

# RADU IOVITA

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Early Prehistory & Quaternary Ecology  
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## EDUCATION

2008 PHD in Anthropology, University of Pennsylvania  
2005 Complex Systems Summer School, Santa Fe Institute  
2002 MPhil in Archaeology (*with distinction*), University of Cambridge  
2001 AB (Hons.) in Anthropology (*magna cum laude*), Harvard University

## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

### Current

2016– Assistant Professor of Anthropology, New York University  
2017-2022 Group Leader, ERC Project [PALAEOSILKROAD](#), University of Tübingen  
2012– Associated Scientist, Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology

### Previous

2012-2016 Senior Researcher, Monrepos Research Centre, Römisch-Germanisches Zentralmuseum  
2010-2012 Junior Researcher (DFG-funded), Monrepos Research Centre, RGZM  
2009-2016 Adjunct Lecturer, Department of Ancient Studies, University of Mainz  
2008-2010 Postdoctoral Fellow, Monrepos, RGZM

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

Paleolithic archaeology • Human responses to environmental change • Eurasian loess steppe (Central Asia, Eastern Europe) • Archaeological survey techniques • Lithics • Use-wear • Controlled experiments • Geometric Morphometrics

## FELLOWSHIPS AND DISTINCTIONS

2015 Finalist, [KUKA Innovation Award](#), Hanover Fair 2015 (RoboCut team member)  
2008-2010 RGZM Postdoctoral Fellowship, RGZM (EUR 19 800 p.a.)  
2007-2008 [Louis J. Kolb Fellowship](#), University of Pennsylvania (USD 23 000 p.a.)  
2006-2007 [Dissertation Fellowship](#), University of Pennsylvania, (USD 21 500 p.a.)  
2002-2006 [William Penn Fellowship](#), University of Pennsylvania, (USD 14 500 p.a.)  
2001 [Phi Beta Kappa](#), Alpha Iota Chapter of Massachusetts  
2001 [Thomas Temple Hoopes Prize](#) for undergraduate research (nominated)  
1998-2001 [John Harvard Scholarship](#) for academic excellence

## GRANTS

Primary beneficiary: USD 2.1 million

Partial (co-PI): USD 4.8 million

- 2017-2018 New York University, University Challenge Research Fund, *Stone Age Tribology: new approaches to wear formation in ancient stone implements*, USD 13 000
- 2017-2022 European Research Council (ERC), [PALAEOSILKROAD: Reconstructing Upper Pleistocene Hominin Dispersals and Adaptations in Central Asia](#), EUR 1 497 643
- 2017-2018 Leakey Foundation, *Pioneers in the foothills: excavations at early Upper Paleolithic Maibulak (Kazakhstan)*, USD 24 550
- 2016-2020 Leibniz Association (with F. Daim, S. Gaudzinski), *Traceology at the Roman-Germanic Central Museum (RGZM)*. Research infrastructure grant, EUR 4.4 million
- 2015 German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) Travel Grant, EUR 1 989
- 2014-2017 ETH-Zürich Research Grant (PI: J. Buchli), *Robots carving a window to the human past: towards robot-aided paleoanthropology*, CHF 228 000
- 2013 DAAD University Lecturer Exchange Program (Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, Kazakhstan), EUR 700
- 2012 DAAD Travel Grant, EUR 1 450
- 2011 Fritz-Thyssen Foundation, *Stone Age Weaponry Workshop*, EUR 14 000
- 2010-2012 German Research Foundation (DFG), *Neandertal Projectile Technology*, EUR 146 000. Co-PIs: Sabine Gaudzinski-Windheuser (RGZM) & Frank Jäger (PTB)
- 2010-2012 Max Planck Society, *Lower Danube Survey for Paleolithic Sites*, EUR 27 000
- 2009 DAAD Travel Grant, EUR 1 400
- 2006-2007 NSF Dissertation improvement grant (BCS #0624962), USD 12 000
- 2005 Department of Anthropology Field Funds, University of Pennsylvania, USD 3 000
- 2000 Radcliffe Traveling Fellowship, *Polynesian Exchange Networks*, USD 2 000
- 2000 Harvard College Research Program *Polynesian Exchange Networks*, USD 1 000

## PUBLICATIONS

Citation metrics - February 9, 2019: **758 citations** | [Google Scholar H-index 15](#)

☒ denotes corresponding author | <sup>G</sup> graduate / <sup>U</sup> undergraduate student co-author

### Edited Volumes (peer-reviewed)

- n.d. 2. Marreiros, J., Pereira, T., **Iovita, R.** (Eds.) *Controlled experiments in lithic technology and function*. Partially completed issue of *Archaeological and Anthropological Sciences*, Springer.
- 2016 1. **Iovita, R.** and K. Sano (Eds.) *Multidisciplinary approaches to the study of Stone Age weaponry, Vertebrate Paleobiology and Paleoanthropology*, Springer, Dordrecht. **11 citations**

### Peer-Reviewed Articles

- in press 27. Calandra, I., Schunk, L., Rodriguez<sup>G</sup>, A., Gneisinger, W., Pedernana, A., Paixao, E., **Iovita, R.**, Marreiros, J. Back to the edge: relative coordinate system for use-wear analysis. *Archaeological and Anthropological Sciences*, Springer.

- 2018 26. Pflöging<sup>G</sup>, J., **Iovita, R.**, Buchli, J. Influence of force and duration on stone tool wear: results from experiments with a force-controlled robot. *Archaeological and Anthropological Sciences*. [doi]
- 2018 25. Gaudzinski-Windheuser, S., Noack, E.S., Pop, E., Herbst, C., Pflöging<sup>G</sup>, J., Buchli, J., Jacob, A., Enzmann, F., Kindler, L., **Iovita, R.**, Street, M., Roebroeks, W., 2018. Evidence for close-range hunting by last interglacial Neanderthals. *Nature Ecol Evol* 2, 1087–1092. **2 citations**
- 2018 24. Fitzsimmons, KE, T. Sprafke, C. Zielhofer, C. Günter, J.-M. Deom, R. Sala, and **R. Iovita**. Loess accumulation in the Tian Shan piedmont: implications for palaeoenvironmental change in arid Central Asia.” *Quatern Int* 469A:30-43. **15 citations**
- 2017 23. Fitzsimmons, K.E., **Iovita, R.**, Sprafke, T., Glantz, M., Talamo, S., Horton, K., Beeton, T., Alipova, S., Bekseitov, G., Ospanov, Y., Deom, J.-M., Sala, R., Taimagambetov, Z. A chronological framework connecting the early Upper Palaeolithic across the Central Asian piedmont. *J Hum Evol* 113, 107–126. **1 citation**
- 2017 22. **Iovita, R.**, I. Tuvi-Arad, M.-H. Moncel, J. Despriée, P. Voinchet, and J.-J. Bahain. High handaxe symmetry at the beginning of the European Acheulian: The data from la Noira (France) in context. *PLoS One* [HTML] **6 citations** [DOI] **2 citations**
- 2017 21. Dobos, A. and **R. Iovita** La première colonisation préhistorique de la région du Nord du Danube. In *Identités culturelles et systèmes techniques au Paléolithique ancien: quelle actualité?*, R. Rocca, L. De Weyer, B. Chevrier, and E. Nicoud (Eds). @rchéo-éditions, Paris.
- 2016 20. Dibble, H.L., Holdaway, S.J., Braun, D.R., Douglass, M., **Iovita, R.**, Lin, S., McPherron, S.P., Olszewski, D., Rezek, Z., Sandgathe, D. [alphabetically listed after 2nd author] “Major Fallacies Surrounding Stone Artifacts and Assemblages,” 1-39. *J Arch Meth Th*. [DOI] **29 citations**
- 2016 19. Dobos, A. and **R. Iovita**. The Lower Paleolithic of Romania revisited: new evidence from the site of Dealul Guran. In *Paleoanthropology of the Balkans and Anatolia*, K. Harvati and M. Roksandic (Eds.), Vertebrate Paleobiology and Paleoanthropology, Springer, Dordrecht, pp. 171-186. [DOI] **8 citations**
- 2016 18. **Iovita, R.** and K. Sano. Summary and Conclusions: 20 years since Knecht: advances in the study of Stone Age weapons In *Multidisciplinary approaches to the study of Stone Age weaponry*, R. Iovita and K. Sano (Eds.), Vertebrate Paleobiology and Paleoanthropology, Springer, Dordrecht. [DOI]
- 2016 17. **Iovita, R.**, H. Schönekeß, S. Gaudzinski-Windheuser, and F. Jäger. Identifying weapon delivery systems using macrofracture analysis and fracture propagation velocity: a controlled experiment. In *Multidisciplinary approaches to the study of Stone Age weaponry*, R. Iovita and K. Sano (Eds.), Vertebrate Paleobiology and Paleoanthropology, Springer, Dordrecht, pp. 13-27. [DOI] [PDF] **16 citations**
- 2015 16. Pflöging<sup>G</sup>, J., M. Stücheli, **R. Iovita**✉, and J. Buchli. Dynamic monitoring reveals motor task characteristics in prehistoric technical gestures. *PLoS One* 10(8): e0134570. [HTML].>**1300 views** **3 citations**

- 2015 15. Dobos, A. and **R. Iovita**, 2015. Paleolithic inferior din România: o reevaluare din perspectiva descoperirilor din situl Dealul Guran. *Materiale si cercetari arheologice* SN. XIX, 5–17.
- 2015 14. Rolett, B., E. W. West, J. M. Sinton, and **R. Iovita** Voyaging in the East Polynesian homeland: New evidence from the Hawaiki core area *J Archaeol Sci* 53: 459–471. [[PDF](#)] **16 citations**
- 2014 13. **Iovita, R.** The role of edge angle maintenance in explaining technological variation in the production of Late Middle Paleolithic bifacial and unifacial tools *Quatern Int* 350:105–115. [[DOI](#)] [[PDF](#)] **16 citations**
- 2014 12. **Iovita, R.**, A. Dobos, K. E. Fitzsimmons, M. Probst, U. Hambach, M. Robu, M. Vlaicu, and A. Petculescu. Geoarchaeological prospection in the loess steppe: preliminary results from the Lower Danube Survey for Paleolithic Sites (LoDanS). *Quatern Int* 351:98–114. [[DOI](#)] [[PDF](#)] **15 citations**
- 2014 11. **Iovita R.**, H. Schönekeß, S. Gaudzinski-Windheuser, and F. Jäger Projectile impact fractures and launching mechanisms: results of a controlled ballistic experiment using replica Levallois points. *J Archaeol Sci* 48: 73–83. [[DOI](#)] [[PDF](#)] **38 citations**
- 2013 10. Fitzsimmons, K. E., U. Hambach, D. Veres, **R. Iovita**. The Campanian Ignimbrite eruption: new data on volcanic ash dispersal and its potential impact on human evolution. *PLoS ONE* 8(6): e65839. [[HTML](#)] **49 citations >12,000 views**
- 2012 9. **Iovita, R.**, K. E. Fitzsimmons, A. Dobos, U. Hambach, A. Hilgers, and A. Zander Dealul Guran: evidence of Lower Paleolithic occupation of the southeast European loess steppe. *Antiquity* 86(334): 973–989. [[PDF](#)] **17 citations**
- 2011 8. **Iovita, R.** Shape variation in Aterian tanged tools and the origins of projectile technology: a morphometric perspective on stone tool function. *PLoS One* 6(12): e29029. [[HTML](#)] **61 citations >8300 views**
- 2011 7. **Iovita, R.** and S. P. McPherron The handaxe reloaded: a morphometric reassessment of Acheulian and Middle Paleolithic handaxes. *J Hum Evol* 61: 61–74. [[PDF](#)] **87 citations**
- 2011 6. Rezek, Z., S. Lin, **R. Iovita**, and H. Dibble The relative effects of core surface morphology on flake shape and other attributes. *J Archaeol Sci* 38 (6): 1346–1359. [[PDF](#)] **51 citations**
- 2010 5. **Iovita, R. P.** Comparing stone tool resharpening trajectories with the aid of Elliptical Fourier Analysis. In *New Perspectives on Old Stones: Analytical Approaches to Palaeolithic Technologies*, S.J. Lycett and P. Chauhan (Eds.), pp. 235–253. Springer, Dordrecht. [[LINK](#)] [[PDF](#)] **49 citations**
- 2009 4. **Iovita, R. P.** Ontogenetic scaling and lithic systematics: method and application. *J Archaeol Sci* 36(7): 1447–1457. [[PDF](#)] **49 citations**
- 2009 3. **Iovita, R. P.** Re-evaluating connections between the Early Upper Paleolithic of Northeast Africa and the Levant: technological differences between the Dabban and the Emiran. In *Transitions in Prehistory: Papers in Honor of Ofer Bar-Yosef*, J. Shea and D. Lieberman (Eds.), pp. 125–142. Oxbow Books, Oxford. [[PDF](#)] **12 citations**

- 2005 2. Dibble, H.L., U. A. Schurmans, **R.P. Iovita**, and M. McLaughlin The measurement and interpretation of cortex in lithic assemblages. *Am Antiquity* 70 (3): 545-560. [[PDF](#)] [112 citations](#)
- 2004 1. **Iovita, R. P.** and T. G. Schurr Reconstructing the origins and migrations of diasporic populations: the case of the European Gypsies. *Am Anthropol* 106 (2): 267-281. [[PDF](#)] [52 citations](#)

#### Other Publications

- 2006 2. **Iovita, R. P.** Review of “Transitions before The Transition: Evolution and Stability in the Middle Paleolithic and Middle Stone Age”, E. Hovers and S. L. Kuhn (Eds.). *Paleoanthropology* 2006, pp. 86-88. [[PDF](#)]
- 2005 1. Augenblick, E., A. Heuvelink, **R. Iovita**, and G. Ritchie “The emergence of differentiating signals within groups.” Complex Systems Summer School Final Project Papers, Santa Fe Institute, Santa Fe, NM. [[PDF](#)]

#### Field Reports

- 2018 5. **Iovita, R.**, Varis, A., Coco, E., Vandenberghe, D., Friedrich, R., Schoch, W., Belmaker, M., Meng, S., Schunk, L., Taimagambetov, Zh. ”New excavations at the Early Upper Paleolithic site of Maibulak, Kazakhstan.” Final grant report for L. S. B. Leakey Foundation, 1 December 2018.
- 2015 4. **Iovita, R.**, K. E. Fitzsimmons, T. Sprafke, L. Schunk, E. Ospanov, G. Bekseitov. “New fieldwork at Maibulak, Almaty Province, Kazakhstan.” Report submitted to Kazakh National University, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 25 October 2015.
- 2012 3. Zirra, V. V., A. Dobos, **R. Iovita**, S. Gaudzinski-Windheuser, K. Fitzsimmons, J.-J. Hublin, S. McPherron, U. Hambach, A. Petculescu, A. Ciornei. “54. Pestera, Pestera commune, Constanta county, site: Dealu Guran. Chronicle of archaeological research in Romania, 2011 campaign.” XLVI-th National Session of Archeological Reports, Târgu Mures, 23-26 May 2014, National Heritage Institute, Bucharest: 98. (in Romanian)
- 2012 2. Zirra, V. V., A. Dobos, **R. Iovita**, S. Gaudzinski-Windheuser, M. Probst, K. Fitzsimmons, J.-J. Hublin, S. McPherron, A. Petculescu, N. Schlösser, K. Weber, C. Nica. “48. Pestera, Pestera commune, Constanta county, site: Dealu Guran. Chronicle of archaeological research in Romania, 2012 campaign.” XLVII National Session of Archeological Reports, Craiova, 27-30 May 2013, National Heritage Institute, Bucharest: 101. (in Romanian)
- 2010 1. **Iovita, R. P.**, K. E. Fitzsimmons, U. Hambach, A. Dobos, and R. Dobrescu. “Lower Danube Survey for Paleolithic Sites: a Report of the 2010 Field Season”, report submitted to the Max-Planck-Society, Leipzig 10 September 2010.

#### Theses

- 2008 **Iovita, R. P.** *Ontogenetic scaling in stone tools and its application to European Middle Paleolithic systematics*. PhD Dissertation, University of Pennsylvania, USA. ProQuest Dissertations and Theses. [[LINK](#)]
- 2002 **Iovita, R. P.** *The Initial Upper Palaeolithic at Ksar Akil (Lebanon) and Haua Fteah (Libya)*.

MPhil Thesis, University of Cambridge, UK.

- 2001 **Iovita, R. P.** *The Initial Upper Palaeolithic at Ksar Akil (Lebanon) – a techno-typological analysis of levels XXV – XVIII.* AB Honors thesis, Harvard University, USA.

## INVITED SEMINARS

- 2016 12. “A Paleolithic Silk Road? Hominins, climate, and landscape in Late Pleistocene central Asia.” Department of Anthropology, Stony Brook University, 18.11.2016.
- 2016 11. “«Tales of mountains and steppes»: Pleistocene human-environmental interaction in arid central Asia.” Department of Anthropology, New York University, 18.02.2016.
- 2015 10. “Microscopic methods for identifying impact traces in obsidian tools.” Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Turkey, 20.10.2015.
- 2014 9. “Using secondary fracture characteristics to infer impact velocity in prehistoric stone-tipped projectiles.” Max-Planck-Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Leipzig, Germany, 22.10.2014.
- 2013 8. “New geoarchaeological methods and the potential for Kazakh-German cooperation in the field of paleoanthropology”. Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 16.05.2013.
- 2013 7. “Robo-cut? Reconstructing Neandertal gestures from wear traces on stone tools using (simple) robots.” Agile and Dexterous Robotics Lab, ETH Zürich, Zürich, Switzerland, 7.03.2013.
- 2012 6. “Technological diversity in the Paleolithic: groundwork for querying a patchy record.” Department of Anthropology, University of California, Davis, USA, 19.03.2012.
- 2012 5. “Aterian tanged tools: projectile tips or general-purpose edge-tools?.” Max-Planck-Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Leipzig, Germany, 15.02.2012.
- 2010 4. “The weasels and whales: an investigation of artifact shape variability at Neumark-Nord 2/0”, Landesamt für Denkmalpflege, Halle, Germany, 01.08.2010.
- 2009 3. “The Lower Danube Survey for Paleolithic Sites (LoDanS).” Max-Planck-Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Leipzig, Germany, 26.11.2009.
- 2009 2. “Diversity in Middle Paleolithic bifacial tools: a use and maintenance perspective.” Department of Anthropology, McGill University, Canada, 06.01.2009.
- 2007 1. “Geometric-morphometrics applications to resharpening processes in Mousterian tools.” Department of Anthropology, University of Connecticut, CT, USA, 24.11.2007.

## CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

### Workshops and Symposia Organized

- 2017 *Controlled experiments in lithic technology and function* (with J. Marreiros and T. Perreira), SAA Meetings, Vancouver, Canada.

- 2015 *From the shores of the Caspian to the Tian Shan foothills: paleoenvironments and human behavioral adaptations in Central Asia* (with K. Fitzsimmons), at XIX INQUA Congress, Nagoya, Japan, 26 July-2 August 2015.
- 2011 *Multidisciplinary Scientific Approaches to the Study of Stone Age Weaponry*, Mainz, 19-22 September 2011, funded by the Fritz-Thyssen Foundation.
- 2008 Symposium: *Advances in the study of lithic morphology* (with E. Otarola-Castillo, B. Schoville, E. Fisher), Society for American Archaeology, Vancouver, Canada.

#### Presentations

29 talks (2 keynote, 2 plenary, 10 invited/inv. symposium) 9 posters | <sup>G/U</sup> denotes graduate/undergraduate student 1<sup>st</sup> author

- 2019 41. **Iovita, R.**, Braun, D., Douglass, M., Holdaway, S. J., Lin, S. C., McPherron, S. P., Olzowski, D., Rezek, Z., Sandgathe, D., Dibble, H. L. "Revisiting the evolutionary significance of stone tools," in *The Extended Evolutionary Synthesis and Human Origins: Archaeological Perspectives*, J. K. Murray (ed.), SAA 2019, Albuquerque, April 10-14. [**invited talk**]
- 2018 40. **Iovita, R.**, Cuthbertson, P., Ullmann, T., Taimagambetov, Zh. "New research on the Paleolithic of Kazakhstan: introducing the PALAEOSILKROAD project", *Perspectives on the Prehistory of Central Asia*, Zwyns, N. and Krivoshapkin, A. (Eds.), XVIIIth UISPP Congress, 4-9 June. [**talk**]
- 2018 39. Rodriguez<sup>G</sup>, A., Pflöging<sup>G</sup>, J., Yanamandra, V. S. S. K., Behera, R. K., **Iovita, R.** "Abrasive wear formation in different raw materials: a controlled tribological experiment", Association of Wear and Residue Analysts conference, Nice, France, 25.5.2018 [**Pecha-Kucha**]
- 2018 38. Pflöging<sup>G</sup>, J., **Iovita, R.**, Buchli, J. "Influence of force and duration on stone tool wear: results from experiments with a force controlled robot", Association of Wear and Residue Analysts conference, Nice, France, 25.5.2018 [**Pecha-Kucha**]
- 2018 37. **Iovita, R.** "Behavioral modernity (or lack thereof) and its reflection in lithic assemblages" *Archaeology of Non-Modern Humans*, French, J. and Kissel, M. (Eds.), SAA 2018, Washington, D.C. April 15th [**invited talk**]
- 2017 36. **Iovita, R.**, Pflöging, J., Buchli, J. "Evaluating the effect of force and duration on lithic use-wear using a force and impedance-controlled robot". International Symposium on Knappable Materials, Buenos Aires, Argentina, 7.11.2017. [**talk**]
- 2017 35. **Iovita, R.** "Coming of age in archaeological morphometrics: integrating process, scale, and behavior." MORPH2017 Conference, Aarhus, Denmark. [**keynote**]
- 2017 34. Rodriguez<sup>G</sup>, A., M. G. Chacón Navarro, R. Cornette, E. Pouydebat, M.-H. Moncel, A. Bardo, L. Chèze, **Radu Iovita**, and A. Borel. "New application of geometric morphometrics in use-wear analysis for the identification of hand preference from stone tools" MORPH2017 Conference, Aarhus, Denmark. [**poster**]
- 2017 33. **Iovita, R.**, Pflöging, J., Buchli, J. "Evaluating the effect of force and duration on lithic use-wear using a force- and impedance-controlled robot" in "Controlled experiments in lithic technology and function", symposium organized by J. Marreiros, T. Pereira, **R. Iovita**, SAA Annual Meeting, Vancouver, Canada, 28 March - 2 April. [**symposium talk**]

- 2017 32. Fitzsimmons, K.E., **R. Iovita**, Sprafke, T., Glantz, M., Horton, K., Beeton, T., Alipova, S., Bekseitov, G., Ospanov, Y., Deom, J.-M., Sala, R., Taimagambetov, Zh. "A chronological framework connecting the early Upper Palaeolithic across the Central Asian piedmont". Paleanthropology Meetings, Vancouver, Canada, 27-28 March. [talk]
- 2015 31. Noack<sup>G</sup>, E., Smith, G. M., Schlösser<sup>G</sup>, N.-M., and **R. Iovita** "New evidence of Early Mesolithic hunting injuries on animal bones from northern Germany". 9<sup>th</sup> International Conference on the Mesolithic in Europe. Belgrade, Serbia. [talk]
- 2015 30. **R. Iovita**, K. E. Fitzsimmons, M. Glantz, K. Horton, T. Beeton, S. Alipova, Z. Taimagambetov "A chronological framework for the Palaeolithic in the central Asian loess steppe" XIX INQUA Congress, Nagoya, Japan, in Session H21: *Paleoenvironments and human behavioral adaptations in Central Asia*, convened by **R. Iovita** and K. Fitzsimmons. [talk]
- 2015 29. Taimagambetov, Z., **R. Iovita**, K. E. Fitzsimmons, T. Sprafke, M. Glantz, S. Temirbekov, S. Alipova, E. Ospanov. "Between the steppes and the mountains: old and new data on human-environmental interactions in Kazakhstan." XIX INQUA Congress, Nagoya, Japan, in Session H21: *Paleoenvironments and human behavioral adaptations in Central Asia*, convened by **R. Iovita** and K. Fitzsimmons. [poster]
- 2015 28. Pfleging<sup>G</sup>, J., M. Stücheli, **R. Iovita**, J. Buchli. "Dynamic monitoring in use-wear experiments: the case of motion in hide-scraping." Association of Wear and Residue Analysis (AWRANA) Conference, Leiden, Netherlands. [session keynote, plenary]
- 2014 27. **Iovita, R.**, K. Fitzsimmons, M. Glantz, T. Beeton, K. Horton, N.-M. Schlösser, L. Schunk, Z. Taimagambetov. "A reappraisal of the Early Upper Paleolithic assemblages from Maibulak, Kazakhstan." *European Society for the Study of Human Evolution (ESHE)*, Florence, Italy. [Pecha-Kucha]
- 2014 26. Schlösser<sup>G</sup>, N.-M. and **R. Iovita**. "Exploring Palaeolithic weapon delivery systems using a controlled and realistic experimental setup: preliminary results" XVII World UISPP Congress, Burgos, Spain. [talk]
- 2014 25. Schlösser<sup>G</sup>, N.-M. and **R. Iovita** "Exploring Palaeolithic weapon delivery systems using a controlled and realistic experimental setup: preliminary results" *European Society for the Study of Human Evolution (ESHE)*, Florence, Italy. [poster]
- 2014 24. Bailey, S., **R. Iovita**, T. Higham, V. Kharitonov, A. Buzhilova, R. Pinhasi "The power of deciduous teeth in diagnosing taxa: case study of a late surviving Neandertal in the Caucasus." *Paleoanthropology Society*, Calgary, Canada. [poster]
- 2013 23. **Iovita, R.**, H. Schönekeß, F. Jäger, and S. Gaudzinski-Windheuser "Identifying weapon delivery systems using macro-fracture analysis and fracture propagation velocity: a controlled experiment." *European Society for the Study of Human Evolution (ESHE)*, Vienna. [poster]
- 2013 22. Schlösser<sup>G</sup>, N., A. Dobos, K. Weber, A. Ciornei, **R. Iovita** Long-term stability in raw material economic strategies: the case of Dealul Guran, Romania. *European Society for the Study of Human Evolution (ESHE)*, Vienna. [poster]



- 2013 21. Fitzsimmons, K. E., U. Hambach, D. Veres, **R. Iovita** “The potential for catastrophic impact of the Campanian Ignimbrite (CI) tephra on human evolution: new data from the Lower Danube loess steppe.” *European Society for the Study of Human Evolution (ESHE)*, Vienna. [plenary]
- 2013 20. Rolett, B., E. West, J. Sinton, and **R. Iovita** “Voyaging in the East Polynesian Homeland: new evidence from the Hawaiki Core Area.” SAA Annual Meeting, Honolulu, USA. [talk]
- 2012 19. Dobos, A., **R. Iovita** “The Lower Paleolithic of Romania revisited: new evidence from the site of Dealul Guran.” *Paleoanthropology in the Southern Balkans*. International Symposium, University of Tübingen, Germany. [invited talk]
- 2012 18. Fitzsimmons, K.E., **R. Iovita**, A. Dobos, U. Hambach, A. Hilgers, A. Zander. “Integrating records of environmental change and human occupation in the lower Danube loess steppe.” *Last glacial palaeogeography and archaeology of the eastern Mediterranean and of the eastern European loess belt*, Aachen, Germany. [invited talk]
- 2012 17. **Iovita, R.**, H. Schönekeß, F. Jäger, and S. Gaudzinski-Windheuser “Factors influencing the production of projectile diagnostic impact fracture: results from a new ballistic experimental protocol.” *International conference on use-wear analysis*, Faro, Portugal. [talk]
- 2012 16. **Iovita, R.**, H. Schönekeß, F. Jäger, and S. Gaudzinski-Windheuser “Investigating Paleolithic projectile armatures and delivery systems: results from a new controlled ballistic experiment.” *European Society for the Study of Human Evolution (ESHE)*, Bordeaux. [poster]
- 2012 15. Fitzsimmons, K. E., U. Hambach, S. Markovic, A. Dobos, **R. Iovita** “Loess archives as contextual records of prehistoric human migration and environmental change in the Lower Danube loess steppe.” *European Society for the Study of Human Evolution (ESHE)*, Bordeaux. [poster]
- 2012 14. Fitzsimmons, K. E., **R. Iovita**, A. Dobos, U. Hambach, A. Hilgers, and A. Zander “Prehistoric human migration and environmental change in the Lower Danube loess steppe: perspectives from the Lower through Upper Palaeolithic”. *German Geoarchaeology Commission*, Leipzig. [talk]
- 2012 13. **Iovita, R.**, K. E. Fitzsimmons, A. Dobos, U. Hambach, A. Hilgers, and A. Zander “Dealul Guran: evidence for the Lower Paleolithic (MIS 11) occupation of the Lower Danube steppe,” *Paleoanthropology Society*, Memphis, USA. [talk]
- 2012 12. **Iovita, R.** “Aterian tanged tools: scrapers or projectiles tips? A geometric scaling perspective,” *The Four Sides Of A Uniface: The Design And Use Of Simple Hafted Stone Tools*, SAA Annual Meeting, Memphis, USA. [invited symposium]
- 2012 11. **Iovita, R.**, H. Schönekeß, F. Jäger, and S. Gaudzinski-Windheuser “Controlled ballistic experiments with glass replicas of Levallois points: the effects of speed and kinetic energy,” *6<sup>th</sup> Experimental Archaeology Conference*, York, UK. [talk]
- 2011 10. **Iovita, R.**, K. E. Fitzsimmons, A. Dobos, U. Hambach, A. Hilgers, and A. Zander “Dealul Guran: investigations at a newly discovered Lower/Middle Paleolithic locality in south-east Romania,” *British Museum Palaeolithic and Mesolithic Conference*, London, UK. [talk]

- 2011 9. **Iovita, R.**, H. Schönekeß, F. Jäger, and S. Gaudzinski-Windheuser “Controlled ballistic experiments with glass replicas of Levallois points,” *Multidisciplinary Scientific Approaches to the Study of Stone Age Weaponry*, Mainz, Germany. [talk]
- 2011 8. **Iovita, R.** “Morphological variability in Aterian tanged tools and its implications for the origins of projectile technology,” *Paleoanthropology Society*, Minneapolis, USA. [talk]
- 2010 7. **Iovita, R.**, K. E. Fitzsimmons, *et al.* “Linking landscape and people: prehistoric environmental change and human migration in the Lower Danube catchment”, *Palaeoclimate in the Danube Basin*, Bayreuth, Germany. [invited]
- 2010 6. **Iovita, R.**, and S. P. McPherron “The handaxe reloaded: a morphometric reassessment of Acheulian and Middle Paleolithic handaxes”, *The Roots of the Middle Paleolithic: An Uniquely Eurasian Evolutionary Experiment*. SAA Annual Meeting, St Louis, USA. [invited symposium]
- 2010 5. McPherron, S. P. and **R. Iovita** “A morphometric reassessment of Acheulian and Middle Paleolithic bifaces,” *Hugo Obermaier Conference*, Leipzig, Germany. [talk]
- 2009 4. **Iovita, R. P.** “Made like a biface, used like a scraper: reassessing variability in Middle Paleolithic resharpened tools,” *Paleoanthropology Society*, Chicago, IL, USA. [talk]
- 2008 3. **Iovita, R. P.** “Reversed ontogenies in stone tools: a new method for investigating use-lives of Paleolithic artifacts”, in *Analytical Approaches to Paleolithic Technologies*, SAA, Vancouver, Canada. [invited symposium]
- 2007 2. **Iovita, R. P.** “Relations between bifacial and unifacial industries in the European Middle Paleolithic: a morphometric approach to resharpening patterns.” SAA Annual Meeting, Austin, USA. [invited symposium]
- 2004 1. **Iovita, R. P.**, H. L. Dibble, M. McLaughlin, U. A. Schurmans, and A. Steenhuyse “Modeling cortex in lithic assemblages: an experimental approach.” SAA, Montreal, Canada. [talk]

## TEACHING

New York University

(\* denotes new preps)

- 2018 \**Archaeology of Climate Change* - undergraduate upper level.
- 2018 \**Lithic Technology* - graduate seminar.
- 2017 \**Extinct Landscapes* - graduate seminar.
- 2017 \**Archaeology: Early Societies and Culture* - undergraduate introduction.
- 2016 \**Archaeology of Modern Human Origins and Dispersal* (with R. White) - graduate seminar.

University of Mainz

*New courses developed*

- 2015 *Middle-range approaches in the archaeology of human behavior: ethnoarchaeology and experimental design* [in English and German]. Seminar.

- 2014-2016 *The digital site—a practical introduction to data processing on excavations* [in German], Practicum.  
 2013 *Quantitative Approaches for Archaeologists* [in German], Seminar.  
 2012 *Stones and Minds: the Archaeology of the Evolution of our Cognitive Capacity* [in German and English]. Seminar.  
 2012 *Introduction to working in science—Einführung in das wissenschaftliche Arbeiten* [in German]. Short seminar.  
 2011 *Introductory Statistics for Archaeologists* [in German]. Lecture.  
 2009 *Lithic Analysis* [in English]. Seminar.

#### *Standard courses*

- 2015; 2014 *Prehistory of Europe – an outline* [in German]. Co-taught survey lecture course with S. Gaudzinski-Windheuser, L. Kindler, O. Jöris.  
 2012  
 2010-2012 *Field Practicum*. Survey, GIS, excavation in the loess-steppe of Romania.  
 2010 *Long Field Excursion - Romania* Archaeological introduction to a region.

## MENTORSHIP

Current: 1 postdoctoral, 9 doctoral (4 as chair, 2 as committee member, 3 as external reader), 2 Master's (preliminary committee)

### New York University

#### *Doctoral*

- 2017– Alice Rodriguez (chair)  
 2017– Emily Coco (chair)  
 2017– Elizabeth Fillion (member)  
 2018– Joelle Nivens (member)

#### *Master's and Bachelor's*

- 2017-2018 Madison J. McCartin, BA Honors (reader)  
 2016-2017 Tanner Kovach, BA Honors (reader)

### University of Tübingen

#### *Postdoctoral*

- 2017-2020 Patrick Cuthbertson

#### *Doctoral*

- 2018-2021 Abay Namen (chair)  
 2018-2021 Aristeidis Varis (chair)

### University of Mainz

- 2014-2015 Nina-Maria Schlösser, MA (chair)

## External committees

### *Doctoral*

- 2018– Ruslan Duvanbekov (“N. Gumilev” Eurasian National University, Astana, Kazakhstan, PhD, co-supervised with Zh. Taimagambetov)
- 2015-2019 Johannes Pflöging (ETH Zürich), PhD, Co-supervised with Jonas Buchli and Ludovic Righetti (NYU Tandon)
- 2014-2019 Erbolat Ospanov (“al-Farabi” Kazakh National University, Almaty, Kazakhstan, PhD, Co-supervised with Zh. Taimagambetov)

### *Master’s*

- 2015-2016 Alice Rodriguez (National Museum of Natural History, Paris, MA, co-supervised with A. Borel and E. Pouydebat)

## FIELDWORK

### As director

- 2017-2022 [PALAEOSILKROAD](#) Project. Co-PI: Zh. Taimagambetov (National Museum of Kazakhstan).  
2013-2017 *Re-evaluation of the site of Maibulak and survey in the Tien Shan foothills*, Kazakhstan. Co-PIs: Z. Taimagambetov (National Museum of Kazakhstan), K.E. Fitzsimmons (Max Planck Institute for evolutionary Anthropology, Leipzig), G. Bekseitov (al-Farabi Kazakh National University).
- 2011-2012 *Excavations at Dealul Guran*, Romania. [Lower Danube Survey for Paleolithic Sites](#) Project.  
2010-2013 [Lower Danube Survey for Paleolithic Sites](#), Romania. Co-PIs: A. Dobos (Institute of Archaeology «Vasile Pârvan», Romanian Academy of Sciences) and K.E. Fitzsimmons (Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Leipzig).

### As invited specialist

- 2008-2009 *Neumark-Nord 2*, Middle Paleolithic, Germany. Geometric morphometric analysis of Keilmesser. PIs: S. Gaudzinski-Windheuser and W. Roebroeks.
- 2008 [Contrebandiers](#) excavations, Morocco. *Senior scientist*. Geometric morphometric analysis of Aterian points. PIs: H.L. Dibble, U.A. Schurmans, Abd-el-Jalil el-Hajraoui.

### Other fieldwork

- 2007-2008 [Abydos Survey for Paleolithic Sites](#), Egypt. PIs: H.L. Dibble, S.P. McPherron, D. Olaszewski, and J. R. Smith.
- 2006 [Jebel Irhoud](#) excavations, Morocco. PIs: J.-J. Hublin, S.P. McPherron.
- 2005-2006 [Abydos Survey for Paleolithic Sites](#), Egypt. PIs: H. L. Dibble, S.P. McPherron, D. Olaszewski, and J. R. Smith.
- 2005 [Roc de Marsal](#), Dordogne, France. *Assistant field manager*. PI: H.L. Dibble and S.P. McPherron.
- 2004 [Roc de Marsal](#), Dordogne, France. *Assistant laboratory manager*. PIs: H.L. Dibble and S.P. McPherron

- 2004 *Pech de l'Azé IV*, Middle Paleolithic, Dordogne, France. *Lithic analyst*.
- 2003 *Poiana Ciresului*, Epigravettian, Romania. PI: M. Cârciumaru.
- 2000 *Polynesian Exchange Networks Project*, Society and Austral Islands, French Polynesia. PIs: B. Rolett and G. Sinton.
- 2000 *Ksiecica Józefa*, Middle Paleolithic, Poland. *Excavation*. PIs: J. Kozłowski, K. Sobczyk.
- 1999 *Kfar HaHoresh Field School in Prehistoric Archaeology*, Neolithic, Israel. PI: N. Goring-Morris.
- 1999 *Revadim*, Lower Paleolithic, Israel. *Excavation*. PI: I. Saragusti.

## EDITORIAL AND REVIEW RESPONSIBILITIES

### Editorial Board

- 2014– *Ethnoarchaeology: Journal of Archaeological, Ethnographic, and Experimental Studies*

### Referee for peer-reviewed journals

- 2015 Outstanding Reviewer for *Quaternary International* (March 2015)

*PNAS* • *Nature: Ecology and Evolution* • *Scientific Reports* • *Current Anthropology* • *Journal of Human Evolution* • *PLoS One* • *Antiquity* • *American Antiquity* • *Journal of Archaeological Science* • *Journal of Anthropological Archaeology* • *Archaeological and Anthropological Sciences* • *Journal of Archaeological Method and Theory* • *Journal of Paleolithic Archaeology* • *Advances in Complex Systems* • *Paleoanthropology* • *Quartär* • *Quaternary International*

### Referee for granting agencies

*National Science Foundation* (NSF), USA (4 proposals)  
*German Research Foundation* (DFG) (1)  
*Israel Science Foundation* (2)  
*National Geographic Society* (2)  
*Leakey Foundation* (2)  
*Research Foundation Flanders* (FWO), Belgium (1)

## SERVICE

### New York University

#### *University-wide*

- 2018–2020 FAS Committee on Information, Technology, and Library Services

#### *Departmental*

- 2018-2019 Archaeology cluster hire (Pleistocene & Holocene) search committee
- 2018-2019 Undergraduate outreach and curriculum committee
- 2017– Center for the Study of Human Origins (CSHO) Colloquium Committee
- 2017– Graduate Admissions Committee
- 2017-2018 Committee for Junior Faculty Mentorship

2017 Borgman Prize Honors thesis nomination committee  
2016-2017 Undergraduate Studies Committee

Römisch-Germanisches Zentralmuseum

2014-2016 Scientific Librarian, Monrepos  
2013-2014 Member, Process Optimization Group for Research Laboratories of the RGZM

## SELECTED MEDIA COVERAGE OF PROJECTS

### RoboCut Project

[How to trace human evolution with robots.](#) *World Economic Forum*, Switzerland  
[Archaeology robots will explore where no human can.](#) *Vice Motherboard*, UK  
[Robot Arm Brings Humanity Back to the Stone Age.](#) *IEEE Spectrum Automaton*

### Neandertal Projectile Technology Project

[Ancient deer skeleton may reveal how Neanderthals hunted prey](#) *Science*  
[How to hunt like a Neanderthal](#) *Discover Magazine*  
[Spitze Verteidigung](#) *Deutschland Funk* (German National Radio)

### Lower Danube Survey Project

[Zeugen der Super-Eruption.](#) *Leipziger Volkszeitung* (German national newspaper)  
[Kampanischer Ignimbrit](#) *Wikipedia.de*  
[Steinzeitliche Eruption verwüstete Südosteuropa.](#) *Scinexx.de*  
[Cea mai veche urma a civilizatiei antice pe teritoriul României.](#) *Ziua* (Romanian daily newspaper)

### Kazakh Project

[Bliz Almaty arkheologi izuchayut stoyanku kamennogo veka.](#) *Kazakh National Television*

## PUBLIC OUTREACH

2017 MVR2.1 "Forward to the Past: using modern technology to reconstruct ancient technical gesture", public lecture at PioneerWorks, Brooklyn, NY, February 23, 2017.  
2015 LECTURE SERIES: *Archaeometry and Forensic Science - equal techniques on different time scales*. "Surfaces - not superficially examined: understanding traces of human activity and how robotics can come to the rescue" (in German). Mainz, 26 June 2015  
2012 SPARKASSE LECTURE SERIES "On a journey with the Stone Age Weapons Inspector" (in German). Neuwied, 22 May 2012 [\[LINK\]](#)

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- 2012– *Association of Archaeological Wear and Residue Analysis*
- 2011– *European Society for the Study of Human Evolution*
- 2005– *Paleoanthropology Society*
- 2004– *Society for American Archaeology*
- 2007– *Kolb Society*

## LANGUAGES

- German* (proficient)
- French* (proficient)
- Russian* (reading and conversation; 3 years formal study)
- Italian* (one year formal study)
- Arabic* (one year formal study)
- Spanish* (reading and conversation)
- Romanian* (native)

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