

I am currently pursuing a PhD in Anthropology at University of Nevada, Reno, focusing on the archaeology of hunter-gatherer societies. I earned a B.A. in Evolutionary Anthropology at University of California, Davis in 2021. During this time, I completed an undergraduate thesis focused on the development of early bone tool technology in Southern Africa during the Middle Stone Age. In looking at changes in environment as a possible explanation for the development of this technology, I became interested in past human responses to climate change more broadly.

For my research for this fellowship, I will track changes in Mongolian human land use patterns in response to mainly climate, but also political and economic events from 1979 to the present using LANDSAT multispectral imagery. As proxies for human land use, I will use soil stains left by livestock on the landscape and traditional houses known as “gers.” In addition to providing a model for the interpretation of the archaeological record in the region, I hope that this research will aid in mitigating the harmful effects of modern climate change on the Mongolian population, or any region where a significant portion of the population still depends on nomadic pastoralism for its livelihood. After completing my PhD, I plan to pursue a career in academic research, focusing on past human responses to climate, political, and economic changes, how these three classes of change intersect, and how this information can help populations in crisis in the modern world. I would also like to contribute to the development new methodologies for the use of remote sensing in archaeological research.