

My research focuses on the skeletal embodiment of maternal stress and structural, biopolitical violence in Medellín, Colombia. In Medellín, when someone dies, they are allowed to be interred for 4 years. Once this 4 years is up, their living relatives can either elect to have them moved to a communal ossuary, or they can be donated to the forensic osteological reference collection at the University of Antioquia. Alternatively, if the family so chooses and is financially able, they may move their relative to a burial plot, or elect to have their remains cremated. Throughout the month of August, I analyzed a subsample of individuals from the forensic osteological reference collection, at the *Laboratorio de Osteología Antropológica y Forense* or LOAF, at the University of Antioquia. This osteological reference collection is comprised of modern skeletons, most of which are associated with known age, sex, and birth region (Isaza & Vargas 2011; Monsalve & Hefner 2016; Calle 2020). Currently housed in the University's forensic laboratory, the collection is representative of 517 individuals with ages ranging from perinatal to 102 (Monsalve & Hefner 2016; Calle 2020). Various regions throughout Antioquia are represented in terms of population/birthplace, and the collection is comprised of individuals born between the mid-twentieth to 21st century (Isaza & Vargas 2011; Calle 2020).

My interest in intergenerational and historical trauma and how geopolitical violence can be embedded to hard tissue led me to adopt a multitemporal approach, and structuring my research through 3 different generations allows me to speak to these intergenerational legacies. I am looking at 3 different generations that are organized around the decade long conflict known as *La Violencia* (1948-1958). The instability associated with this period and the impact of US intervention in the area —and the US as an imperial body— has radically altered the Colombian landscape, and gave rise to the reign of "narco-terrorism" and guerilla warfare that took place

throughout Colombia during the 1980s-1990s. I have divided each generation into periods of 30 years, with the first generation of individuals born before the start of La Violencia, the second generation born during the conflict, and the third generation born after.

During my time in Medellín, I was able to identify an appropriate subsample of individuals that comprise each of the three generations of women I will be focusing on for my dissertation. Once I determined which individuals would be in my subsamples, I began collecting data that will allow me to generate a structural vulnerability profile for every individual in each generation. For this early work, the majority of data I collected was either archival or quantitative (metric data or non metric data I coded based on the presence or absence of certain features or their severity). There were 23 women in each generation and for each woman I completed a data collection packet that I generated prior to my arrival in Medellín. I started with the first 23 individuals within generation 1, and ended with generation 3, for a total of 69 individuals (n=69). Each packet provides information that can be used to help determine living stature, associated violence, pathology, antemortem tooth loss, and measures of the vertebral neural canal (VNC) that can be used as a proxy for developmental stress. On average, I was able to complete 4-7 packets per day. Once I finished the packets for all 69 women, I went back through and re-did 10% of the sample to account for intraobserver error. I then was able to start this entire process for the men I will eventually be comparing the sample of women to. Unfortunately, I was not able to finish this process, and will have to collect this data next time I come back to Medellín. This experience allowed me to have a more intimate understanding of how the process for my dissertation data collection as a whole will go, and provided me with the opportunity to collect preliminary data that is essential for me as I move forward into this next chapter of my PhD and begin honing in on my dissertation research.