



## Physical Anthropology Section – 2004

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### H22 International Research in Forensic Anthropology

*Douglas H. Ubelaker, PhD\*, Smithsonian Institution, Department of Anthropology, NMNH, MRC 112, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC 20560*

This presentation provides discussion to a symposium focusing on international research in forensic anthropology.

This presentation and the symposium it is part of should make the forensic community more aware of: 1) the need for international regional research in forensic anthropology, and 2) current efforts to meet this need.

Forensic anthropology research in North America has intensified in recent years in an attempt to meet the growing needs and concerns of casework applications. Such research has produced significant progress in our collective scientific capability to approach such issues as estimation of time since death, sex, age-at-death, ancestry and taphonomical factors. New methodology and databases greatly supplement the traditional sources to make North American forensic anthropologists more effective in their attempts to interpret human remains in forensic contexts.

The growing interest in forensic anthropology and increased incorporation of the anthropological perspective in forensic investigation are apparent globally. Although much of the research conducted in North America is relevant to interpretation world-wide, some limitations also are apparent. These limitations recognize global geographic and human (biological and cultural) variation.

International research serves to document relevant aspects of variation and to produce new methods derived from local samples that are applicable to regional forensic problems. This interest is coupled with the acquisition of new documented collections and databases from nonNorth American areas to facilitate future such research. These developments can only strengthen the field of forensic anthropology and increase the accuracy and reliability of its applications.

**Forensic Anthropology, International Research**