PROJECT RESUME

This project aims to investigate the application of histological analyses of bone for the purpose of human identification. Osteon counts taken from ground sections are currently used in forensic osteology to estimate the biological age of unknown human remains. This is in order to assist in the creation of a biological profile and therefore enable the identification of an individual in a forensic context. The most commonly used anatomical location from which to obtain these counts is a mid-shaft femur or rib section. However, if osteon counts vary throughout the skeleton, or indeed throughout a single bone then this variation will impact on the derived age. This project aims to investigate this potential variation by carrying out a blind study of ground sections taken from two cadavers of the same chronological age but different biological sex, in order to observe the extent of osteon variation and this impact (if any) on currently used aging techniques.

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