



Krish Seetah

Associate Professor of Environmental Social Sciences, of Oceans, of Anthropology and Senior Fellow at the Woods Institute for the Environment

 Curriculum Vitae available Online

Bio

BIO

I am a zooarchaeologist, whose focus is primarily on colonisation and colonialism. My zooarchaeological research has used butchery analysis (with the benefit of professional and ethnographic actualistic experience) to investigate agency within the human-animal relationship. More recently, I have employed geometric morphometrics (GMM) as a mechanism for identifying and distinguishing animal populations. This approach to studying colonial activity centres on understanding how people manipulate animal bodies, both during life and after death.

Alongside the strictly faunal research is a research interest in technologies associated with animal processing. This has been used to investigate issues of technology, trade and socio-economic attitudes within colonial contexts in the Mediterranean (Venice & Montenegro) and the Baltic (Poland, Latvia & Lithuania).

I am also the Director of the 'Mauritian Archaeology and Cultural Heritage' (MACH) project, which studies European Imperialism and colonial activity. This project centres on the movement of peoples and material cultures, specifically within the contexts of slavery and Diaspora. The work of this project has focused on key sites in Mauritius and is based on a systematic programme of excavation and environmental sampling. The underlying aims are to better understand the transition from slavery to indentured labour following abolition, the extent and diversity of trade in the region and the environmental consequences of intense, monoculture, agriculture.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Associate Professor, Environmental Social Sciences
- Associate Professor, Oceans
- Senior Fellow, Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment
- Associate Professor, Anthropology
- Faculty Affiliate, Institute for Human-Centered Artificial Intelligence (HAI)
- Affiliate, Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment

ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

- Assistant Professor of Anthropology, Stanford University, (2012- present)
- Lecturer in Archaeology, University of Central Lancashire, (2010-2012)
- ERC Research Fellow, Reading University, (2011-2014)
- Associate Fellow, McDonald Institute, (2010-2014)

- Scientific Fellow, Scientific Research Centre, Slovenia, (2010-2011)
- External Consultant, Truth & Justice Commission, Mauritius., (2009-2011)
- Leverhulme Research Associate, McDonald Institute, (2007-2010)

HONORS AND AWARDS

- English Heritage Award for Presenting Heritage Research., BA Festival Of Science (2003)
- Highly Commended for The Foundation Essay, Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge (2003)

BOARDS, ADVISORY COMMITTEES, PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- Affiliate, Stanford Center for Human and Planetary Health (2025 - present)
- Member, Society of Antiquaries of London
- Member, Society for Post Medieval Archaeology (SPMA)
- Member, European Association of Archaeologists (EAA)
- Member, International Council for Archaeozoology (ICAZ)
- Member, The Society for the Promotion of Roman Studies
- Member, The Society for Medieval Archaeology
- Member, Cambridge Philosophical Society (CPS)
- Member, Stanford Archaeology Center, Stanford
- Member, Center for South Asia, Stanford
- Member, The Europe Center, Stanford
- Member, Woods Institute for the Environment, Stanford
- Member, Center for African Studies, Stanford
- Member, Center for Medieval and Early Modern Studies, Stanford

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

- B.Sc., University of Surrey , Biological Sciences (1996)
- M.Sc., University of Surrey , Ecology for Sustainable Development (1998)
- M.Sc., Bournemouth University , Osteoarchaeology (2002)
- Ph.D, University of Cambridge , Archaeology (2007)

Research & Scholarship

PROJECTS

- The Mauritian Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Project: exploring the impact of colonialism and colonisation in the Indian Ocean - Stanford University

Teaching

COURSES

2025-26

- A Deep Dive Into the Indian Ocean: From Prehistory to the Modern Day: ARCHLGY 129C (Spr)
- A Deep Dive Into the Indian Ocean: From Prehistory to the Modern Day: ARCHLGY 229C (Spr)
- A Deep Dive Into the Indian Ocean: From Prehistory to the Modern Day: EBS 129, EBS 229, OCEANS 129C, OCEANS 229C (Spr)
- Oceans and the Global Imaginary: EBS 128, EBS 228, GLOBAL 112, GLOBAL 212, OCEANS 112, OCEANS 212 (Spr)

2024-25

- Oceans and the Global Imaginary: GLOBAL 112, GLOBAL 212, OCEANS 112, OCEANS 212 (Spr)

2023-24

- A Deep Dive Into the Indian Ocean: From Prehistory to the Modern Day: ANTHRO 129C, ANTHRO 229C, ARCHLGY 129C, OCEANS 129C, OCEANS 229C (Aut)
- A Deep Dive into the Indian Ocean: From Prehistory to the Modern Day: MLA 377 (Aut)
- Designing Environmental Research: ENVRES 320 (Win)
- Get to Know Your Oceans: OCEANS 300A (Aut)
- Oceans and the Global Imaginary: GLOBAL 112, GLOBAL 212, OCEANS 112, OCEANS 212 (Aut)

2022-23

- A Deep Dive Into the Indian Ocean: From Prehistory to the Modern Day: ANTHRO 129C, ANTHRO 229C, ARCHLGY 129C (Win)
- A Deep Dive Into the Indian Ocean: From Prehistory to the Modern Day: ARCHLGY 229C (Win)
- Archaeological Methods: ANTHRO 91A, ARCHLGY 102 (Spr)
- Oceans and the Global Imaginary: GLOBAL 112, GLOBAL 212 (Spr)

STANFORD ADVISEES

Doctoral Dissertation Reader (AC)

Matthew Illing

Orals Chair

Ozgul Ozdemir

Postdoctoral Faculty Sponsor

Jack Pink

Doctoral Dissertation Advisor (AC)

Prerana Gawde

Master's Program Advisor

Ella Dolan

Doctoral (Program)

Fridah Nyakundi, Sergio Sanchez

Publications

PUBLICATIONS

- **Global Health Needs Modernized Containment Strategies to Prepare for the Next Pandemic.** *Frontiers in public health*
Seetah, K., Moots, H., Pickel, D., Van Cant, M., Cianciosi, A., Mordecai, E., Cullen, M., Maldonado, Y.
2022; 10: 834451
- **Colonization During Colonialism: Developing a Framework to Assess the Rapid Ecological Transformation of Mauritius's Pristine Ecosystem** *FRONTIERS IN ECOLOGY AND EVOLUTION*
Seetah, K., Manfio, S., Balbo, A., Farr, R., Florens, F.
2022; 10
- **Integrated Remote Sensing to Assess Disease Control: Evidence from Flat Island Quarantine Station, Mauritius** *REMOTE SENSING*
Cianciosi, A., Caval, S., Calaon, D., Seetah, K.
2022; 14 (8)

- **Colonialism, slavery and 'The Great Experiment': Carbon, nitrogen and oxygen isotope analysis of Le Morne and Bois Marchand cemeteries, Mauritius** *JOURNAL OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SCIENCE-REPORTS*
Lightfoot, E., Caval, S., Calaon, D., Appleby, J., Santana, J., Cianciosi, A., Fregel, R., Seetah, K.
2020; 31
- **Archaeology and contemporary emerging zoonosis: A framework for predicting future Rift Valley fever virus outbreaks** *INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF OSTEOARCHAEOLOGY*
Seetah, K., LaBeaud, D., Kumm, J., Grossi-Soyster, E., Anangwe, A., Barry, M.
2020
- **Disease ecology, health and the environment: a framework to account for ecological and socio-economic drivers in the control of neglected tropical diseases** *PHILOSOPHICAL TRANSACTIONS OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY B-BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES*
Garchitorena, A., Sokolow, S. H., Roche, B., Ngonghala, C. N., Jocque, M., Lund, A., Barry, M., MORDECAL, E. A., Daily, G. C., Jones, J. H., Andrews, J. R., Bendavid, E., Luby, et al
2017; 372 (1722)
- **A 'long-fuse domestication' of the horse? Tooth shape suggests explosive change in modern breeds compared with extinct populations and living Przewalski's horses** *HOLOCENE*
Seetah, K., Cardini, A., Barker, G.
2016; 26 (8): 1326-1333
- **Contextualizing Complex Social Contact: Mauritius, a Microcosm of Global Diaspora** *CAMBRIDGE ARCHAEOLOGICAL JOURNAL*
Seetah, K.
2016; 26 (2): 265-283
- **The archaeology of Mauritius** *ANTIQUITY*
Seetah, K.
2015; 89 (346): 922-939
- **How many specimens do I need? Sampling error in geometric morphometrics: testing the sensitivity of means and variances in simple randomized selection experiments** *ZOOMORPHOLOGY*
Cardini, A., Seetah, K., Barker, G.
2015; 134 (2): 149-163
- **Objects past, objects present: Materials, resistance and memory from the Le Morne Old Cemetery, Mauritius** *JOURNAL OF SOCIAL ARCHAEOLOGY*
Seetah, K.
2015; 15 (2): 233-253
- **A geometric morphometric re-evaluation of the use of dental form to explore differences in horse (*Equus caballus*) populations and its potential zooarchaeological application** *JOURNAL OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SCIENCE*
Seetah, K., Cucchi, T., Dobney, K., Barker, G.
2014; 41: 904-910
- **Geometric morphometrics and environmental archaeology** *The Encyclopaedia of Global Archaeology*
Seetah, K.
edited by Smith, C.
Springer Press, Berlin.2014: 3029–3036
- **Environmental Archaeology of Mauritius: State-of-the-Art and Future Directions** *INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY*
Seetah, K.
2025
- **Marine Environmental Archaeology: The Ecology of Shipwrecks in Mauritius** *INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY*
Seetah, K., Barteneva, S., Gawde, P., Mamode, S. A. H., Bhunjun, D., Motah, B. A., Runghen, H., Badal, R. M., von Arnim, Y., Vitry, H.
2025
- **The Challenges and Future of Environmental Archaeology in Mauritius** *INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY*
Pluskowski, A., Brown, A., Seetah, K.

2024

- **African Islands: A Comparative Archaeology (Book Review)** *AFRICAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL REVIEW*
Book Review Authored by: Seetah, K.
2023
- **Exploring potential risk pathways with high risk groups for urban Rift Valley fever virus introduction, transmission, and persistence in two urban centers of Kenya.** *PLoS neglected tropical diseases*
Gerken, K. N., Maluni, J., Mutuku, F. M., Ndenga, B. A., Mwashee, L., Ichura, C., Shaita, K., Mwaniki, M., Orwa, S., Seetah, K., LaBeaud, A. D.
2023; 17 (1): e0010460
- **Connectivity and Small Island Historical Archaeology in the Indian Ocean** *ARCHAEOLOGY OF MODERN WORLDS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN*
Seetah, K., Manfio, S., Sarathi, A.
edited by Hauser, M. W., Haines, J. J.
2023: 71-99
- **Leveraging livestock movements to urban slaughterhouses for wide-spread Rift Valley fever virus surveillance in Western Kenya** *ONE HEALTH*
Gerken, K., Ndenga, B., Owuor, K., Winter, C., Seetah, K., LaBeaud, A.
2022; 15: 100457
- **Editorial: Early Human Colonization of Remote Indian Ocean Islands and Its Ecological Impacts** *FRONTIERS IN ECOLOGY AND EVOLUTION*
Anderson, A., Clark, G., Haberle, S., Larson, G., Seetah, K.
2022; 10
- **Mapping of Underwater Cultural Heritage: The Geophysical Survey and Data Management of HMS Sirius Shipwreck**
Mamode, S. A. H., Runghen, H., Munnaroo, S., Bissessur, D., Coopen, P., von Arnim, Y., Manfio, S., Seetah, K., Motah, B. A., Badal, R., IEEE
IEEE.2022
- **Africa and the Indian Ocean World from Early Times to Circa 1900 (Book Review)** *AFRICAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL REVIEW*
Book Review Authored by: Seetah, K.
2021
- **The Baltic Crusades and ecological transformation: The zooarchaeology of conquest and cultural change in the Eastern Baltic in the second millennium AD** *QUATERNARY INTERNATIONAL*
Pluskowski, A., Makowiecki, D., Maltby, M., Rannamae, E., Lougas, L., Maldre, L., Daugnora, L., Black, S., Muldner, G., Seetah, K.
2019; 510: 28–43
- **USING COMPLEX DATA AND DEEP LEARNING TO PREDICT RIFT VALLEY FEVER OUTBREAKS**
Kumm, J., Grossi-Soyster, E., Seetah, K., LaBeaud, A.
AMER SOC TROP MED & HYGIENE.2018: 301
- **Late-Medieval Horse Remains at Cesis Castle, Latvia, and the Teutonic Order's Equestrian Resources in Livonia** *MEDIEVAL ARCHAEOLOGY*
Pluskowski, A., Seetah, K., Maltby, M., Banerjea, R., Black, S., Kalnins, G.
2018; 62 (2): 351–79
- **A multi-proxy, diachronic and spatial perspective on the urban activities within an indigenous community in medieval Riga, Latvia**
Banerjea, R., Badura, M., Kalejs, U., Cerina, A., Gos, K., Hamilton-Dyer, S., Maltby, M., Seetah, K., Pluskowski, A.
PERGAMON-ELSEVIER SCIENCE LTD.2017: 3–21
- **Colonial iron in context: the Trianon slave shackle from Mauritius** *ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND ANTHROPOLOGICAL SCIENCES*
Seetah, K., Birch, T., Calaon, D., Caval, S.
2017; 9 (3): 419-430
- **Survival at the Frontier of Holy War: Political Expansion, Crusading, Environmental Exploitation and the Medieval Colonizing Settlement at Biala Gora, North Poland** *REVISTA UNIVERSITARIA DE HISTORIA MILITAR*
Sawicki, Z., Pluskowski, A., Brown, A., Badura, M., Makowiecki, D., Shillito, L., Zabiliska-Kunek, M., Seetah, K.
2017; 6 (12): 50–84

- **Survival at the Frontier of Holy War: Political Expansion, Crusading, Environmental Exploitation and the Medieval Colonizing Settlement at Biala Gora, North Poland** *EUROPEAN JOURNAL OF ARCHAEOLOGY*
Sawicki, Z., Pluskowski, A., Brown, A., Badura, M., Makowiecki, D., Shillito, L., Zabiłska-Kunek, M., Seetah, K.
2015; 18 (2): 282-311
- **'The Minister will tell the nation': the role of the media for archaeology in Mauritius** *WORLD ARCHAEOLOGY*
Seetah, K.
2015; 47 (2): 285-298
- **Biala Gora: the forgotten colony in the medieval Pomeranian-Prussian borderlands** *ANTIQUITY*
Pluskowski, A., Sawicki, Z., Shillito, L., Badura, M., Makowiecki, D., Zabiłska-Kunek, M., Seetah, K., Brown, A.
2014; 88 (341): 863-882
- **Multiple ethnic origins of mitochondrial DNA lineages for the population of mauritius.** *PloS one*
Fregel, R., Seetah, K., Betancor, E., Suárez, N. M., Calaon, D., Caval, S., Janoo, A., Pestano, J.
2014; 9 (3)
- **New technology or adaptation at the frontier? Butchery as a signifier of cultural transitions in the medieval Eastern Baltic** *Life at the Frontier: The Ecological Signatures of Human Colonisation in the North*
Seetah, K., Pluskowski, A., Makowiecki, D., Daugnora, L.
edited by Pluskowski, A.
Klaipeda.2014: 59–77
- **A. Animal Encounters: Human and Animal Interaction in Britain from the Norman Conquest to World War One.** *Reviews in History*
MacGregor, A.
2013; 1448
- **Animal Encounters: Human and Animal Interaction in Britain from the Norman Conquest to World War Once** *Reviews in History*
Seetah, K.
2013; 1448
- **Genetic stability in the Icelandic horse breed** *ANIMAL GENETICS*
Campana, M. G., Stock, F., Barrett, E., Benecke, N., BARKER, G. W., Seetah, K., Bower, M. A.
2012; 43 (4): 447-449
- **Can morphospace shed light on cave bear spatial-temporal variation? Population dynamics of Ursus spelaeus from Romualdova pecina and Vindija, (Croatia)** *JOURNAL OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SCIENCE*
Seetah, T. K., Cardini, A., Miracle, P. T.
2012; 39 (2): 500-510
- **Archaeological Insights into the "Indentured Experience": the case of Trianon Barracks** *Angage: explorations into the history, society and culture of indentured immigrants and their descendants in Mauritius.*
Calaon, D., Čaval, ., Morales-Matoes, J., Seetah, K.
edited by Teelock, V.
Aapravasi Ghat Trust Fund, Port Louis.2012: 121–138
- **Combining stones and bones, defining form and function, inferring lives and roles** *Bones for Tools – Tools for Bones*
Gravina, B., Rabbett, R., Seetah, K.
edited by Seetah, K., Gravina, B.
University of Cambridge, Cambridge.2012: 1–10
- **Bones for Tools – Tools for Bones** *McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research Monographs Series*
edited by Sheetah, K., Gravina, B.
University of Cambridge, Cambridge.2012
- **The juvenile cohort from Le Morne cemetery: a snapshot of early life and death after abolition.** *International Journal of Osteoarchaeology*
Appleby, J., Sheetah, K., Calaon, D., Caval, S., Janoo, A., Teelock, V.
2012

- **The Mauritian Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Project: exploring the impact of colonialism and colonization in the Indian Ocean.** *Antiquity*.
Seetah, K., Balbo, A., Calaon, D., Čaval, S., Farr, H., Pluskowski, A., Appleby, J., Durand, C., Lightfoot, E., Morales, J., Moreno, E.
2011; 85: 330
- **Port Louis - Geofizikalna raziskava 2010** *Arheologija v letu 2010; arheologija za javnost*
Mušič, B., Seetah, K., Mori, M., Medarič, I.
2011: 36-37
- **Potential Osteoarchaeological Evidence for Riding and the Military Use of Horses at Malbork Castle, Poland** *INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF OSTEOARCHAEOLOGY*
Pluskowski, A., Seetah, K., Maltby, M.
2010; 20 (3): 335-343
- **Religion, legislation, and meat: the politics of food and its implications for the butchers of London** *Bestial Mirrors: Using Animals to Construct Human Identities in Medieval Europe. Vias*
Seetah, K.
edited by Pluskowski, A. G., Kunst, G. K., Kucera, K., Bietak, M., Hein, I.
Vienna.2010: 110–115
- **Archaeological approaches to the cultural construction of islands.** *SHIMA, The International Journal for Island Cultures*
Dawson, H., Grima, R., Pluskowski, A., Seetah, K.
2010; 4 (1): 1-2
- **Excavations at the medieval fortress in Feldioara / Marienburg, 2007** *Materiale Şi Cercetări Arheologice (serie nouă)*.
Pluskowski, A., Ioniță, A., Seetah, K.
2010; 6: 173-184
- **“Our Struggle”: colonial legacies on an island paradise** *SHIMA, The International Journal for Island Cultures*
Seetah, K.
2010; 4 (1): 99-112
- **Researching the everyday lives of Indentured Labourers: archaeological work at Trianon Barracks** *Newsletter: Aapravasi Ghat Trust Fund*
Seetah, K.
2010; 8: 11
- **Animal Bones from an Industrial Quarter at Malbork, Poland: Towards an Ecology of a Castle Built in Prussia by the Teutonic Order** *Crusades*
Maltby, M., Pluskowski, A., Seetah, K.
2009; 8: 191-213
- **Modern analogy, cultural theory and experimental replication: a merging point at the cutting edge of archaeology** *WORLD ARCHAEOLOGY*
Seetah, K.
2008; 40 (1): 135-150
- **The animal bones from Sacuidic Castle.** *Ricerca nel Castello di Sacuidic (Forni di Sopra – Udine)*
Pluskowski, A., Seetah, K.
edited by Gelichi, S., Piuze, F.
All'Insegna del Giglio, Florence.2008: 84–88
- **The animal bones from UTS 8a at Stari Bar, Montenegro** *A town through the ages. The 2006-2007 Project in Stari Bar*
Seetah, K.
edited by Gelichi, S.
All'Insegna del Giglio, Florence.2008: 88–98
- **A zooarchaeological contribution to biological anthropology** *Proceeding of the 6th Annual BABAO Conference*
Seetah, K.
edited by Robson-Brown, K., Roberts, A.
Oxford.2007: 72–80

- **The Middle Ages on the block: Animals, Guilds and meat in medieval Britain** *Breaking and Shaping Beastly Bodies: Animals as Material Culture in the Middle Ages*
Seetah, K.
edited by Pliskowski, A.
Oxbow, Oxford.2007: 18–31
- **The animal bones from the 2004 excavations at Stari Bar, Montenegro** *Stari Bar. The Archaeology of a deserted town*
Seetah, K., Pluskowski, A.
edited by Gelichi, S.
All'Insegna del Giglio, Florence.2006: 97–111
- **Rhythms of Life** *Archaeological Review of Cambridge (ARC)*
Seetah, K.
2006; 22 (1): 150-152
- **Multidisciplinary approach to Romano-British cattle butchery** *Integrating Zooarchaeology*
Seetah, K.
edited by Maltby, M.
Oxbow, Oxford.2006: 111–118
- **Colonisation, Migration and Marginal Areas** *Archaeological Review of Cambridge (ARC)*
Seetah, K.
2005; 20 (1): 149-151
- **Butchery as a tool for understanding the changing views of animals** *Just Skin and Bones? New Perspectives on Human-Animal Relations in the Historic Past*
Seetah, K.
edited by Pluskowski, A.
Oxford.2005: 1–8
- **Meat in history – the butchery trade in the Romano-British Period** *International Journal of Food History*
Seetah, K.
2004; 2 (2): 19-35
- **Field notes** *Archaeology*
Seetah, K.
2003; 56 (4): 72