

THE HUMANITIES INSTITUTE PRESENTS

“Collecting the Ancestors: Skeletons and Mummies and Their History in Reconstructing Health and Medical Practices in the pre-Hispanic Andes”



John Verano
Professor of Anthropology
Tulane University

Beginning in the nineteenth century, Peruvian, European, and North American explorers and archaeologists collected human remains from burial caves in the highlands and cemeteries on the desert coast of the Andes. In Peru, collectors found skulls showing evidence of trepanation (skull surgery) in pre-Hispanic burial houses and caves. These medical practices were brought to worldwide attention by archaeologists like Julio Tello, a descendent of those medical ancestors in the central highlands, who devoted the rest of his life to excavating archaeological sites and building museum collections of ancestral mummies and skulls. This talk will look at how the study of human remains played an important role in documenting health conditions and medical practices in the pre-Hispanic Andes, and how these studies continue to flourish today through the work of a new generation of young bioarchaeologists.

This keynote event for “Collecting the Andes: Museums of Andean Art and Science in the Americas and Atlantic World” is supported by the Humanities in the World Initiative Faculty Invites program, and is co-sponsored by the Department of History, the Latin American Studies program, and the Committee for Early Modern Studies.

**Foster Auditorium,
102 Paterno Library**

**Friday, November 4, 2022
5:30 p.m. EDT**

