Forensic Anthropological Investigation of Human Rights Atrocities: A Comparison Across Three Continents

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The application of skeletal biological principles to human rights investigations began in the 1980's with the founding of the Argentine Forensic Anthropology Team (EAAF). Since that time, anthropological involvement in these investigations has proven critical given the often lengthy delay before scientific teams can access the graves. In the 1990's over 130 anthropologists and archaeologists participated in human rights investigations in 33 countries. Despite the scientific nature of the investigations, the sociopolitical underpinnings of each are unique and must be understood. This presentation will discuss the social, scientific and anthropological context of on-going investigations spanning three continents and nearly 70 years.