

# MAIA CASNA, PhD

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## RESEARCH PROFILE

I am a Postdoctoral Researcher in **Bioarchaeology** specializing in **Paleopathology** and **Health Inequality** in the past. I have broad expertise in analyzing human skeletal remains to reconstruct socioeconomic phenomena such as health disparities, the effects of urbanization, and the systemic impact of **intoxicants** (e.g., tobacco) on human populations across various historical periods.

## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

• **Postdoctoral Research Associate, ERC Project PollutedPast** 2025 – Present  
*Centre for Interdisciplinary Research in Environmental Technologies (CRETUS), University of Santiago de Compostela*

## EDUCATION

• **PhD Osteoarchaeology, cum laude** 2021 – 2025  
*Faculty of Archaeology, Leiden University*

• **MSc Archaeological Science, cum laude** 2018 – 2019  
*Faculty of Archaeology, Leiden University*

• **BA Cultural Anthropology** 2013 – 2017  
*University of Bologna*

## PUBLICATIONS (\*student collaboration)

J=JOURNAL ARTICLE, B=BOOK CHAPTER, T=THESIS

[J.14] Alice Cusan, **Maia Casna**, and Giovanni Magno (2025). **An early twentieth-century case of lower lip cancer from the Morgagni Museum (Padua, Italy)**. *memo - Magazine of European Medical Oncology*. DOI: 10.1007/s12254-025-01072-1

[T.1] **Maia Casna** (2025). **The air we breathe: a study into the impact of historical socioeconomic changes on the respiratory health of past Dutch populations (ca. 470-1850 CE)**. *Doctoral Dissertation, Leiden University*. <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/4250305>

[J.13] Anna M. Davies-Barrett, **Maia Casna**, and Sarah A. Inskip (2025). **“A custome lothsome”: Investigating the association between tobacco consumption and respiratory inflammation in two post-medieval English populations (c. CE 1500–1855)**. *PLOS One*, 20(5), e0324045. DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0324045

[J.12] **Maia Casna**, and Sarah A. Schrader (2025). **Historical Trends and Risk Factors in Chronic Maxillary Sinusitis Among Dutch Pre-Adults (475–1866 CE)**. *American Journal of Biological Anthropology*, 186(4), e70050. DOI: 10.1002/ajpa.70050

[J.11] **Maia Casna**, Anna M. Davies-Barrett, and Sarah A. Schrader (2024). **Exploring the impact of tobacco consumption on the respiratory health of two Dutch skeletal populations (1300–1829 CE)**. *World Archaeology*, 55(5), 508-525. DOI: 10.1080/00438243.2024.2425814

[J.10] Veronica Pace\*, **Maia Casna**, and Sarah A. Schrader (2024). **Using computed tomography to diagnose chronic frontal sinusitis in the skeletal remains of a post-medieval Dutch rural community (AD 1829–1866)**. *Journal of Archaeological Science*, 170, 106041. DOI: 10.1016/j.jas.2024.106041

[J.9] **Maia Casna**, Anna M. Davies-Barrett, and Sarah A. Schrader (2024). **Smoking histories: a bioarchaeological approach to tobacco consumption in two skeletal populations from The Netherlands (1300-1829 CE)**. *Post-Medieval Archaeology*, 58(1), 1–13. DOI: 10.1080/00794236.2024.2355461

[J.8] Bjørn P. Bartholdy, ..., **Maia Casna**, et al. (2024). **Multiproxy analysis exploring patterns of diet and disease in dental calculus and skeletal remains from a 19th century Dutch population**. *Peer Community Journal*, 4, e46. DOI: 10.24072/pcjournal.414

[J.7] **Maia Casna**, and Sarah A. Schrader (2024). **Chronic Maxillary Sinusitis: A comparison of osteological and CT methods of diagnosis**. *International Journal of Paleopathology*, 45, 30-34. DOI: 10.1016/j.ijpp.2024.04.001

[J.6] **Maia Casna**, and Sarah A. Schrader (2024). **The urban sea: Cribra orbitalia, porotic hyperostosis, linear enamel hypoplasia, and sinusitis in three diachronic urban sites from the Dutch province of Zeeland (1030–1800 CE)**. *International Journal of Osteoarchaeology*, 34(3), e3302. DOI: 10.1002/oa.3302

[J.5] **Maia Casna**, Joost J. H. Roelofs, Rachel Schats, et al. (2024). **Association between morphological features in the cochlear promontory and mastoid process: implications for identifying middle ear diseases in human skeletal remains**. *Journal of Archaeological Science: Reports*, 56, 104538. DOI: 10.1016/j.jasrep.2024.104538

[J.4] Anna M. Davies-Barrett, **Maia Casna**, Derek Boyd, and Sarah A. Inskip. (2024). **An analysis of interobserver variability in the recording of maxillary sinusitis in human osteoarchaeological remains**. *International Journal of Osteoarchaeology*, 34(2), e3293. DOI: 10.1002/oa.3293

[J.3] **Maia Casna**, Rachel Schats, Menno L. P. Hoogland, and Sarah A. Schrader (2023). **A distant city: assessing the impact of Dutch socioeconomic developments on urban and rural health using respiratory disease as a proxy**. *International Journal of Paleopathology*, 42, 34-45. DOI: 10.1016/j.ijpp.2023.07.003

[J.2] **Maia Casna**, and Sarah A. Schrader (2022). **Urban beings: a bioarchaeological approach to socioeconomic status, cribra orbitalia, porotic hyperostosis, linear enamel hypoplasia, and sinusitis in the early-modern Northern Low Countries (A.D. 1626–1850)**. *Bioarchaeology International*, 6(4), 217-232. DOI: 10.5744/bi.2022.0001

[J.1] **Maia Casna**, Carla L. Burrell, Rachel Schats, Menno L. P. Hoogland, and Sarah A. Schrader (2021). **Urbanization and respiratory stress in the Northern Low Countries: a comparative study of chronic maxillary sinusitis in two early modern sites from the Netherlands (AD 1626–1866)**. *International Journal of Osteoarchaeology*, 31(5), 891-901. DOI: 10.1002/oa.3006

## RESEARCH FUNDING

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- **Stichting Nederlands Museum voor Anthropologie en Praehistorie** 2025  
*Contribution towards the printing of doctoral dissertation (€600)*
- **Barge's Anthropologica** 2024  
*"Population density and respiratory health: a comparative study of ancient Apulian populations" (€750)*
- **Stichting Nederlands Museum voor Anthropologie en Praehistorie** 2024  
*"Biomolecular insights into the history of sugar consumption in two Dutch populations (1448–1802 CE)" (€7,000)*
- **Leids Universiteits Fonds** 2024  
*Studieverblifj (€555)*
- **British Association for Biological Anthropology and Osteoarchaeology** 2022  
*"Child morbidity and health in adulthood: using ear infection as a proxy to identify past life-course connections" (£675)*
- **Barge's Anthropologica** 2022  
*"Child morbidity and health in adulthood: using ear infection as a proxy to identify past life-course connections" (€750)*
- **Dutch Research Council (NWO)** 2021  
*PhD Humanities – "A study into the impact of socioeconomic changes on the respiratory health of past Dutch populations" (€265,000)*

## TEACHING

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- **Leiden University** 2020 – 2025  
*Teaching Assistant / Lecturer*
  - Advanced Osteoarchaeology
  - Bioarchaeology
  - MSc Archaeological Science Internship (Focus Osteoarchaeology)
  - Landscape Dynamics

## VISITING FELLOWSHIPS

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- **Leiden University, Faculty of Archaeology** Guest Researcher, 2025 – Present
- **Purdue University, Department of Anthropology** Visiting Researcher, 2025
- **Università del Salento, School of Humanities and Cultural Heritage Studies** Visiting Researcher and Internship Supervisor, 2024 – 2025
- **University of Leicester, School of Archaeology** Research Visit, 2022

## LABORATORY AND FIELD EXPERIENCE

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- **Jebel Qurma Project (Azraq, Jordan)** 2023 – Present  
*Lead Osteoarchaeologist*
- **Department Materials Science and Engineering, TU Delft** 2020  
*Research Assistant*

## AWARDS

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• <b>The (Dutch) University Teaching Qualification, Basis Kwalificatie Onderwijs (BKO)</b>	2024
Leiden University	
• <b>Eve Cockburn Award for the best student podium presentation</b>	2024
Paleopathology Association	
• <b>Early Career Achievement Prize, honorary mention</b>	2024
Oscar Montelius Foundation, European Association of Archaeologists	
• <b>NVFA Incentive Prize</b>	2022
Nederlandse Vereniging voor Fysische Antropologie	
• <b>Jane Moore Prize for the best student podium presentation</b>	2021
British Association for Biological Anthropology and Osteoarchaeology	
• <b>Bill White Prize for the best student poster presentation, runner-up</b>	2019
British Association for Biological Anthropology and Osteoarchaeology	

## INVITED LECTURES AND KEYNOTES

I=INVITED LECTURE, K=KEYNOTE

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[I.5]	<b>Maia Casna</b> (2025). Breaking Bones, Breaking Bias How Human Skeletons Challenge Gender Stereotypes in Archaeology. <i>Netherlands Bureau for Economic Policy Analysis</i> .
[I.4]	<b>Maia Casna</b> (2024). Breathing through time: exploring the impact of urbanization onto the respiratory health of past Dutch populations. <i>Nederlandse Vereniging voor Fysische Antropologie Annual Lecture</i> .
[I.3]	<b>Maia Casna</b> (2024). Soffi urbani: Approcci osteologici alla storia della salute respiratoria nei Paesi Bassi (475-1850 CE). <i>School of Humanities and Cultural Heritage Studies, Univeristá del Salento</i> .
[I.2]	<b>Maia Casna</b> (2023). A city's breath: Unveiling Historical Respiratory Health in the Northern Low Countries (475-1850 CE). <i>Stichting Reuvens, Reuvensdagen</i> .
[I.1]	<b>Maia Casna</b> (2022). In one ear and out the nose: Investigating correlation between otitis media and chronic maxillary sinusitis in a post-medieval population from the Netherlands (AD 1500-1850). <i>University of Bristol</i> .

## SELECTION CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (last 5 years; \*student collaboration) P=PODUM, T=POSTER

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[P.6]	Allegra Rafaschieri*, Rachel Schats, and <b>Maia Casna</b> (2025). Prevalence of hallux valgus and osteoarthritis in two post-medieval populations from The Nether- lands: A shoe problem? <i>BABAO 26th Annual Meeting</i> .
[T.6]	<b>Maia Casna</b> , Michele Buzon, and Sarah A. Schrader (2025). Tracing respiratory health and sociopolitical change at Tombos, Third Cataract (1400-1600 BCE). <i>BABAO 26th Annual Meeting</i> .
[P.5]	<b>Maia Casna</b> , and Sarah A. Schrader (2024). Investigating Sinusitis Prevalence among sexes in Three Socioeconomic Groups in the Post-Medieval Netherlands: A Sex-Stratified Analysis. <i>EAA Annual Meeting</i> .
[T.5]	<b>Maia Casna</b> , Giovanni Mastronuzzi, Francesco Solinas, and Giorgia Tulumello (2024). A comparative study of chronic maxillary sinusitis and otitis media among two ancient Italian populations from pre-Roman to Late Antique Periods (5th century BCE-6th century CE). <i>24th Paleopathology Association European Meeting</i> .
[P.4]	<b>Maia Casna</b> , Anna M. Davies-Barrett, and Sarah A. Schrader (2024). A study into the Impact of Tobacco Consumption on the Respiratory Health of two Dutch Skeletal Samples (1600-1829 CE). <i>24th Paleopathology Association European Meeting</i> .
[T.4]	<b>Maia Casna</b> , Anna M. Davies-Barrett, and Sarah A. Schrader (2024). Bioarchaeological approaches to female tobacco consumption in two skeletal populations from the Netherlands (1300-1829 CE). <i>Paleopathology Association 50th Northern American Annual Meeting</i> .
[P.3]	<b>Maia Casna</b> , Joost J. H. Roelofs, Rachel Schats, Berit Verbist, and Tjasse D. Bruintjes (2023). Reliability of Cochlear Promontory Observation in Studying Ear Infections in Archaeological Human Skeletal Remains. <i>BABAO 24th Annual Conference</i> .
[P.2]	Veronica Pace*, <b>Maia Casna</b> , and Sarah A. Schrader (2022). Imaging for headache: using CT scans to diagnose chronic frontal sinusitis in a Dutch post-medieval rural community (AD 1829-1866). <i>BABAO 23rd Annual Conference</i> .
[T.3]	Tamara Merjasec*, <b>Maia Casna</b> , and Sarah A. Schrader (2022). A comparative bioarchaeological study of Chronic Frontal Sinusitis in two post-medieval populations from the Netherlands (AD 1626-1866). <i>BABAO 23rd Annual Conference</i> .
[T.2]	<b>Maia Casna</b> , and Sarah A. Schrader (2022). Chronic maxillary sinusitis: a comparison of osteological and radiological methods of diagnosis. <i>23rd Paleopathology Association European Meeting</i> .
[P.1]	<b>Maia Casna</b> , and Sarah A. Schrader (2021). Beings in the city: a bioarchaeological approach to socioeconomic status, stress markers, and sinusitis in three early-modern Dutch towns (1626-1850 AD). <i>BABAO 22nd Annual Conference</i> .
[T.1]	<b>Maia Casna</b> , and Sarah A. Schrader (2021). In one ear and out the nose: Investigating correlation between otitis media and chronic maxillary sinusitis in a post-medieval population from the Netherlands (1500-1850 AD). <i>22nd Paleopathology Association American Meeting</i> .

## CONFERENCE HOST

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- **SoYA: Symposium of Young Archaeologists** 2026  
*Leiden, 10 April 2026, ±100 guests*
- **Paleopathology Association, European Meeting** 2024  
*Leiden, 22-24 August 2024, ±300 guests*

## CONFERENCE SESSIONS ORGANIZED

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- **All in One Breath: (Bio)Archaeological Approaches to Respiratory Diseases**  
*August 2024; Rome, Italy*
- **Forgotten Bodies, Invisible Histories: Addressing Overlooked Human Narratives in the Archaeological Record**  
*August 2023; Belfast, Northern Ireland*
- **Revealing the Many Narratives of Tobacco: Towards an Interdisciplinary Archaeology of Tobacco and Consumption**  
*August 2023; Belfast, Northern Ireland*

## PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND SERVICE

U=UNIVERSITY SERVICE, P=PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- [U.4] **Student Thesis Supervision at Leiden University.** 7 MSc thesis supervised (titles upon request). *Tamara Merjasec (2021), Veronica Pace (2022), Laura Vranješ (2023), Lyann Pieters (2024), Allegra Rafaschieri (2025), Autumn Medelen (2025), Maria Farmaki (in prep.).*
- [U.3] **Faculty Council Member at Leiden University** (2022 - 2025). Elected member for the Research and PhD portfolios.
- [P.1] **Grants Secretary** (2024 - Present). British Association for Biological Anthropology and Osteoarchaeology.
- [U.2] **Editor-in-Chief Inter-Section** (2021-2025). Served as editorial board member and editor-in-chief for the peer-reviewed faculty journal at Leiden University.
- [U.1] **Diversity and Inclusion Committee Chair** (2021 - 2024). *Faculty of Archaeology, Leiden University.*

## REVIEWER

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- **PLOS One**
- **Journal of Archaeological Science**
- **International Journal of Paleopathology**
- **International Journal of Osteoarchaeology**
- **Open Archaeology**
- **F1000Research**

## MUSEUM ACTIVITIES

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- **Lego Lost at Sea, Museum Exhibition** 2025  
*Faculty of Archaeology, Leiden University*
- **Digital facial reconstruction of a case of syphilis** 2019  
*Part of "ArtArchaeology Exhibition", Leiden University*

## OUTREACH (selection)

A=ARTICLE ON MAGAZINE, K=KIDS ACTIVITY, P=PODCAST, T=TALK, M=MEDIA APPEARANCE

- [K.5] 2024. **3 October University.** Bones Lab set up during public science fair to teach children about the human skeleton.
- [K.4] 2023-2024. **Letter to Pre-scientis.** International outreach project connecting students to STEM professionals through snail mail to broaden students awareness of what scientists from all over the world do.
- [A.3] 2023. **Ademhalen in de stad.** Interview in Archeologie Magazine.
- [K.3] 2023. **Online osteoarchaeology class** for middle-school kids. Rosetta Rossi School (Rome, Italy).
- [A.2] 2023. **Respiratory Diseases and Their Contribution to Understand the Human Past.** *Contribution to the SAS Bulletin Online.*
- [P.1] 2022. **The Archaeology of Respiratory Diseases with Maia Casna.** Podcast episode on Wetenschappelijke Wezens.
- [K.2] 2022. **Dag van de doden.** *Murder-mystery workshop* for students aged 12+ where they were asked to solve a cold case with (plastic) human bones. European City of Science.
- [M.1] 2022. **Skeletten: Wat Kunnen we van ze Leren?.** *Television news piece on: Atlas, Science behind the news, news from science.* Dutch National Television – NPO2. Aired on 23 February, 2022.
- [T.2] 2022. **For Richer or Poorer: Did Wealth Influence Human Health in the Past?** BABAQ Student Talks Series.
- [T.1] 2021. **Coughs and the city.** Does living in the city affect our respiratory health? *Pint of Science, Netherlands.*
- [K.1] 2021. **Skype a Scientist** Series of short online lectures on human anatomy and osteoarcheology for children in elementary schools.
- [A.1] 2021. **De neus in: archeoloog doet onderzoek naar ademhaling gezondheid in het verleden.** Interview on Archeologie Magazine.

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

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- Paleopathology Association (PPA)
- British Association for Biological Anthropology and Osteoarchaeology (BABAO)
- Nederlandse Vereniging voor Fysische Antropologie (NVFA)
- International Council of Museums (ICOM)