

ORAL PRESENTATIONS

O1. Teaching Forensic Anthropology with a small skeletal collection

DAVID BRYSON

Department of Biology and Forensics, School of Science, Faculty of Education Health and Science, University of Derby.

D.Bryson@derby.ac.uk

This paper looks at the issues that arise when teaching forensic anthropology with a limited skeletal collection 10-15 full or partial skeletons. It is fine being able to teach using a large collection as many older universities can and those who have been able to build up collections, but what about those Universities or colleges that are only starting to build up a collection or are teaching using whatever has been accumulated over the years? Is it feasible that a small collection can have sufficient variability to support a positive learning experience? Our experience shows that it is possible and this presentation looks at how to make the best use of a small collection including learning, teaching and assessment methodologies which will be of benefit to those faced with this scenario and help others make even better use of a large collection. One surprising feature is the number of non-metric variations enabling students to see that skeletons are different even within such a small population. Making use of these and other features means that teaching is real as morphological variations can be seen in the skeletal remains they are analysing not just in textbooks.