

Fernanda Breckenfeld Ferrarini

Curriculum vitae, Feb. 2025

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College Park, MD, USA

EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy in Anthropology University of Maryland College Park, USA Advisor: Dr. Miguel Vilar	2024 - present
Graduate Certificate in Sustainable Management and Environment Pontifical Catholic University of Parana Curitiba, Brazil	2022
Bachelor of Science in Biotechnology Pontifical Catholic University of Parana Curitiba, Brazil	2016-2021

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Molecular anthropology, human evolution, population genetics, infectious disease, co-evolution

TEACHING & PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant

Department of Anthropology | University of Maryland | College Park, USA

- ANTH 222: Introduction to Ecological and Evolutionary Anthropology (Instructor: Dr. Miguel Vilar) Spring 2025

Laboratory Technician

Molecular Biology Institute of Parana (IBMP) | Curitiba, Brazil

07/2020 - 03/2022

- duties included reception, screening, pre-analysis and quality control of biological samples; manipulation of Brazil's national health data system and preparation of biological samples for molecular diagnosis of COVID-19, by qPCR

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Collaborator

Laboratory of Studies in Biological Anthropology, Bioarchaeology and Human Evolution

Federal University of Rio Grande | Rio Grande, Brazil

PI: Dr. Danilo Vicensotto

03/2023 - Present

- meta-analysis of hominins' metric patterns; scientific outreach

Research Intern

Laboratory of Archaeology and Environmental & Evolutionary Anthropology

University of Sao Paulo | Sao Paulo, Brazil

Supervisor: Dr. Andre Strauss

09/2023

- curation and maintenance of archaeological collections

Research Assistant

Department of Archaeology

Paranaense Museum (MUPA) | Curitiba, Brazil

Supervisor: Dr. Claudia Parellada

03/2023 - 03/2024

- curation and maintenance of archaeological collections; production of archaeological exhibitions

Undergraduate Student Researcher

Pontifical Catholic University of Parana | Curitiba, Brazil

- "Association of variants of the SLITRK3 and MME genes and Alzheimer's Disease"
Main Advisor: Dr. Andre Lorusso, Co-Advisor: Dr. Daiane Simao-Silva
 - case-control study of the association between BCHE, SLITRK3, APOE and MME genes' polymorphisms and the occurrence of Alzheimer's Disease
 - DNA extraction, purification and genotyping; standard population genetics statistical analysis

08/2019 - 07/2020

- "Analysis of the Dynamics of a Mixed Ombrophilous Forest located at Academic Experimental Farm 'Gralha Azul' (FEGA)/PUCPR in the period from 2013 to 2018"
Advisor: Dr. Marcio Coraiola
 - analysis of ingress, mortality and diametric growth of the forest and species
 - field work in forest plots; marking and measurement of arboreal individuals; database manipulation; identification of botanical species; standard statistical analysis

08/2018 - 07/2019

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Association of Biological Anthropologists (AABA) | Student Member

American Association of Anthropological Genetics (AAAG) | Student Member

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SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

Institutional Scholarship Program for Undergraduate Research Pontifical Catholic University of Parana Curitiba, Brazil	2019-2020
Dean's Graduate Fellowship University of Maryland College Park, USA	2024-2025
Student Volunteer Program Grant 94th Annual Meeting of the American Association of Biological Anthropologists Baltimore, USA	2025

SKILLS

- Laboratory**
DNA extraction, Real Time PCR, genotyping analysis, primer drawing
ELISA, Western Blot, Mammalian Cell culture
Biosafety Levels 2/3 (BSL)
5S, Kanban, Yellow Belt (Lean Six Sigma)
- Programming**
R
Python
Standard SQL
Happloview 4.2 (Software)
- Languages**
Brazilian Portuguese (Native Speaker)

PRESENTATIONS

XXVII Undergraduate Research Seminar (SEMIC-PUCPR) Pontifical Catholic University of Parana Curitiba, Brazil "Analysis of the Dynamics of a Mixed Ombrophilous Forest located at Academic Experimental Farm "Gralha Azul" (FEGA)/PUCPR in the period from 2013 to 2018". (Oral presentation)	2019
16th Anthro + Conference Department of Anthropology, University of Maryland College Park, Maryland, USA "Ethics in Ancient Human Research (Ancient DNA)". (Oral presentation)	2025

COMMUNITY & ACADEMIC INVOLVEMENT

Workshop Instructor "Creating organisms: genomics, transformation and transgenics" (High School and Undergraduate Levels) Pontifical Catholic University of Paraná Curitiba, Brazil	08/2019
Genetic Engineering Academic Association, Founder-Member Coordinator: Dr. Andre B. Lorusso Pontifical Catholic University of Paraná Curitiba, Brazil	04/2019 - 03/2020

SHORT COURSES & WORKSHOPS

Data Analytics (186 hours) Google Career Certificates (virtual). USA, 2023.
Introduction to Forensic Science (18 hours) Nanyang Technological University (virtual). Singapore, 2023.
Paleontology: Unraveling the Formation of Fossils (20 hours) Campinas State University (virtual). SP, Brazil, 2023.
Immunology & Stem Cell Therapy (10 hours) Dr. Paul Travers (Edinburgh University) Pontifical Catholic University of Paraná. Curitiba, Brazil, 2018.
Fundamentals, Tools & Techniques of Molecular Biology (32 hours) Pontifical Catholic University of Paraná. Curitiba, Brazil, 2018.
Python Programming Applied to Biotechnology (14 hours) Pontifical Catholic University of Paraná. Curitiba, Brazil, 2018.