FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGY AND HUMAN RIGHTS:
UNCOVERING SOMALILAND’S TROUBLED PAST

Summary

The aim of this Field School is to familiarize students with forensic anthropological interventions in all stages, from preliminary research to the analysis of the remains in order to identify them. For educational purposes, the EPAF Field School will be eminently practical, but with theoretical elements. Students will be trained alongside members of the War Crimes Commission of the Republic of Somaliland, and intervene on some of the hundreds of mass graves that exist in Somaliland, results of years of violence in the 1980s. Students will participate in the work location and mapping of trenches, digging and collecting evidence at the burial site, ending with the analysis of the remains and evidence recovered.

Objectives

Students will attend theoretical courses and receive practical training on preliminary investigation, location and burial site mapping, excavation techniques, forensic evidence recovery, osteology, taphonomy and trauma. At the end of the program, participants will have an understanding of the application of forensic science in investigations of human rights violations, the process of location, retrieval and analysis of mass graves, and the complete analysis of human skeletons (determination of sex, estimation of age, trauma). As part of the program, students will receive educational materials used to prepare lessons, which will aid them in their development. Materials include reference works, handbooks, tabs and manuals for their use, among others.
Schedule

Week 1 (February 10 - 17)

Students will receive lessons on the history and culture of Somaliland, as well as an introduction to forensic science, including general aspects of preliminary investigations, documentation, location and mapping of burial sites, excavation and forensic photography.

At the end of the week, participants will learn the steps of any forensic investigation, methods to locate and map pits and conduct an excavation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Topic or Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 10</td>
<td>Theory</td>
<td>Introduction to the history and culture of Somaliland</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Introduction to Forensic Science</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 11</td>
<td>Theoretical and Practical</td>
<td>Introduction, location and mapping of burial sites</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 12</td>
<td>Theoretical and Practical</td>
<td>Introduction to forensic excavations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 13</td>
<td>Practice</td>
<td>Excavation, recovery and record of evidence</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 14</td>
<td>Practice</td>
<td>Excavation, recovery and record of evidence</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday 15</td>
<td>Practice</td>
<td>Excavation, recovery and record of evidence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday 16</td>
<td>Rest</td>
<td>Weekend in Berbera (beach) – tentative</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 17</td>
<td>Rest</td>
<td>Berbera (beach) - tentative</td>
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Week 2 (February 18 - 24)

Students will continue with the field practice of excavation, recovery, recording and packaging of the evidence recovered in the assigned sites.

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 18</td>
<td>Practice</td>
<td>Excavation, recovery and record of evidence</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 19</td>
<td>Practice</td>
<td>Excavation, recovery and record of evidence</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 20</td>
<td>Practice</td>
<td>Excavation, recovery and record of evidence</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 21</td>
<td>Practice</td>
<td>Excavation, recovery and record of evidence</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday 22</td>
<td>Practice</td>
<td>Excavation, recovery and record of evidence</td>
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<td>Sunday 23</td>
<td>Rest</td>
<td>Trip to the beach</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 24</td>
<td>Rest</td>
<td>Trip to the beach</td>
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Week 3 (February 25 – March 03)

Students will learn to determine the biological profile of the recovered victims, learning the international standards used to identify sex, age, height, handedness, ancestral patterns and traumatic injuries.

At the end of the week, participants will be able to determine sex, age, height and handedness in human skeletal remains.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 25</td>
<td>Theoretical and practical</td>
<td>Introduction to osteology, determining the biological profile and introduction to traumatic injuries of forensic interest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 26</td>
<td>Practice</td>
<td>Analysis of recovered human skeletal remains</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 27</td>
<td>Practice</td>
<td>Analysis of recovered human skeletal remains</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 28</td>
<td>Practice</td>
<td>Analysis of recovered human skeletal remains</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 01</td>
<td>Practice</td>
<td>Analysis of recovered human skeletal remains</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 01</td>
<td>Rest</td>
<td>Visit to the camel farm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 03</td>
<td>Rest</td>
<td>Visit to the camel farm</td>
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Week 4 (March 04 - 09)

Students will carry out a complete analysis of human skeletal remains assigned and submit a full report of their findings, taking into account the biological profile and traumatic injuries.

At the end of the week, participants will carry out an analysis of remains from beginning to end.

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 4 – Friday 7</td>
<td>Practice</td>
<td>Analysis and report of recovered human skeletal remains</td>
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<td>Saturday 8</td>
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<td>Field School Closure</td>
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<td>Sunday 9</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Departure – Berbera and Dubai</td>
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