

## *Ana Y. Morales-Arce*

Institute of Ecology and Evolution

University of Bern

✉ [ana.moralesarce@iee.unibe.ch](mailto:ana.moralesarce@iee.unibe.ch)

📧 [aymorales-arce.com](http://aymorales-arce.com)

☎ (+41) 76499 6953

### PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

---

Present-2021	Postdoctoral Researcher, Institute of Ecology and Evolution, University of Bern, Switzerland.
2021-2020	Postdoctoral Researcher, Instituto Gulbenkian de Ciência, Oeiras, Portugal.
2020-2018	Postdoctoral Fellow, Center for Evolution and Medicine (CEM), Arizona State University, USA.

### EDUCATION

---

2017-2012	Ph.D. Archaeology, University of Calgary, Canada Thesis: Ancient mitochondrial DNA in Mesoamerica and its borderlands. The cases of Paquimé (A.D. 1200-1450), Greater Nicoya (A.D. 800-1250) and Central Mexico (A.D. 900-1519).
2010-2006	M.Sc. Anthropology, University of Costa Rica Thesis: Genetic variation associated with lactose intolerance in Amerindians of Lower Central America and the related potential health problems.
2004 -2000	B.Sc. Biotechnology Engineering, Instituto Tecnológico de Costa Rica (TEC) Thesis: Genetic variation of squirrel monkeys ( <i>Saimiri oerstedii</i> ). Implications for conservation.

### RESEARCH INTERESTS

---

Population genetics, pathogens evolution, molecular anthropology, ancient DNA.

### PUBLICATIONS

---

2021	Susanna Sabin, <b>Morales-Arce AY</b> , Susanne P. Pfeifer, and Jeffrey D. Jensen. Comparative population genomics of <i>Mycobacterium canettii</i> and <i>Mycobacterium tuberculosis</i> . In review.
2021	<b>Morales-Arce AY</b> , Johri P, Jensen JD. Inferring the distribution of fitness effects in influenza A virus and human cytomegalovirus. <i>Heredity</i> . In press.
2021	Songül Alpaslan-Roodenberg, David Anthony, Hiba Babiker, Eszter Bánffy, Thomas Booth, Patricia Capone, Arati Deshpande-Mukherjee, Stefanie Eisenmann, Lars Fehren-Schmitz, Michael Frachetti, Ricardo Fujita, Catherine J. Frieman, Qiaomei Fu, Henry Louis Gates Jr., Victoria Gibbon, Wolfgang Haak, Mateja Hajdinjak, Kerstin P. Hofmann, Brian Holguin, Takeshi Inomata, Hideaki Kanzawa-Kiriyama, William Keegan, Janet Kelso, Johannes Krause, Ganesan Kumaresan, Chapurukha Kusimba, Sibel Kusimba, Carles Lalueza-Fox, Bastien Llamas, Scott MacEachern, Swapan Mallick, Hirofumi Matsumura, Janet Monge, <b>Morales-Arce AY</b> , Giedre Motuzaite Matuzeviciute, Veena Mushrif-Tripathy, Nathan Nakatsuka, Rodrigo Nores, Christine Ogola, Mercedes Okumura, Nick Patterson, Ron Pinhasi, S.P.R. Prasad, Mary E.

- Prendergast, Jose Luis Punzo, David Reich, Rikai Sawafuji, Elizabeth Sawchuk, Stephan Schiffels, Jakob Sedig, Svetlana Shnaider, Kendra Sirak, Pontus Skoglund, Viviane Slon, Meradeth Snow, Marie Soressi, Matthew Spriggs, Philipp W. Stockhammer, Anna Szécsényi-Nagy, K. Thangaraj, Vera Tiesler, Ray Tobler, Chuan-Chao Wang, Christina Warinner, Surangi Yasawardene, Muhammad Zahir. Ethics of DNA Research on Human Remains: Five Globally Applicable Guidelines. *Nature*, 599: 41-46.
- 2020 **Morales-Arce AY**, Sabin SJ, Stone AC, Jensen JD. The population genomics of within-host *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. *Heredity*, <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41437-020-00377-7>
- 2020 **Morales-Arce AY**, Harris RB, Stone AC, Jensen JD. Evaluating the contributions of purifying selection and progeny-skew in dictating within-host *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* evolution. *Evolution*, 74-5: 992-1001.
- 2019 **Morales-Arce AY**, McCafferty G, Hand J, Schmill N, McGrath K, Speller C. Ancient mitochondrial DNA and population dynamics in Postclassic Central Mexico: Cholula (A.D. 900-1350) and Tlatelolco (A.D. 1325-1521). *Archaeological and Anthropological Sciences*, 11: 3459-3475.
- 2017 **Morales-Arce AY**, Hofman CA, Duggan AT, Benfer AK, Katzenberg MA, McCafferty G, Warinner C. Successful reconstruction of whole mitochondrial genomes from ancient Central America and Mexico. *Scientific Reports*. 7(1):18100.
- 2017 **Morales-Arce AY**, Snow MH, Kelley JH, Katzenberg MA. Ancient mitochondrial DNA and ancestry of Paquimé inhabitants, Casas Grandes (1200-1450 A.D.). *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*, 163: 616-626.
- 2015 **Morales-Arce AY**. Ancient DNA studies in Mesoamerica: major contributions and limitations. *Proceedings of the Annual Chacmool Archaeological Conference* 47: 139-148.
- 2014 McCafferty G, Carrol G, Manion J, **Morales-Arce AY**, Smekal M. Huesos Nicaragua: Creación de un Laboratorio de Bio-Arqueología en la Universidad Nacional/ Bones Nicaragua: Creation of a Bio-Archaeology Laboratory in the National University. *Mi Museo y Vos* 29: 13-16.
- 2012 **Morales-Arce AY**, Alvarado Rojas S, Calvo Brenes M, Contreras Rojas J, Raventós Vorst. Un acercamiento al contenido cultural de los delirios de personas con esquizofrenia de Costa Rica/ Cultural content of delusions in people with schizophrenia from Costa Rica. *Cuadernos de Antropología*, 22.
- 2012 **Morales-Arce AY**. Lactose Intolerance in Indigenous Groups of Lower Central America. Genetic variation and its potential health problem. LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, Saarbrücken, Germany. 84p.

#### SCHOLARSHIPS, GRANTS AND AWARDS

---

- 2020-2018 Research Fellowship, CEM. Arizona State University. USD 140 000.
- 2012-2017 Wadsworth International Fellowship. The Wenner Gren Foundation. USD 70 000.
- 2016 Shelley Saunders PhD Research Award. The Canadian Association for Physical Anthropology. CAD 800.
- 2016 Martha Biggar Anders Memorial Award. University of Calgary. CAD 2200.
- 2016 Faculty of Graduate Studies Travel Award. University of Calgary. CAD 500.
- 2016 Professional Development Grant. GSA. University of Calgary. CAD 750.
- 2015 Dissertation Research Grant. University of Calgary. CAD 1500.

2015 Grants-in-Aid of Research Program. Sigma Xi. USD 600.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

---

- 2017 **Instructor of Record**, University of Calgary  
*Introduction to Primatology and Human Evolution (ANTH 201, Winter 2017)*
- Enrollment: 200 students
- 2016-2013 **Teaching Assistant**, University of Calgary  
*Ethnographic Survey of Latin America (2013)*  
*Archaeology & Popular Culture -Frauds, Myths & Mysteries (2015)*  
*Introduction to Archaeology (2015)*
- Enrollment: 2 laboratories of 20 students each  
*Head Graduate Teaching Assistant: Introduction to Physical Anthropology (2014-16)*
  - Enrollment: 8 laboratories of 22 students each
- 2012-2011 **Instructor of Record**, University of Costa Rica  
*Molecular Basis of Human Phylogeny (2012)*
- Enrollment: 20 students  
*Principles of Population Genetics (2011)*
  - Enrollment: 30 students  
*Biological Anthropology (2011)*
  - Enrollment: 30 - 40 students

## RESEARCH & FIELDWORK EXPERIENCE

---

### Post-doctorate Research

- Present-July 2021 Institute of Ecology and Evolution, University of Bern, Switzerland
- Conduct computational modeling, bioinformatic analysis, and genomics to understand patterns and genomic signatures in RNA viral populations that adapt to mutagenic drugs.
- June 2021-July 2020 Gulbenkian Science Institute, Oeiras, Portugal
- Conducted experimental evolution in influenza A virus to understand the population's mechanisms by which influenza A virus can adapt to mutagenic drug pressure.
- June 2020-July 2018 Center for Evolution and Medicine, Arizona State University, USA
- Conducted time sampled population genetics data analysis and Bayesian computation modeling for understanding evolutionary dynamics of within-host Mycobacterium tuberculosis. Also, I used computational approaches and statistical methods for inferring the fitness effects distribution in influenza A and human cytomegalovirus in experimental evolution and one-time point patient data.

### Primary PhD Research

2012-2017 Ancient DNA laboratory, University of Calgary, Canada

- Conducted research on ancient samples from Mesoamerica, Costa Rica, and Nicaragua using Sanger sequencing and contamination-controlled extractions of DNA. Dental metrics collected and casts produced prior to destructive analysis.
- 2016                      McMaster Ancient DNA Centre, McMaster University, Canada
- Conducted analysis of Next Generation Sequencing data and mitogenomes from ancient Central American populations.
- 2016                      Laboratories of Molecular Anthropology and Microbiome Research (LMAMR), Oklahoma State University, USA
- Applied Next Generation Sequencing methods to sequence mitogenomes from tropical archaeological dental samples.
- 2014                      The National Museum of Costa Rica, Costa Rica
- Examined and collected human osteological samples from excavated archaeological sites: La Cascabel and Jícaro (1 month). Collected data for PhD project on skeletal preservation and archaeological context.

#### **Other fieldwork**

- 2014                      **Research Assistant**, UNAM, Nicaragua
- Assisted Dr. McCafferty on the successful creation of a Bio-Archaeology Laboratory in the National University.
- 2014                      **Research Assistant**, Museo de las Culturas del Norte, Casas Grandes, INAH-Chihuahua, Mexico
- Assisted the study directed by Dr. Anne Katzenberg (University of Calgary), collecting archaeological human remains in the Casas Grandes, Paquimé.
- 2004                      **Research Assistant**, School of Biology, University of Costa Rica, Costa Rica
- Assisted in fieldwork collecting primate blood samples in Manuel Antonio National Park, extraction of DNA and data analysis. Project: Genetic diversity of monkeys in Costa Rica, directed by Dr. Gustavo Gutierrez.

---

#### **WORK EXPERIENCE**

- 2012-2004              Research Assistant and Laboratory Technician, Genetics Laboratory, School of Biology, University of Costa Rica
- Carried out genetic techniques and protocols for multiple faculty members, coordinated research activities and grant applications, was accountable for budgets and development of new methodologies and experimental techniques

August 2011-July 2012, with Prof. Henriette Raventós-Vorst, Center for Molecular Biology, School of Biology, University of Costa Rica

- Investigated susceptibility genes for schizophrenia in Costa Rica. Screened several genetic (molecular) markers associated to OPO using the genetic analyzer ABI Prism 3130

July 2009-July 2011 with Prof. Jorge Azofeifa Navas, School of Biology, University of Costa Rica

- Genetic variation in modern groups of Lower Central America. Ancient DNA laboratory design and training on contamination issues in archaeological sites.
- Haplotypic variation around the region of the lactase gene (LCT, 2q21) in Costa Rica.

May 2004-June 2009 with Prof. Ramiro Barrantes, School of Biology, University of Costa Rica

- History and genetic structure of Costa Rica: molecular, demographic and social perspective.
- Mitochondrial DNA and Y chromosome analysis in Costa Rica.
- Haplotypic variation of TP53 locus in Amerindians of Lower Central America. Sequencing and genotyping DNA in 3130 and 310 genetic analyzers.

2004-2003 Biotechnology Department, Technological Institute of Costa Rica (TEC), Costa Rica

- Carried out sampling in the forest and DNA extraction as well as molecular analysis.

June 2003-November 2003 with Prof. Olman Murillo

- Genetic variability of Jaúl (*Alnus acuminata*) in Costa Rica.

March 2003-July 2003, Computer technician at LAIMI (Microprocessor Laboratory of the Technological Institute of Costa Rica)

## ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

---

Reviewer for the Journals *Plos One*, *Scientific Reports*, *Nature*, *Molecular Biology and Evolution*, *Genome Biology and Evolution*, and *Molecular Ecology Resources*.

Student Awards Committee Member. Graduate Student Association. University of Calgary, 2016-2017.

Assistant /Language Editor position in *Open Archaeology*, April 2014 to 2017.

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

---

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| April 2020    | The population genetics of within-host <i>Mycobacterium tuberculosis</i> . American Association of Physical Anthropologists. Los Angeles, CA, USA   |
| July 2019     | The population genetics of within-host drug resistance in <i>Mycobacterium tuberculosis</i> . Society for Molecular Biology and Evolution (SMBE). Manchester, UK.   |
| April 2019    | The population genetics of within-host <i>Mycobacterium tuberculosis</i> . The Evolutionary Genetics of Infectious Disease, Carleton University, ON.  |
| April 2019    | Greater Nicoya from an ancient molecular perspective. Society for American Archaeology 84th Annual Meeting (SAA), Albuquerque, NM.  |
| November 2017 | Ancient Mesoamerican groups and their multiple faces: From Cholula and Tlatelolco to an ancient genetic landscape in Central Mexico and beyond. 50th Chacmool Conference, Calgary, AB. <i>Session organizer and presenter</i> . |

- May 2016 Infant sex determination and ancient mtDNA among offerings dedicated to Ehécatl-Quetzalcóatl in Tlatelolco (1325-1521 AD). 49th Annual Meeting of the Canadian Archaeological Association (CAA), Whitehorse, Yukon.
- April 2016 Ancient mitochondrial DNA of Pre-Columbian populations inhabiting Greater Nicoya during the Sapoá period (A.D. 800-1350). Latin American Research Center, Graduate Student Symposium (LARC), Calgary, AB.
- April 2016 Ancient mitochondrial DNA and pre-Columbian inhabitants ancestry at Paquimé, Casas Grandes. SAA, Orlando, FL.
- February 2016 Ancient mitochondrial DNA of Pre-Columbian populations inhabiting Greater Nicoya during the Sapoá period (A.D. 800-1350). 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Interdisciplinary Archaeology Research Conference (UCLA), Los Angeles, CA.
- November 2015 Ancient mitochondrial DNA approach to explore pre-Columbian inhabitants' ancestry at Paquimé, Casas Grandes, 48th Chacmool Conference, Calgary, AB.
- April 2015 Exploring the ancient mitochondrial DNA of pre-Columbian populations inhabiting Central Mexico during the postclassic period (A.D. 900-1521). SAA, San Francisco, USA.
- April 2015 Ancient Mitochondrial DNA of Precolumbian Populations inhabiting Greater Nicoya during the Sapoá Period (800-1350 AD). Methods in Ecology and Evolution: Next Generation Ecology and Evolution, Calgary, AB.
- November 2014 Ancient DNA in Mesoamerica: limitations and contributions. 47th Chacmool Conference. Calgary, AB.
- April 2014 Bioarchaeological approaches to the site La Cascabel in Bahía Culebra, Costa Rica (800-1350 AD). SAA, Austin, TX.
- February 2011 Genetic variability of lactose intolerance in Amerindians of lower Central America. Central American Congress of Anthropology, Tegucigalpa, Honduras.
- November 2010 Haplotypic variation of lactose intolerance in Costa Rica. Nutrition and Health Congress. San José, Costa Rica.
- December 2009 Haplotypic variation around the region of the lactase gene (LCT, 2q21) in Amerindians of Costa Rica. Darwin200 Celebration International Symposium, Alajuela, Costa Rica.

## LANGUAGES

---

Spanish: Native speaker

English: Fluent comprehension, reading, writing, and speaking

Italian: Fluent comprehension, reading, and speaking

## REFERENCES

---

Prof. Claudia Bank – *Postdoctoral Supervisor*

Institute of Ecology and Evolution. University of Bern. E-mail: claudia.bank@iee.unibe.ch

Prof. Jeffrey Jensen – *Postdoctoral Supervisor*

School of Life Sciences. Arizona State University. E-mail: Jeffrey.D.Jensen@asu.edu

Prof. Anne Stone – *Postdoctoral Supervisor*

School of Human Evolution and Social Change. Arizona State University. E-mail: acstone@asu.edu

Prof. Geoffrey McCafferty - *PhD Supervisor*

Archaeology and Anthropology Department. University of Calgary. E-mail: [mccaffer@ucalgary.ca](mailto:mccaffer@ucalgary.ca)