

David E. Lawrence

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Geography — Expected May 2027 (ABD, all requirements complete except dissertation)

University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM

Dissertation: “Putting Birds in Their Place: Avian Fossils as Spaces of Knowledge in the Evolutionary Sciences”

Committee: M. Lane (Chair), C. Duvall, E. Magrane, J. Moore

M.A. in Geography, 2022 — with Distinction

California State University, Northridge, Northridge, CA

Thesis: “Historical Geographies of Lost Worlds: Paleontological Discourse and Dinosaur Exhibitions in Museum Space”

B.A. in Geography, 2020 — cum laude

California State University, Northridge, CA

TEACHING INTERESTS

- Historical Geography of Science
- Museum Studies
- Paleogeography
- Critical Physical Geography
- Meteorology and Climatology
- Cultural Geography
- Cartography
- Biogeography
- Political Ecology
- Archival and Museum Collections Research
- Geographic Information Science/Systems

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Lecturer, Department of Geography and Environmental Studies, CSUN

2025 – Present

- *Introduction to GIS* – Lower Division, Fall 2025, Fall 2026
- *Intermediate GIS* – Upper Division, Spring 2026, Fall 2026
- *Advanced GIS* – Upper Division, Fall 2026
- *Human/Cultural Applications in GIS* – Upper Division, Fall 2026
- *Introduction to Physical Geography* – Lower Division, Spring 2026
- *Geographer’s Craft* – Upper Division, Spring 2026
- *Environment, Economy, and Development* – Upper Division, Spring 2026
- *Mixed Methods in Geographic Research* – Upper Division, Spring 2026

Guest Lecturer, Sol Price School of Public Policy – Nautical Science Program, USC

Fall 2026

- *Introduction and Intermediate Marine Meteorology*

MUSEUM & ARCHIVAL EXPERIENCE

Research Associate, Dinosaur Institute, Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County

2021 – Present

- Cataloged Enantiornithes (Aves: Ornithothoraces) and conducted research on Mesozoic birds of the DI's Tetrapod collection.
- Photographed Marine Reptiles of California's Central Valley and uploaded to the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) as part of the Institute's ongoing effort to digitize their collections.
- Assisted in cataloging Sauropod fossils.
- Contributed to teaching GIS skills to museum staff and interns from the University of Princeton and the University of Chicago.

Visiting Researcher, Vertebrate Paleontology, Yale Peabody Museum

Summer 2024, 2026

- Conducted specimen-based research on *Archaeopteryx*, *Hesperornis*, and *Ichthyornis* in the VP collections.
- Historical and archival research on Yale's contribution to the *Dinosaur Renaissance*, including researching fossils and documents on the maniraptoran Dinosaur, *Deinonychus antirrhopus*.
- See also Dissertation Research, below
- Future research trips will be scheduled to research their fossil collections of the bird, *Raphus cucullatus* (Dodo Bird)

Intern, Division of Birds, Museum of Southwest Biology, University of New Mexico

Fall 2024

- Assisted in extracting tissue samples of Accipitriformes (Cooper's Hawk) for genetic and environmental analysis.
- Prepared and cataloged Accipitriformes for osteological analysis.

Graduate Research Assistant, Sanborn Atlas Collection Project

2020 – 2022

- Digitized and georeferenced historical fire-insurance maps for professional clientele.

DISSERTATION & THESIS RESEARCH

Dissertation (in progress): "Putting Birds in Their Place: Avian Fossils as Spaces of Knowledge in the Evolutionary Sciences."

Argues that the classification and evolutionary history of Mesozoic birds were a socio-scientific production dependent on historical and spatial contexts.

Master's Thesis: "Historical Geographies of Lost Worlds: Paleontological Discourse and Dinosaur Exhibitions in Museum Space." (2022)

Analyzed how society communicated its relationship with Dinosaurs and the prehistoric past using the space of the Dinosaur Exhibit through time.

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Articles

Craine, Jim, Ron Davidson, David Deis, David Lawrence, Debra Scacco, and Jack Swab. 2023. "The Maps with X-Ray Eyes." *Yearbook of the Association of Pacific Coast Geographers*, Vol. 85: 27–54.

PRESENTATIONS & CONFERENCES

Paper presented — “Fossils, Feathers, and Phylogenies: Historical Geographies of *Archaeopteryx lithographica*.” American Association of Geographers (AAG) Annual Meeting. San Francisco, CA, Spring 2026.

Paper presented – “Putting *Archaeopteryx* in its Place: Avian Fossils as Spaces of Knowledge in the Evolutionary Sciences.” Early Career Researcher Symposium, London, UK (online), Spring 2026.

Paper presented — “An *Archaeopteryx* of Knowledge: A historical geography of the origin of birds.” American Association of Geographers (AAG) Annual Meeting. Honolulu, HI, Spring 2024.

Seminar – “Historical Geographies of Lost Worlds: Paleontological Discourse and Dinosaur Exhibitions in Museum Space.” Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History, Los Angeles, CA, Fall 2022

Poster – “Historical Geographies of Lost Worlds: Paleontological Discourse and Dinosaur Exhibitions in Museum Space.” American Association of Geographers (AAG) Annual Meeting. New York, NY, Spring 2022.

GRANTS, AWARDS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

Instructionally Related Activities (IRA) Grant, CSUN — 2026 (in progress)

UNM Rogers Research Award – Summer 2024

UNM Graduate Studies Conference Award – Spring 2024

UNM GES Snead Scholarship – Spring 2024

UNM Regents Winrock Minority Doctoral Fellowship, University of New Mexico — Fall 2023

UNM Museum Research Traineeship Fellowship – Fall 2023 – Spring 2026

CSUN Robert Newcomb Fellowship – Spring 2021

CSUN Robert Howard Field Studies Award – Fall 2019

FUTURE RESEARCH DIRECTIONS

Developing a field research program on Herpetofauna biogeography of Lizard Island, Australia, in collaboration with the Australian Museum Lizard Island Research Institute. In development at California State University, Northridge; Department of Geography and Environmental Studies.

REFERENCES

Dr. Maria Lane

Department of Geography and Environmental Studies (UNM)

Dean of Graduate Studies

mdlane@unm.edu

David Deis

Department of Geography and Environmental Studies (CSUN)

Staff Cartographer & Sanborn Collection Curator

david.deis@csun.edu

Dr. Luke Drake

Center for Environment and Society (Washington College)

Director of Sustainable Food Systems

ldrake2@washcoll.edu