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Multidisciplinary approaches to complex investigations in the UK

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This presentation will focus on the applications of forensic anthropology and related sciences in complex cases. A review of recent developments in the field currently being utilized in UK forensic casework will be provided and a number of research projects aimed at improving knowledge in areas which will assist with criminal investigation will be summarized. These include the identification of small burnt fragments of bone using multiple techniques and the post-mortem preservation of human remains in a confined space. Three recent case studies will be presented. Two of these generated research projects which are currently ongoing and one utilized a number of scientific techniques, including anthropology which strengthened the evidence for the prosecution.

Biography

Julie Roberts is Scientific Lead and Team Leader for the Anthropology, Archaeology and Ecology Department at Cellmark Forensic Services. She holds a Doctoral degree in the subject of Forensic Anthropology and Archaeology from the University of Glasgow, a Master of Science degree in Osteology, Palaeopathology and Funerary Archaeology from the University of Sheffield, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Archaeology and Ancient History from the University of Manchester. She is professionally accredited by the Royal Anthropological Institute as a senior Forensic Anthropologist and is registered with the National Crime Agency as an Expert Advisor in Forensic Anthropology and Archaeology. She is a member of the Home Office Forensic Expert Group advising UK DVI on Forensic Anthropology, a Fellow of the Royal Anthropological Institute, a member of the British Association for Biological Anthropology and Osteoarchaeology, the British Association for Forensic Anthropology and the British Association for Human Identification. Her professional experience includes senior anthropologist with the British Forensic Team in Kosovo, Lead anthropologist in the 7/7 London Bombings and deployments to assist with military fatalities and victims of terrorism in Afghanistan, Iraq and Lebanon.

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