

*Curriculum Vitae***CHRISTIAN ALEXANDER TRYON**

*New York University, Department of Anthropology
25 Waverly Place, New York, NY 10003*

Tel: 212-992-9785, Fax: 212-998-8581, Email: christian.tryon@nyu.edu

EDUCATION

Ph.D. (with distinction), Anthropology, U. of Connecticut, Storrs, 2003.

M.A., Anthropology, U. of Connecticut, Storrs, 2000.

B.A. (Honors), Anthropology and English, *cum laude*, U. of Connecticut, Storrs, 1996.

POSITIONS HELD

- 2008- *Assistant Professor*, Department of Anthropology, New York University.
- 2005-present *Smithsonian Research Collaborator*, Human Origins Program, Department of Anthropology, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution.
- 2005-2007 *Visiting Assistant Professor and Assistant Professorial Lecturer*, Department of Anthropology, The George Washington University.
- 2004-2005 *Smithsonian Postdoctoral Fellow*, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution.
- 2004 *Fondation Fyssen Postdoctoral Fellow*, Centre d'études Préhistoire, Antiquité et Moyen-Age (CEPAM), Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS), Valbonne-Sophia Antipolis, France.
- 2002 *Lecturer*, Department of Anthropology, University of Connecticut.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

The archaeological, evolutionary, and geological context of early *Homo sapiens*, reconstruction of hominin behavior, Paleolithic archaeology (including African Early and Middle Stone Age sites), lithic technology and raw material provenance analysis, geochemical analysis and correlation of volcanic ash deposits using an electron microprobe, natural and cultural formation processes of the archeological and paleontological record.

RESEARCH GRANTS

- 2009 *L.S.B. Leakey Foundation Research Grant*, L. Slimak, P.I., J. Lewis, co-P.I., **C.A. Tryon**, co-P.I. Building a tephrochronological framework for Orgnac 3 (Mid-Pleistocene, Ardèche, France).
- 2008 *National Science Foundation*, **C.A. Tryon**, P.I., K. McNulty, co-P.I. High Risk Research in Anthropology: Testing the archaeological potential of the Wasiriya Beds, Rusinga Island, Kenya (BCS-0841530).
- 2006 *National Geographic Society*, Committee for Research and Exploration. **C.A. Tryon**, P.I. Archaeological survey of ~235,000-117,000 year-old rift valley sediments near Silali, northern Kenya.
- 2001 *National Science Foundation* Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant. S. McBrearty, P.I., **C.A. Tryon**, co-P.I. Archaeology and tephrostratigraphy of the southern Kapthurin Formation, Baringo, Kenya (BCS-0118345).
- 2001 *Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research, Inc.* Dissertation Fieldwork Grant. **C.A. Tryon** P.I. The Acheulian to Middle Stone Age transition of the southern Kapthurin Formation, Kenya.
- 2001 *Bill Bishop Memorial Trust*. **C.A. Tryon**, P.I. The Acheulian to Middle Stone Age transition of the southern Kapthurin Formation, Baringo, Kenya.

RESEARCH GRANTS, CONTINUED

- 2000 *L.S.B. Leakey Foundation* Dissertation Fieldwork Grant. **C.A. Tryon**, P.I. Archaeological and tephrostratigraphic survey in the southern Kapthurin Formation, Kenya.
- 1999 *University of Connecticut Research Foundation* Summer Fellowship. **C.A. Tryon**, P.I. Documenting Middle Pleistocene hominid behavioral variability in the Lake Baringo basin, Kenya: A tephrostratigraphic approach.

PUBLICATIONS**JOURNAL ARTICLES**

- submitted **Tryon, C.A.**; Pobiner, B.; Kauffman, R. Archaeology and Human Evolution. *Evolution: Education and Outreach*.
- submitted **Tryon, C.A.** Alternative explanations for early hominin non-utilitarian behavior at Wonderwerk Cave, South Africa. *Journal of Taphonomy*.
- 2009 **Tryon, C.A.**; Logan, M.A.V.; Mouralis, D.; Kuhn, S.L.; Slimak, L.; Balkan-Atli, N. Building a tephrostratigraphic framework for the Paleolithic of Central Anatolia, Turkey. *Journal of Archaeological Science* 36: 637-652.
- 2008 **Tryon, C.A.**; Roach, N.T.; Logan, M.A.V. The Middle Stone Age of the northern Kenyan Rift: Age and context of new archaeological sites from the Kapedo Tuffs. *Journal of Human Evolution* 55: 652-664.
- 2006 **Tryon, C.A.** 'Early' Middle Stone Age lithic technology of the Kapthurin Formation (Kenya). *Current Anthropology* 47: 367-375.
- 2006 **Tryon, C.A.** & McBrearty, S. Tephrostratigraphy of the Bedded Tuff Member (Kapthurin Formation, Kenya) and the nature of archaeological change in the later Middle Pleistocene. *Quaternary Research* 65:492-507.
- 2006 **Tryon, C.A.** Investigating the destructive potential of earthworms for the archaeobotanical record. *Journal of Field Archaeology* 31:199-202.
- 2005 **Tryon, C.A.**, McBrearty, S. & Texier, P.-J. Levallois lithic technology from the Kapthurin Formation, Kenya: Acheulian origin and Middle Stone Age diversity. *African Archaeological Review* 22:199-229.
- 2005 **Tryon, C.A.** Le concept Levallois en Afrique. *Annales Fyssen* 20:132-145.
- 2002 **Tryon, C.A.** & McBrearty, S. Tephrostratigraphy and the Acheulian to Middle Stone Age transition in the Kapthurin Formation, Kenya. *Journal of Human Evolution* 42:211-235.

CHAPTERS IN EDITED VOLUMES

- In press Watson, J., **Tryon, C.**, Vicéns, M. Faster and more accurate processing of samples for microtephrochronology. Proceedings of the 37th International Symposium on Archaeometry, Siena, Italy.
- In press **Tryon, C.A.** How the geological record affects our reconstructions of Middle Stone Age settlement patterns: The case of alluvial fans in Baringo, Kenya. In (N. Conard & A. Delagnes, eds.) *Settlement Dynamics of the Middle Paleolithic & Middle Stone Age, Volume III*. Tübingen: Kerns Verlag.
- In press **Tryon, C.A.** & Potts, R. Approaches for understanding flake production in the African Acheulean. In (G. Tostevin, ed.) *Reduction Sequence, Chaîne Opératoire, and Other Methods: The Epistemologies of Different Approaches to Lithic Analysis*. New York: Springer.
- 2006 McBrearty, S. & **Tryon, C.A.** From Acheulian to Middle Stone Age in the Kapthurin Formation, Kenya. In (E. Hovers & S. Kuhn, eds) *Transitions before the Transition*. New York: Springer, pp. 257-277.

CHAPTERS IN EDITED VOLUMES CONTINUED

- 2003 Thorson, R.M. & **Tryon, C.A.** Bluff-top sand sheets in northeastern archaeology: A physical transport model and application to the Neville Site, Amoskeag Falls, New Hampshire. In (D.L. Cremeens & J. Hart, eds) *Geoarchaeology of Landscapes in the Glaciated Northeast*. Albany:NY State Museum Bulletin 497, pp.61-73.

BOOK REVIEWS

- In press **Tryon, C.A.** & Brooks, A.S. The latest on the first Africans. A review of *The First Africans* by L. Barham and P. Mitchell. *Before Farming*.
- 2008 **Tryon, C.A.** Reinvestigating early human behavior at Olduvai Gorge. A review of "Deconstructing Olduvai: A Taphonomic Study of the Bed I Sites," by Dominguez-Rodrigo et al. *Journal of Mammalian Evolution* 15: 303-305.
- 2005 **Tryon, C.A.** Review of *A Record in Stone: The Study of Australia's Flaked Stone Artifacts*, by S. Holdaway & N. Stern. *Journal of African Archaeology* 3(1):163-164.

OTHER

- 2002 **Tryon, C.A.** Middle Pleistocene sites from the "southern" Kapthurin Formation of Kenya. *Nyame Akuma* 57:6-13.
- 1999 **Tryon, C.A.** Lithic analysis. In (W.F. & K. Keegan, eds.) *Connecticut Archaeology*. Storrs, CT: Bibliophila Press, pp. 34-36.
- 1997 **Tryon, C.A.** & Philpotts, A.R. Possible sources of mylonite and hornfels debitage from the Cooper Site, Lyme, Connecticut. *Bulletin of the Archaeological Society of Connecticut* 60:3-12.

THESES

- 2003 **Tryon, C.A.** *The Acheulian to Middle Stone Age Transition: Tephrostratigraphic Context for Archaeological Change in the Kapthurin Formation, Kenya*. Ph.D. thesis, University of Connecticut, Storrs.
- 1996 **Tryon, C.A.** (1996) *Archaeological and geological investigations of the Cooper Site*. Unpublished B.A. (Honors) thesis, University of Connecticut, Storrs.

PRESENTATIONS AT PROFESSIONAL MEETINGS

- 2010 **Tryon, C.A.**; Faith, J.T.; Peppe, D.J.; Fox, D.L.; McNulty, K.P.; Dunsworth, H.; Harcourt-Smith, W.; Manthi, F.K. Paleoenvironmental context for modern human origins in Equatorial Africa: Introducing the Pleistocene Wasiriya Beds of Rusinga Island (Kenya). Geological Society of America Annual Meeting, Portland, OR.
- 2009 Keegan, W.F.; **Tryon, C.A.** & Keegan, K.N. Euroamerican Place-Naming and King Phillip's War. 29th Annual Conference on New England Archaeology, Paxton, MA.
- 2009 **Tryon, C.A.**; Behrensmeier, A.K.; Logan, M.A.V.; Faith, J.T.; Keegan, W.F. & Potts, R. *Ad hoc* strategies of tool use by Middle Pleistocene hominins in Member 11', Olorgesailie Formation, Kenya. Paper presented at the Paleoanthropology Society Meetings, Chicago, IL.
- 2008 Brooks, A.S.; **Tryon, C.**; Yellen, J. Human behavioral responses to demographic stress during the MSA. Society of Africanist Archaeologists Meetings, Frankfurt, Germany.
- 2008 Blome, M.W; Cohen, A.; **Tryon, C.**; Stone, J.R.; Russell, J.; Cox, M. & Brooks, A. A synthesis of African Paleoclimate 150-35 ka and possible implications for Middle Stone Age archaeology. Meeting of the Geological Society of America, Houston.

PRESENTATIONS AT PROFESSIONAL MEETINGS CONTINUED

- 2008 Watson, J., **Tryon, C.**, Vicéns, M. A new method for faster and more accurate processing of samples for micro-tephrochronology. 37th International Symposium on Archaeometry, Siena, Italy.
- 2008 Blome, M.; Cohen, A.; **Tryon, C.** A synthesis of African Paleoclimate 150-35 ka. GeoDaze 2008, 36th Annual Geoscience Symposium, University of Arizona, Tucson.
- 2008 **Tryon, C.**, Logan, A., Mouralis, D., Kuhn, S. & Slimak, L. Building a tephrochronological framework for the central Anatolian Paleolithic. Annual Meetings of the Paleoanthropology Society, Vancouver, Canada. *Paleoanthropology* A34.
- 2007 Cohen, A.S.; Scholz, C.A.; Beuning, K.R.M.; Stone, J.; Johnson, T.C.; **Tryon, C.A.**; Brooks, A.S.; King, J.; Brown, E.T.; Ivory, S. Early Late-Pleistocene megadroughts in Africa and their ecological consequences for *Homo sapiens*. Annual Meetings of the Geological Society of America, Denver, CO.
- 2007 **Tryon, C.A.**, Roach, N. & Logan, A. The archaeological potential of the northern Kenya Rift Valley: New Middle Stone Age sites from the Kapedo Beds. *Paleoanthropology* A33. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Paleoanthropology Society, Philadelphia, PA.
- 2006 **Tryon, C.A.** & Potts, R. Approaches for understanding flake production in the African Acheulian. Paper presented at the Annual Meetings of the Society of American Archaeologists, San Juan, Puerto Rico.
- 2006 Haradon, C.M. & **Tryon, C.A.** Ecological context for the Acheulian to Middle Stone Age transition. Paper presented at the Annual Meetings of the Society of American Archaeologists, San Juan, Puerto Rico.
- 2006 Brooks, A.S., Yellen, J. & **Tryon, C.A.** Landscape and subsistence strategies in the later Middle Stone Age of eastern and eastern/central Africa. Paper presented at the Annual Meetings of the Society of American Archaeologists, San Juan, PR.
- 2005 **Tryon, C.A.**, McBrearty, S., & Texier, P.-J. Levallois lithic technology from the Kapthurin Formation, Kenya: Acheulian origin and Middle Stone Age diversity. *PaleoAnthropology* PAS Abstracts 2005:A60. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Paleoanthropology Society, Milwaukee, WI.
- 2003 **Tryon, C.A.** & McBrearty, S. Technological change across the Acheulian-Middle Stone Age transition of the Kapthurin Formation, Kenya. Paper presented at the Paleoanthropology Society Meetings, Tempe, AZ.
- 2002 **Tryon, C.A.** & McBrearty, S. New Middle Stone Age sites from the southern Kapthurin Formation, Baringo, Kenya. *Nyame Akuma* 57:75. Paper presented at the Soc. of Africanist Archaeologists Meetings, Tucson, AZ.
- 2001 McBrearty, S. Deino, A. & **Tryon, C.A.** Chronology of Middle Pleistocene events in the Kapthurin Formation, Baringo, Kenya. *Journal of Human Evolution*: A14. Paper presented at the Paleoanthropology Society Meetings, Kansas City, MO.
- 2000 McBrearty, S. & **Tryon, C.A.** Resolving the Acheulian to Middle Stone Age transition through tephrostratigraphy in the Kapthurin Formation, Kenya. *Nyame Akuma* 54:52. Paper presented at the Society of Africanist Archaeologists meetings, Cambridge, England.
- 2000 Thorson, R.M. & **Tryon, C.A.** Sand sheets in forested bluff-top settings; an archaeological model for the northeastern U.S. Presented at: Geoarchaeology of the Northeast symposium, NY Natural History Conference VI, Albany, NY.
- 1996 George, D.R. & **Tryon, C.A.** Lithic raw material procurement and use at the Late Woodland Period Cooper Site, Lyme, Connecticut. Paper presented at the Semi-Annual Meeting of the Archaeological Society of Connecticut and the Massachusetts Archaeological Society; Storrs, CT.

PRESENTATIONS AT PROFESSIONAL MEETINGS CONTINUED

- 1996 **Tryon, C.A.** & Philpotts, A.R. Possible sources of mylonite and hornfels debitage from the Cooper Site, Lyme, Connecticut. Presented at the 36th Annual Meeting of the Northeastern Anthropological Association, Plymouth, NH.

INVITED LECTURES

- 2009 **Tryon, C.A.** Scale matters! Global vs. regional perspectives on 'modern' human origins. Paleobiology Seminar Meeting, Stony Brook University.
- 2009 **Tryon, C.A.** What can we learn about modern human origins from Pleistocene Africa and Anatolia? Answers from dried up lakes, volcanic eruptions, old stone tools, and the occasional aardvark. New York University Anthropology Undergraduate Student Association.
- 2008 **Tryon, C.A.** The archaeology of human evolution: New results from the Middle and Late Pleistocene of Kenya and Turkey. New York Consortium in Evolutionary Primatology (NYCEP).
- 2008 **Tryon, C.A.** Ancient rocks and modern humans: Geological and archaeological investigations of hominin behavioral evolution in the Late-Middle Pleistocene. Department of Anthropology, New York University.
- 2008 **Tryon, C.A.** Volcanic ashes as chronological tools at archaeological sites. Program in Archaeological Sciences, University of Arizona, Tucson.
- 2007 **Tryon, C.A.** Archaeological and geological perspectives on the origin and spread of modern humans. Mineral Sciences Department, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution.
- 2006 **Tryon, C.A.** Ancient rocks and modern humans: Geological and archaeological studies of Pleistocene hominin behavior in eastern Africa. Department of Anthropology, Stony Brook University.
- 2005 **Tryon, C. A.** What happened at the end of the Acheulian? New evidence using stone tools and volcanic ash from the Rift Valley of Kenya. Paleoanthropology Seminar Series, Human Origins Program, Smithsonian Institution.
- 1999 McBrearty, S. & **Tryon, C.A.** What happened at the end of the Acheulian? The view from East Africa. U. of Connecticut Dept. of Anthropology Colloquium Series.
- 1998 **Tryon, C.A.** Geological answers to archaeological questions: Stone tools and their sources in southern New England. Albert Morgan Archaeological Society; South Windsor, CT.

WORKSHOP PARTICIPATION

- 2009 *Darwin's Legacy: Early Human Evolution in Africa.* New York Consortium in Evolutionary Primatology, February 29-March 1, New York, New York.
- 2007 *National Academies of Sciences' Kavli Frontiers of Science Symposium,* November 8-10, Irvine, California.
- 2005 *Paleoclimates and Human Evolution: A workshop Integrating Drilling Research with Paleoanthropology and Other Geological Records,* November 17-20. Front Royal, VA. Sponsored by: NSF, the Smithsonian Institution, and DOESECC.
- 2005 *The Middle Stone Age of East Africa and Modern Human Origins,* July 16-25. Nairobi, Kenya and Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Sponsored by: National Museums of Kenya, National Museums of Ethiopia, the Smithsonian Institution, Wenner-Gren, and NSF.
- 2003 *Ecole thématique: Experimentation et analyse technologique de la pierre taillée préhistorique* at CNRS, Valbonne-Sophia Antipolis, France, October 7-16. Directed by P.-J. Texier, P. Bodu, and J. Pelegrin.

FIELD EXPERIENCE

Kenya

Wasiriya Beds, Rusinga Island (2009-present):

Directed survey and excavated of fossil- and Middle Stone Age artifact-bearing sediments on the shores of Lake Victoria.

Kapedo Tuffs (2006-2008): Directed survey of Rift Valley sediments near Silali volcano, excavated Middle Stone Age sites and conducted geochemical analysis of volcanic ash deposits.

Olorgesailie (2004-present): Analysis of late Acheulian lithic assemblages from Member 11 and director of excavations in Member 14 at Olorgesailie Kenya. Project director: Richard Potts.

Kapthurin Formation (1997-present): Excavation, survey and tephrostratigraphic correlation in the Kapthurin Formation. Project director: Sally McBrearty

Turkey

Kaletepe Deresi 3 (2006-present):

Geochemical analysis of tephra from the only excavated Acheulian site in Anatolia. Project directors: Steve Kuhn (U. of Arizona) and Ludovic Slimak (CNRS).

France

L'abri de la Combette (1998):

Excavation assistant at this Middle Paleolithic hunting stand in Vaucluse. Site director: Pierre-Jean Texier, CNRS (Valbonne).

Northeastern U.S.

Excavation & analysis of mid-Holocene to 19th century sites for cultural resource management firms and the CT State Archaeologist (1994-1997, 2001-2003).

AWARDS

Top Reviewer for the Journal of Human Evolution (2008).

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Associate Editor for the Journal of Human Evolution (2009-present).

Proposal and manuscript reviewer (with approximate counts of manuscripts or proposals in parentheses) for the US National Science Foundation (10), the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (1), National Research Foundation of South Africa (1), National Geographic Committee for Research and Exploration (4), the L.S.B. Leakey Foundation (2), the Journal of Human Evolution (13), Current Anthropology (1), Antiquity (1), Before Farming: The Archaeology and Anthropology of Hunter-gatherers (1), the Journal of African Archaeology (1), Springer Press (1), and Blackwell Scientific Press (1).

Undergraduate advisor in Anthropology, George Washington University (2005-2006); reader for M.A. thesis in anthropology (Erin Marie Williams), George Washington University (2007).

M.A. committee member, New York University, for Victoria Dominguez, Nicholas Holowka, and Allison Sharplin.

Ph.D. dissertation committee member, New York University, for James W. Boyle (2009), *The Production and Use of Bone and Antler Dress Pins in Early Medieval Ireland, c. AD 400 – 800*.

Reviewer (2009) for NYU Graduate School of Arts and Sciences predissertation fellowship applications in the Department of Anthropology. Admissions committee (2009) for NYU Department of Anthropology MA program in Human Skeletal Biology.

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION MEMBERSHIP

Paleoanthropology Society, Society of American Archaeology, Society of Africanist Archaeologists, Geological Society of America, British Institute of East Africa.

MEDIA COVERAGE

2008 Science Now (<http://sciencenow.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/2008/1201/1>)
 National Geographic (<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2008/12/081203-homo-sapien-missions.html>)

COURSES TAUGHT

New York University

2009 *Undergraduate*
Archaeology: Early Societies and Cultures
Paleolithic Archaeology

Graduate
The Archaeology of Modern Human Origins (with Randall White)
Lithic Technology

2008 *Undergraduate*
African Archaeology

George Washington University

2005-2007 *Undergraduate*
Introduction to Archaeology
Human Cultural Beginnings (Paleolithic Archaeology)
African Roots: From *Australopithecus* to Zimbabwe
Archaeological Field and Laboratory Techniques

Graduate
Human Cultural Beginnings Seminar, with Alison Brooks.
Diet and Human Evolution, with Peter Lucas.

University of Connecticut

2002 *Undergraduate*
Human Evolution