

Skeletal Biology of the Ancient Rapanui (Easter Islanders) (Cambridge Studies in Biological and Evolutionary Anthropology)

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Disseminating what is currently known about the skeletal biology of the ancient Rapanui and placing it within the wider context of Polynesian skeletal variation, this volume is the culmination of over thirty years of research into the remotely inhabited Easter Island. Compiling osteological data deriving from Rapanui skeletal remains into one succinct analysis, this book demonstrates how the application of modern skeletal biology research techniques can effectively be employed to address questions of human population origins and microevolution. Craniometrics and DNA analysis are used to provide indications as to Rapanui ancestral lineage. Evidence is presented in a user-friendly manner to allow researchers and graduates to critically analyse the current knowledge of prehistoric Rapanui skeletal variation. An important resource providing valuable evidence from human biology that modifies earlier archaeological and cultural anthropological views, this book will stimulate further research into the Rapanui.

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Editorial Review

About the Author

Vincent H. Stefan is a Professor in the Department of Anthropology at Herbert H. Lehman College and the Graduate School, City University of New York, as well as a faculty member of the New York Consortium in Evolutionary Primatology. His research centres upon the documentation and analysis of contemporary and prehistoric skeletal variation, as well as forensic skeletal analysis and identification.

George W. Gill is a Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Anthropology at the University of Wyoming where he taught bioanthropology for forty years. He is a former Chair of Anthropology and Director of the University of Wyoming Anthropology Museum. His ongoing research interests include American and Polynesian skeletal biology and bioarchaeology, Paleoindian osteology, and forensic skeletal analysis and identification.

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