

# Jackson K. Njau

## Professional Experience

- 2011-pres *Assistant Professor*, Geological Sciences, Indiana University  
2011-pre *Research Associate*, Stone Age Institute and CRAFT (Center for Research into the Anthropological Foundations of Technology)  
2009-11 *Postdoctoral Research Scholar*, Human Evolution Research Center, UC Berkeley  
2006-11 *Principal Curator*, National Natural History Museum, Arusha, Tanzania  
2003-05 *Instructor*, Rutgers University's Koobi Fora International Field School, Kenya  
2000-01 *Teaching Assistant*, Rutgers University  
1992-96 *Curator*, National Museum of Tanzania, Dar Es Salaam

## Research interests

- Evolution of Early Humans Behavior
- Hominid Paleoenvironments and Paleolandscapes
- Vertebrate Taphonomy and Zooarchaeology
- Actualistic Studies and Experimental Archaeology
- Crocodile Taphonomy, Feeding Behavior and Ecology

## Current Research and Activities

- Tanzania International Paleoanthropological Research Project (TIPRP).
- The Olduvai Gorge Landscape Paleoanthropology Project (OLAPP).
- Olduvai Gorge Vertebrate Paleontology Project (OVPP).
- Comprehensive Olduvai Documentation Initiative (CODI)
- Olduvai Gorge Geochronology and Archeology Project (OGAP)
- Network Participant: The Leverhulme Trust, International Networks, Cambridge.
- Field and curatorial training program for international students: funded by British Academy's, UK-Africa Academic Partnership

## Education

- 2006 PhD, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey  
2000 MA, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey  
2000 Quaternary Studies Cert., Geological Sciences & Anthropology, Rutgers Univ.  
1992 BA, University of Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania

## Representative Publications

- Njau, J.K.** and Hlusko, L.J. 2010. Fine-Tuning Paleoanthropological Reconnaissance using High-Resolution Satellite Imagery: The Discovery of 28 New Sites in Tanzania. Journal of Human Evolution 59, 680-684.
- Njau, J.K.** and Blumenschine, R.J. Crocodylian and Mammalian Carnivore Feeding Traces on Hominin Fossils from FLK 22 and FLK NN 3, Late Pliocene, Olduvai Gorge, Tanzania. Journal of Human Evolution (in press).
- Njau, J.K.** and Blumenschine, R.J. 2006. A Diagnosis of Crocodile Damage to Large Vertebrate Bones, With Fossil Examples From Olduvai Gorge, Tanzania. Journal of Human Evolution 50, 142-162.

- Brochu, C.A., **Njau, J.K.**, Blumenschine, R.J., Densmore, L.D. 2010. A New Horned Crocodile From Plio-Pleistocene Hominid Sites at Olduvai Gorge, Tanzania. PLoS One 5(2), e9333.
- Louchart, A., Wesselman, H., Blumenschine, R.J., Hlusko, L.J., **Njau, J.K.**, Black, M.T., Asnake, M., White, T.D. 2009. Taphonomic, Avian, and Small Vertebrate Indicators of *Ardipithecus ramidus* Habitat. Science 326, 66.
- Blumenschine, R.J., Peters, C.R., Capaldo, S.D., Andrews, P., **Njau, J.K.**, Pobiner, B.L. 2007. Vertebrate taphonomic perspectives on Oldowan hominin land use in the Plio-Pleistocene Olduvai Basin, Tanzania. In: Breathing Life into Fossils: Taphonomic Studies in Honor of C.K. Brain (T. Pickering, K. Schick, N. Toth eds). Gosport, IN: Stone Age Institute Press. Pp. 161-179.
- Blumenschine, R.J., Peters, C.R., Masao, F.T., Clarke, R.J., Deino, A.L., Hay, R.L., Swisher, C., Ashley, G.M., McHenry, L.J., Sikes, N.E., van der Merwe, N.J., Tactikos, J.C., Cushing, A.E., Deocampo, D.M., **Njau, J.K.**, Ebert, J.I. 2003. Late Pliocene Homo and Hominid Land Use from Western Olduvai Gorge, Tanzania. Science 299, 1217-1221.
- Blumenschine, R.J., Stanistreet, I.G., **Njau, J.K.**, Bamford, M.K., Masao, F.T., Albert, R.M., Stollhofen, H., Andrews, P., Prassak, K.A., McHenry, L.J., Fernandez-Jalvo, Y., Camilli, E.L., Ebert, J. Environments and Hominin Activities across FLK Peninsula During *Zinjanthropus* Times (1.84 Ma), Olduvai Gorge, Tanzania. Journal of Human Evolution (Accepted).
- Ungar, P.S., Krueger, K.L., Blumenschine, R.J., **Njau, J.K.**, Scott, R.S. Dental microwear texture analysis of hominins recovered by the Olduvai Landscape Paleoanthropology Project, 1995-2007. Journal of Human Evolution (in press).

### **Other Publications**

- 2009 **Njau, J.K.**, Alemseged, Z., Mbuja, E., Briana, P. 2009. Second Conference of the East African Association for Paleoanthropology and Paleontology: Fifty Years After Discovery of *Zinjanthropus*. Evolutionary Anthropology 18, 235-236.
- 1994 Reid, A. and **Njau, J.K.** 1994. Archaeological research in Karagwe District. Nyame Akuma 41, 68-73.

### **Papers in preparation**

Njau, JK, Hlusko, LJ, Morgan, L. Geology and paleontology of new Pleistocene locality in Hanang, northern Tanzania.

Blumenschine, R.J., Masao, F.T., Stanistreet, I.G., Stollhofen, H., **Njau, J.K.**, Bamford, M.K., Albert, R.M., Prassak, K.A. Landscape Distribution of Oldowan Stone Artifact Assemblages across Fault Compartments in the Early Lowermost Bed II Eastern Olduvai Lake Basin. Journal of Human Evolution (In revision).

### **Selected Abstracts: Professional Meetings**

- 2011 Renne, P.R., Mulcahy, S.R., Cassata, W.S., Morgan, L.E., Hlusko, L.J. & **Njau, J.K.** Retention of inherited Argon in Alkali Feldspar Xenocrysts: Constraints from Ba diffusion profiles. *GSA, Minneapolis (9–12 October 2011)*

- 2010 **Njau, J.K.** and Blumenschine, R.J. Hominin Predation Hazards from Carnivores on the FLK *Zinjanthropus* and FLKNN OH7/OH8 Landscapes, Olduvai Gorge. *Paleoanthropology Society* A30.
- 2008 Brochu, C.A., **Njau, J.K.**, Blumenschine, R.J., & Densmore, L.I.D. Giant horned crocodiles from the Late Cenozoic of Africa: Stealth diversity revisited. *JVP* 28, 57A.
- 2008 Westaway, M., **Njau, J.K.**, & Wood, W. Towards a clearer understanding of the importance of crocodiles as taphonomic agents in the early hominin fossil record. *Australian Archaeological Association Annual Conference*, 63A.
- 2007 **Njau, J.K.** and Blumenschine, R. J. Crocodilian Predation Risk for Plio-Pleistocene Hominins at Olduvai Gorge, Tanzania. *PaleoAnthropology Society* A21.
- 2005 **Njau, J.K.** and Blumenschine, R.J. Bone modification by crocodilians in Plio-Pleistocene fossil assemblages, Olduvai Gorge, Tanzania. *JVP* 25, 96A.

### **Thesis**

- Njau, J.K. 2006. The Relevance of Crocodilians to Oldowan Hominin Paleocology at Olduvai Gorge, Tanzania. PhD dissertation, Rutgers University  
[http://www.paleoanthro.org/dissertation\\_list.htm](http://www.paleoanthro.org/dissertation_list.htm)

### **Media Interviews and Report Commentaries of my research**

- Pat Shipman (2010). The cutting edge. *American Scientist*. 98, 462-465. Comments on controversial 3.4 Ma cut-marked bones from Dikika, Ethiopia. I argued that ancient crocodiles could inflict similar marks.
- David Perlman (2010). *San Francisco Chronicle*, Science Editor Sunday, November 21, 2010. Interview of the controversial cut marks on 3.4 Ma specimens as possible crocodile bite marks.

### **Awards and Fellowships**

- 2006 Wenner-Gren Foundation, Post-doctoral Fellowship (PIDF)
- 2005 Dean's Award for Excellence in Research, Graduate School, Rutgers University
- 2004 J. Flanagan, Rutgers University Graduate Fellowship
- 2003 Wenner-Gren Foundation, Graduate Fellowship (PIDF)
- 2000 The Explorers Club New York, Exploration Fund Grant
- 1998-00 Wenner-Gren Foundation, Graduate Fellowship
- 1996-98 L.S.B. Leakey Foundation, Graduate Fellowship (Baldwin)

### **Research Experience**

- 2006-pres. *Co-director*, Tanzania International Paleoanthropological Research Project (TIPRP), (Jackson Njau & Leslea Hlusko).
- 2007-pres. *Co-director*, Olduvai Gorge Landscape Paleoanthropology Project (OLAPP). Established by Robert Blumenschine and Fidelis Masao (1989).
- 2010-pres *Co-director*, Olduvai Vertebrate Paleontology Project (OVPP). (Leslea Hlusko & Jackson Njau).
- 2010-pres *Co-director*, Olduvai Gorge Geochronology and Archeology Project (OGAP) (Lindsay McHenry, Ignacio de la Torre, Jackson Njau).
- 1995-pres. *Faunal Analyst, Collections Manager & Curator*, Olduvai Gorge projects, Arusha Natural History Museum

2004 *Zooarchaeologist*, Middle Awash Project. Taphonomic study of large vertebrate fossils from Aramis, the *Ardipithecus ramidus* site (with R. Blumenschine).

### **Research Grants**

- 2011-16 The origins of the Acheulean in East Africa (OGAP, PI: Ignacio de la Torre; Co-PIs, Lindsay McHenry, Jackson Njau).  
**European Research Council, ERC** (€1.5 Million)
- 2011-13 Vertebrate Paleontology at Olduvai Gorge, Tanzania (OVPP, PI: Leslea Hlusko; Co-PI, Jackson Njau). **National Science Foundation** (\$304,904).
- 2011-13 Percussion Technology and Human Evolution. **The Leverhulme Trust, International Networks, Cambridge** (£124,900). PI: Ignacio de la Torre (Univ. College London). Collaborators: Rob Blumenschine (Rutgers Univ.), Susana Carvalho (Univ. Cambridge), Sonia Harmand (CNRS), Tetsuro Matsuzawa (Kyoto Univ.). Bill McGrew (Univ. Cambridge), Rafael Mora (UA Barcelona), JK Njau (Indiana Univ.), Helene Roche (CNRS).
- 2010-12 The Early Acheulean in Olduvai: Training and Heritage Conservation in Northern Tanzania (Co-PIs: I. de la Torre & JK Njau). **The British Academy, UK-Africa Academic Partnership** (£29,650)
- 2010-11 Continued Research and Training on the Landscape Paleoanthropology of Olduvai Gorge including the Landscape Ecology of Modern Settings in Northern Tanzania (OLAPP, PI: Jackson Njau). **PAST, South African Palaeontological Scientific Trust** (ZAR 199 000)
- 2009-11 New Stratigraphic and Archaeological Investigations on the Origin of the Acheulean at Olduvai Gorge (OGAP, PI: Lindsay McHenry). **National Science Foundation** (\$223,510).
- 2008 Surveying for New Paleoanthropological Sites in Tanzania (TIPRP, *Co-PIs*: Hlusko, LJ & Njau, JK). **National Geographic Society, Waitt Grant** (\$15,000)
- 2008 The Landscape Paleoanthropology Research of Olduvai Gorge, Tanzania (OLAPP, *Co-PIs*: Blumenschine, R.J., Masao, FT. & Njau, JK). **National Geographic Society, Exploration Grant** (\$22,000)
- 2007 Surveying for New Paleoanthropological Sites in Tanzania (TIPRP, *Co-PIs*: Hlusko, LJ & Njau, JK). **Wenner-Gren International Collaborative Research Grant** (\$29,974).

### **Pre-doctoral and Dissertation Research Grants**

- 2002 Archaeological implications of crocodile predation to Oldowan hominid evolution  
**NSF Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant** (\$12,000).
- 2001 Archaeological implications of crocodile predation to Oldowan hominid evolution  
**Wenner-Gren Foundation Research Grant** (\$19,500).

### **Grants for organizing professional conferences**

- 2011 The East African Association for Paleoanthropology and Paleontology 3<sup>rd</sup> Biannual Conference, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. **Wenner-Gren Foundation** (\$15,000 - Alemseged, Z. & Njau, J.K.).

2009 The East African Association for Paleoanthropology and Paleontology 2<sup>nd</sup> Biannual Conference, Arusha, Tanzania. **Wenner-Gren Foundation** (\$15,000 - Alemseged, Z. & Njau, J.K.).

**Professional Service**

2009-pres Associate Editor, Journal of Human Evolution  
2009-pres Executive Secretary, East African Association for Paleoanthropology and Paleontology (EAAPP)  
2011-pres Member, Scientific Advisory Committee, South African Palaeontological Scientific Trust

**Professional Society Memberships**

Society of Vertebrate Paleontology (SVP)  
East Africa Association for Paleoanthropology and Paleontology (EAAPP)  
Wildlife Conservation Society of Tanzania (WST)  
American Association of Physical Anthropologists (AAPA)  
Paleoanthropology Society