

**Haylee Backs**

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[hbacks@bu.edu](mailto:hbacks@bu.edu)[www.linkedin.com/in/haylee-backs](http://www.linkedin.com/in/haylee-backs)**EDUCATION****Boston University**, Boston, MA

PhD in Anthropology

*Expected May 2029***Vassar College**, Poughkeepsie, NY*May 2022*

Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology and Cognitive Science

Senior Thesis: *Sense of Self: How Humans' Relationship with Objects Defines Us and Them***RESEARCH INTERESTS**

- Community Archaeology, Indigenous Archaeology, Environmental Archaeology, Feminist Archaeology, Culture and Behavior, Pre-contact Archaeology, Colonialism, Museums, NAGPRA, Archaeological Ethics

**FIELD EXPERIENCE****Field Technician, St. Mary's College of Maryland***July 2022*

Advisor: Laura Masur

- Excavated Jesuit sites throughout Southern Maryland
- Guided a group of volunteers that were assisting in the field
- Taught volunteers and descendent communities about the history of the site, importance of archaeology, and the goal of the project

**Crew Chief, St. Mary's College of Maryland***May 2022 – July 2022*

Advisor: Liza Gijanto

- Facilitated excavation of the colonial Ashcom estate in Maryland during the 5-week field season
- Instructed students in field techniques and artifact identification
- Sorted and cataloged the excavated collections in the lab for 2 weeks after closure of the site

**Archaeology of Colonial Maryland, NSF REU, St. Mary's County, Maryland***May 2021 – July 2021*

Advisor: Liza Gijanto

- Excavated the site of the colonial Ashcom estate in Maryland
- Identified and assessed artifacts in lab and prepared the collected artifacts for curation
- Used GIS, chemical analysis, and collections data to analyze the site and artifacts
- Created a virtual exhibit of the excavation site and artifacts through GIS and 3D modeling

**RESEARCH EXPERIENCE****Independent Researcher, Vassar College Cognitive Science Department***August 2021 – May 2022*

Advisor: Professor Gwen Broude

- Wrote an independent senior thesis with intent to publish
- Examined individual's relationships with objects and belongings through a variety of qualitative methods including interviews and Descriptive Experience Sampling
- Completed a literature review of existing research related to the topic to inform my research goals and strategies

**Researcher, Asprey Center for Collaborative Approaches to Science***July 2020 – August 2020*

Advisor: Professor April Beisaw

- Designed a research project based on archaeological knowledge and personal interests
- Utilized Ancestry.com, Census records, and letters from the South Carolina Historical Society to explore the effect of the late 1800s construction of New York City's water reservoirs on women

**Independent Researcher, Vassar College Cognitive Science Department***January 2020 – May 2020*

Advisor: Professor Gwen Broude

- Conducted research on the phenomenon of removal using written narratives and interviews of participants
- Published this work in *Process: Journal of Multidisciplinary Undergraduate Scholarship*

## **PUBLICATION**

**Author:** Backs, H. (2021, July 12). Removal: How it Develops and its Effects on Individuals. *Process: Journal of Multidisciplinary Undergraduate Scholarship*. Retrieved December 13, 2021, from <https://www.processjmus.org/haylee-backs-removal>.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

**Presenter:** Backs, H. (2022, February 4<sup>th</sup>). Summer Programs and Graduate School [Department Talk]. Vassar College Anthropology Department, Poughkeepsie, NY, United States.

**Presenter:** Backs, H. (2021, December 4). *The Contexts of Cremona* [Paper Presentation]. Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology (CNEHA) Conference, St. Mary's City, MD, United States.

**Guest Lecturer:** Backs, H. (2022, March 3). Vassar and NAGPRA [Lecture]. Vassar College Anthropology Department, Poughkeepsie, NY, United States.

**Podcast Host:** Backs, H. (Creator and Host). (2020, November 22). *Decentering Western Science* [Audio Podcast]. <https://pages.vassar.edu/indigenous-environmental-activism/2020/11/22/decentering-western-science/>.

## **RESEARCH SKILLS**

**Archaeology:** Unit excavation; soil sifting; artifact recovery and identification; Munsell soil identification; total station for laying out excavation units; cleaning and cataloging artifacts; collections management; photogrammetry; GPS; ArcGIS; QGIS; virtual exhibit design

**Experiment Design:** Statistical Analysis; XRF; Raman Spectrometry; conducting interviews; narrative analysis; survey design; ethnography; archival research

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

### **Anthropology Department Intern, Vassar College**

*August 2021 – May 2022*

- Hold office hours and review sessions for introductory courses in archaeology and biological anthropology
- Consult with the faculty about hiring for new positions and the design of future coursework
- Plan department events and act as a liaison for students

### **Substitute Teacher, School Town of Highland, Highland, IN**

*December 2019 – December 2021*

- Manage students and classroom activities in the absence of the teacher
- Instruct middle and high school students on a variety of topics depending on subject area

## **SERVICE POSITIONS**

### **Native American and Indigenous Students Alliance (NAISA)**

*March 2020 – May 2022*

- Media Chair (September 2021 – Present)
- Provide a space to discuss Native American issues and promote indigeneity on campus

### **Vassar College Equestrian Team**

*September 2018 – May 2022*

- Captain (May 2021-Present), Secretary (August 2019-May 2021)
- Participate in Intercollegiate Horse Show Association competitions and events

### **Grey Matters VC**

*October 2020 – May 2021*

- Edit neuroscience articles on a weekly basis for content, grammar, and validity
- Collaborate with authors by suggesting resources and content direction for the article

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

Psi Chi, the International Honor Society in Psychology  
Archaeological Institute of America

*May 2021 – Present*  
*November 2020 – Present*