## OSTEOBIOGRAPHIES

## The Discovery, Interpretation and Repatriation of Human Remains

## Susan Pfeiffer

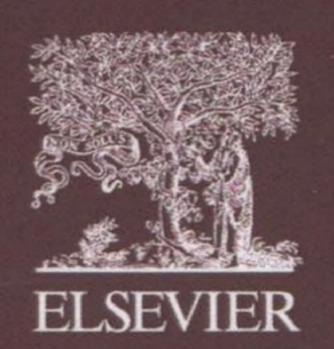
Osteobiographies: The Discovery, Interpretation, and Repatriation of Human Remains contextualizes repatriation, or the transfer of authority for human skeletal remains, from the perspective of bioarchaeologists and evolutionary biologists. It approaches repatriation from a global perspective, touching upon the most well-known Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) legislation of the United States, while also covering Canada and African countries.

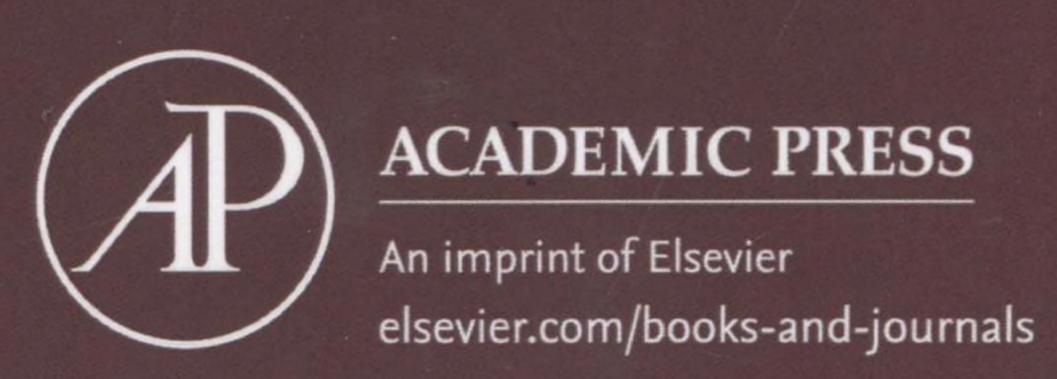
This book focuses on the stories behind human skeletons, analyzing their biological factors to determine evolution patterns. It begins with an overview of anatomy, genomics, and stable isotopes from dietary and environmental factors, and how to identify these in skeletal remains. The book then goes on to discuss European-origin, North American, and African paleopathology; ancient DNA links; and cultural issues and implications around repatriation. It includes case studies to show how information from archaeologically derived skeletons is vital to understanding human evolution and providing respectful histories of the people represented by the remains.

This book is an ideal resource for bioarchaeologists, evolutionary biologists, and anthropologists. Students in advanced undergraduate or graduate courses in such disciplines will also benefit from the cutting-edge knowledge and data provided in this text.

## **Key Features**

- · Offers research and perspectives on the importance of skeletal remains on a global scale
- Identifies and distinguishes how genomics, biological factors, and burial methods can be used to trace human evolution through bones
- Addresses structural challenges to repatriation of human remains, through cases involving Europe and Africa







Acknowledgments Introduction		IX Xi
IIII	auction	A.
1.	Osteobiography: A way to see past lives	1
	What is a bioarchaeologist?	1
	What is an osteobiography?	2
	The tools of the trade	9
	Terms, labels and designations	17
	References	19
2.	Rest in peace	21
	Prospect Hill	21
	Snake Hill	30
	Historic graves in broader context	35
	References	36
3.	Framework for Osteobiographies: Lower Great Lakes	37
	Prologue	37
	History's story line	38
	Archaeology's story line	41
	The contemporary context	43
	Summary	48
	References	49
4	Mobile people making a go of it	51
	Prologue	51
	So little to go on	53
	The Hind Site	54
	A child's distinctive skeleton	56
	Looking back at the Hind Site	61
	References	62

5.	We enter the afterlife together	65
	Prologue	65
	Background to the story	66
	The excavation of ossuaries	68
	Ossuary osteobiographies	69
	Evidence of a disease that wasn't supposed to be there	71
	Ossuary communities: Collective osteobiographies	74
	Concluding remarks	80
	References	80
6.	Collaboration and repatriation	83
	Prologue	83
	Construction of a collaborative framework	83
	Preliminary steps	84
	Meanwhile, other developments	86
	Preparing for repatriation	88
	Repatriation and after	94
	Things to not do	96
	References	97
7.	Framework for osteobiographies: Eastern and Southern Africa	99
	Prologue	99
	The lure of Africa	101
	Modern humans: What role for Africa?	104
	Osteobiographies of past Africans	109
	References	110
8.	Lake Turkana: An intriguing osteobiography	111
	Prologue	111
	The Lake Turkana Basin	112
	The pillar sites	114
	The still incomplete picture	122
	References	124
9.	Southern African foragers: Geographical and historical context	125
	Prologue	125
	The remarkable shrinking forager	131
	A large number of small people	140
	References	142

211

10.	Southern African foragers: Life histories of past communities	145
	Approaching the question of body size	145
	Summary	155
	References	156
11.	Interpersonal violence among Southern African foragers	161
	Prologue	161
	Interpretive approaches to violent acts in the distant past	165
	The skeletal evidence	166
	What to make of it all?	170
	Bearing witness	173
	References	174
12.	Repatriation in an African context	177
	Prologue	177
	Unnamed persons	. 178
	Named persons	183
	References	191
13.	Bones and objects of contention	193
	Prologue	193
	The world of objects	194
	The world of bones	196
	Legacy collections	199
	Beyond museums	205
	The way forward	206
	References	208

Index