

# KRISTEN RYE PEARSON

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## Education

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### Ph.D. (in progress) - Anthropology and Inner Asian Studies

Harvard University

2019-present  
Cambridge, MA

### B.A. - Classical Studies

University of Pennsylvania

*Summa Cum Laude with Distinction Mediterranean Archaeology Concentration*  
*Minors: Linguistics, Archaeological Science, and Global Medieval Studies*

2018  
Philadelphia, MA

## Publications

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Beaty, K., Beenk, J., Bhutia, K. D., Bisonettee, R., & Pearson, K. (2025). Unwrapping the Buddhist Canon: The Textiles of a Five-Robed Mongolian Kanjur from the Harvard-Yenching Library. In M. Moreton & S. C. Akbari (Eds.), *Textiles in Manuscripts: A Local and Global History of the Book*. De Gruyter.

Pearson, K. (2024). Community Engagement on the Move: A Case Study from the Nomadic Material Heritage Project. *Endangered Material Knowledge Program*. [commissioned case study]

Hobbis, G., Hobbis, S., Babakir, R., Douny, L., Lucas, M., Mohajer va Pesaran, D., Pearson, K., & Sagiya, M. (2025). Crocodile Technologies: Endangered Material Knowledge and Paradoxical Resilience. [under review]

Taylor, W., Hart, I., Pan, C., Bayarsaikhan, J., Murdoch, J., Caspari, G., Klinge, M., Pearson, K., ... & Boivin, N. (2021). High altitude hunting, climate change, and pastoral resilience in eastern Eurasia. *Scientific reports*, 11(1), 1-13.

Pearson, K., Mönkhbayar, Ch., Enkhbat, G., Bayarsaikhan, J. (2019). The Textiles of Üzüür Gyalan: Towards the Identification of a Nomadic Textile Tradition in the Mongolian Altai. *Archaeological Textiles Review*, 61, 56-70.

Solazzo, C., Bayarsaikhan, J., Kalodner, J., Lee, B., Scibè, C., Pearson, K. (2019). Understanding Medieval Textile Production and Provenience in the Darkhad Valley Through Biomolecular Analyses. *Proceedings of the 14th Annual Mongolian Studies Conference*, Washington DC.

Pearson, K. (2018). Making on the Move: Textiles and Mobility in the Archaeological Record. *Proceedings of the 12th Annual Mongolian Studies Conference*, Washington DC.

Pearson, K. (2017). Chasing the Shaman's Steed: Horse Imagery Across Space and Time. *Sino-Platonic Papers*, No. 269.

Pearson, K. (2016). Sowing the Seeds of Competitive Play: The Enduring Legacy of Mancala. *Expedition: The Magazine of the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology*, 58(1), 28-31.

## Presentations

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- “The Sheep in the Taxi: Exchanges and Relations in the Wake of a Mobile Field Project,” Association of Social Anthropologists, Birmingham 2025 (submitted)
- “A Strong Man Crosses Two Mountains to Find a Bride: Gender, Kinship, and Mobility in Inner Asia,” Joint Meeting of the Central Eurasian Studies Society and the European Society for Central Asia Studies, Lisbon (2025) (accepted)
- “Practical Paradoxes: Exploring the Social Affordances of Things in Contemporary Mongolia,” European Association of Archaeologists Annual Meeting, Rome (2024)
- “Ethnographies of Makers and Making: Traditional Craft and Technology in Contemporary Societies,” Session Organized, European Association of Archaeologists Annual Meeting, Rome, Italy (2024)
- “Silk in the Brambles?: Evidence for Xiongnu Dress from Circular Graves,” Society for American Archaeology Annual Meeting, New Orleans (2024)
- “Storage and Display Methods for Archaeological Textiles,” Lecture given at the AFCP Textile Conservation Workshop (2023)
- “Counting Sheep: Ethnoarchaeology of Animal Hide Garments in Mongolia,” Society for American Archaeology Annual Meeting, Austin, Texas (2021)
- “Skin Garments Beyond Species: Integrating Ethnoarchaeological and Scientific Approaches in the Study of Archaeological Leather,” European Association of Archaeologists Annual Meeting, Budapest, Hungary (2020)
- “Local Textile Production in Medieval Mongolia: Evidence from Üzüür Gyalan and Directions for New Research,” Annual Conference of the Mongolian National Museum (2020)
- “Towards an Archaeology of Hand-me-downs: Textiles and Inequality in Nomadic Inner Asia,” Workshop on Dependency, Inequality, and Material Culture, Bonn, Germany (2019)
- “Objects in an Ecosystem: Ethnoarchaeology of Mongolian Hide and Fiber Crafts,” American Center for Mongolian Studies Speaker Series (2019)
- “Society for East Asian Archaeology Student Award Paper: Analysis of the Üzüür Gyalan Burial Textiles,” Society for East Asian Archaeology Annual Meeting, Nanjing, China (2018)
- “Analysis of the Üzüür Gyalan Burial Textiles,” Greater Philadelphia Asian Studies Consortium 13th Annual Undergraduate Conference (2018)
- “Application of Digital Microscopy to Fiber Analysis of Ancient Textiles,” Anthrofest: Penn Anthropology Annual Undergraduate Research Conference (2018)
- “Making on the Move,” 12th Annual Mongolian Studies Conference, Washington, DC (2018)
- “Felts, Fabrics, and Furs: A 10th Century Burial from the Mongolian Altai,” University of Pennsylvania Undergraduate Research Symposium (2017)
- “Eurasian Felts: Scientific Analysis and Experimental Archaeology,” Anthrofest: Penn Anthropology Annual Undergraduate Research Conference (2017)
- “Textiles from the Ancient City of Ur,” University of Pennsylvania Undergraduate Research Symposium (2016)

## **Funding and Fellowships**

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- Asia Center Summer Research Grant (2023)
- Endangered Material Knowledge Program (2022-24)
- NSF-Graduate Research Fellowship Program (2022-present)
- American Center for Mongolian Studies AFCP Textile Archaeology Fellowship (2021-22)
- American Center for Mongolian Studies Field Research Fellowship (2022)
- Harvard GSC Summer Research Grant (2020)
- Fulbright U.S. Student Research Fellowship (2018-2019)
- American Center for Mongolian Studies Field Research Fellowship (2018)
- Penn Museum Field Funds (2018)
- Travel Grant, University of Pennsylvania School of Arts and Sciences (2017)
- Penn Museum Field Funds (2017)
- Gelfman International Summer Fund Grant (2017)
- Penn Undergraduate Research Mentorship (PURM) Grant (2016)

## **Teaching**

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- Teaching Fellow, Junior Tutorial, Anthropology, Harvard University (2024)
- Teaching Fellow, Gen Ed 1105: Can We Know Our Past, Anthropology, Harvard University (2023)
- Teaching Fellow, Senior Thesis Tutorial, EALC, Harvard University (2022)
- Intensive Course (designed and taught): “Archaeology and Anthropology of Textiles,” Ambassador’s Fund for Cultural Preservation Project, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia (2022)

## **Awards and Honors**

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- Student Award - Society for East Asian Archaeology (2018)
- Frederick W. Meier Jr. Thesis Prize - University of Pennsylvania Phi Beta Kappa (2018)
- Rose Undergraduate Research Award - University of Pennsylvania (2018)
- Adele Austin Rickett Prize - University of Pennsylvania Dept. of EALC (2018)
- Dean’s List - University of Pennsylvania (2014-2018)

## **Public Engagement**

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- Ancient Clothes and Textiles Display and Hands-on Activity, Contribution to exhibit “Dairy Cultures: The Science of Mongolian Heritage,” Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia (2023)
- Participatory Cultural Heritage Documentation and Public Event, Bayan Ölgii Aimag Museum, Ölgii, Mongolia (2023)
- AFCP Presentation and Workshop for Middle School Students, Dornod Aimag Museum, Choibalsan, Mongolia (2023)
- Peabody Museum Virtual Classroom Visits “Spinning, Weaving, and Dyeing,” Penn Museum Teach-In Table (2018-2021)
- Horses in the Penn Museum, Penn Museum Academic Engagement - Tour (2017-2018)

## **Applied Anthropology**

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- City of Boston - The Impact of Gambling Infrastructures on Youth in Charlestown (2024-25)
- Tech Company (NDA) - AI, Education, and Inequality (2024)
- Gusto - Lived experience of first time small business owners (2024)
- Tech Company (NDA) - Design principles for equitable, affordable, and accessible devices (2023)
- Medical Company (NDA) - Concept mapping and solutions testing to address the needs of people with arthritis (2022)
- Ambassador’s Fund for Cultural Preservation - Organizational ethnography to understand challenges faced by Mongolian heritage professionals (2021)

## **Languages**

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- English - Native
- French - Fluent
- Mongolian - Advanced speaking, intermediate reading
- Spanish - Intermediate speaking, advanced reading
- Medieval Latin - Intermediate reading
- Anglo-Saxon - Intermediate reading