin hybrid morphologies. *Am J Phys Anth*, Supp 62. AAPA Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, April 2017.
- 2017 Humphreys RA, T Ritzman, KA Warren, CJ Percival, B Halgrímsson, RR Ackermann. Using a mouse model to understand the relationship between skeletal and soft tissue trait variation in mammalian hybrids. *Am J Phys Anth*, Supp 62. AAPA Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, April 2017.
- 2017 Ritzman TB, RR Ackermann. A three-dimensional geometric morphometric evaluation of shape variation in the hybrid baboon cranium. *Am J Phys Anth*, Supp 62. AAPA Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, April 2017.
- 2017 Hlazo N, TB Ritzman, RR Ackermann. An assessment of variation and its causes in the face of *Paranthropus*. *Am J Phys Anth*, Supp 62. AAPA Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, April 2017.
- 2017 Ackermann RR. The emergence of complexity and novelty in the human fossil record. Humility, Wisdom, and Grace in Deep Time Symposium. Supported by the John Templeton Foundation, Stellenbosch, South Africa, January 2017.
- 2016 Ackermann RR, K Warren, R Humphreys, L Schroeder, T Ritzman, C Percival, D Katz, S Kanthaswamy, T Weaver, J Rogers, JM Cheverud, B Hallgrímsson. Of mice and monkeys: quantitative models for the hybrid phenotype. European Society for Human Evolution (ESHE) Annual Meeting, Madrid, Spain, Sept 2016.
- 2016 Ackermann RR. Everything’s coming up hybrids. Primate Ecology and Genetics Group (PEGG), Addo, South Africa, June 8-10.
- 2016 Ackermann RR, L Schroeder, K Warren, R Humphreys, T Ritzman, C Percival, C Percival, D Katz, S Kanthaswamy, T Weaver, J Rogers, JM Cheverud, B Hallgrímsson. The effects of hybridization on the skeleton of primates and other mammals. International Primatological Society Bi-annual Meeting, Chicago, Illinois, August 2016.

- 2016 Ackermann RR. Hybridization in human evolution. *Am J Phys Anth*, Supp 60. AAPA Annual Meeting, Atlanta, Georgia, April 2016.
- 2016 Humphreys R, T Ritzman, K Warren, CJ Percival, CC Roseman, B Hallgrímsson, RR Ackermann. Variation in the skeletal and ectodermal phenotype of mouse hybrids. *Am J Phys Anth*, Supp 60. AAPA Annual Meeting, Atlanta, Georgia, April 2016.
- 2016 Schroeder L, JE Scott, HM Garvin, MF Laird, M Dembo, D Radovčić, LR Berger, DJ de Ruiter, RR Ackermann. Skull diversity within the *Homo* lineage and the relative position of *Homo naledi*. *Am J Phys Anth*, Supp 60. AAPA Annual Meeting, Atlanta, Georgia, April 2016.
- 2016 Ritzman TB, RR Ackermann. An evaluation of integration in the hybrid baboon cranium. *Am J Phys Anth*, Supp 60. AAPA Annual Meeting, Atlanta, Georgia, April 2016.
- 2016 Warren KA, L Schroeder, T Ritzman, C Percival, B Hallgrímsson, RR Ackermann. Using extant taxa to model variation in hominin hybrid populations. *Am J Phys Anth*, Supp 60. AAPA Annual Meeting, Atlanta, Georgia, April 2016.
- 2016 DeRuiter D, et al. *Homo naledi*: a new species of hominin from the Dinaledi Chamber, South Africa. Palaeoanthropological Society Meeting, Atlanta Georgia.
- 2015 Schroeder L and RR Ackermann. The importance of adaption in driving diversification in *Homo*. *Am J Phys Anth*, Supp 58. AAPA Annual Meeting, St Louis, Missouri, March 2015.
- 2015 Warren K, T Ritzman, C Percival, B Hallgrímsson and RR Ackermann. Mouse models for identifying hybridization in the hominin fossil record: preliminary results. *Am J Phys Anth*, Supp 58. AAPA Annual Meeting, St Louis, Missouri, March 2015.
- 2014 Ackermann RR, L Schroeder, J Rogers, JM Cheverud (2014) Further evidence for cranio-dental anomalies in baboon hybrids. International Primatological Society Bi-annual Meeting, Hanoi, Vietnam, August 2014.

conference, symposium & webinar organization

- 2023 “Dialogues in decolonization: Americas.” Committee on Diversity-International, American Association of Biological Anthropologists online Webinar. Co-organiser.
- 2021 “Dialogues in decolonization: Asia and the Pacific.” Committee on Diversity-International, American Association of Biological Anthropologists online Webinar. Co-organiser.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tzh2-iSI1ak>
- 2021 “Dialogues in decolonization: Africa.” Committee on Diversity-International, American Association of Biological Anthropologists online Webinar. Organiser and Moderator.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fJhKrVDCA9w&t=4s>
- 2021 Ethics in Research workshop series, University of Copenhagen (online). Part 1: Community engagement and the ethics of studying human remains (recent and ancient). Part 2: Decolonisation and Diversity. Part 3: Bullying, harassment and discrimination. Organiser and Moderator.

- 2016 “Hybridization and human evolution: what can other organisms tell us?” Sponsored Wiley symposium, American Association of Physical Anthropologists Annual Meeting, Atlanta Georgia, 12-15 April. Organiser and Co-chair (with B Hallgrímsson).
- 2015 Primate Ecology and Genetics Group (PEGG) Annual Meeting, Cape Town, South Africa. Organiser and Co-chair (with R Sithaldeen).
- 2012 Palaeontological Society of South Africa (PSSA). Cape Town, South Africa, September. Organising Committee Member.
- 2008 Association of Southern African Professional Archaeologists (ASAPA) Biennial Conference. Cape Town, South Africa, 25-28 March. Organising Committee Member.
- 2007 Primate Ecology and Genetics Group (PEGG) Annual Meeting, Cape Town, South Africa, 16-17 June. Organiser and Co-chair (with PhD student Riashna Sithaldeen).
- 2005 Fifth International Bone Diagenesis Conference. Cape Town, South Africa, 29-31 August. Organising Committee Member.
- 2002 “Australopithecus to AMHS: Current paleoanthropological research in South Africa.” Symposium held at the American Association of Physical Anthropologists meeting in Buffalo, NY, 10-13 April. Organizer and Co-chair.

other significant presentations (last 15 years)

- 2023 Keynote Speaker, World Science Festival. “Brave New Prehistoric World” https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Iy5mt7F_N4.
- 2021 Invited speaker. Unshared Origins: Pattern, process, practice and power in human origins research. Department of Anthropology, Emory University (virtual due to COVID-19).
- 2021 Globinar keynote speaker. 'The Future of Archaeology in Africa and the Diaspora', the Africa Oxford Initiative.
- 2020 Keynote speaker. “Scientific sovereignty in palaeoanthropology: how contemporary events are exposing systemic inequalities.” Raymond Dart Memorial Lecture, Australian Research Centre for Human Evolution, Griffith University (virtual due to COVID-19). <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PEFdhh1Qifc>
- 2019 The evolution of human diversity: the relative roles of chance, adaptation and ancient sex. Inaugural lecture, University of Cape Town. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LXvcFxRhPZU>
- 2018 Ancient sex and the production of human diversity. Royal Society of South Africa Lecture, SA Observatory, Cape Town.
- 2017 How and why humans differ: physical trait variation, race and racism. Tshisimani Centre for Activist Education, Mowbray, Cape Town.
- 2016 Neanderthal sex: tracking gene exchange in our ancestors. Centre for Extra-mural Studies Extension Lecture, University of Cape Town.

- 2016 New insights into the complex evolutionary history of our genus. Archaeological Society Lecture, SA Observatory, Cape Town.
- 2014 Of mice and monkeys: models for understanding non-adaptive processes shaping human evolution. Centre for GeoGenetics, Natural History Museum of Denmark, Copenhagen. May 2014.
- 2011 The role and relevance of hybridization in human evolution. Dept of Human Genetics, University of Cape Town Medical School.
- 2010 The role of hybridization in human evolution. Archaeological Society Lecture, SA Observatory, Cape Town
- 2010 The fossil record of human evolution: recent discoveries and their implications. Centre for Higher Education Development, UCT.
- 2009 Effects of hybridization on the craniofacial skeleton of primates and other mammals. Dept of Zoology, University of Cape Town.
-