

The State of the Science in Forensic Anthropology

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Abstract

Forensic Anthropology has made great strides in the last decade in its traditional areas and in new directions in response to new challenges and opportunities. Human identification has been aided by DNA analysis, though forensic anthropologists need to be aware of how the data are collected and categorized. Another positive development is the increasingly routine CT-scanning of the deceased. There are still large and growing anatomical collections, but the age of virtual collections has begun, facilitating new research possibilities. A number of forensic anthropology books have been published recently with a strong emphasis on science, unlike at times in the past. The National Institute of Justice has funded many recent research projects in forensic anthropology. This presentation will highlight advances in the US, with which the author is most familiar, but will also take note of international developments, as forensic anthropology is becoming increasingly international in scope, theory, and practice.