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## **Beyond prometheus: pursuing the origins of fire production among early humans**

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# Acknowledgements

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# Curriculum vitae

Andrew Charles Sorensen was born on the 19th of May 1982 in Mason City, Iowa, USA. After graduating *cum laude* with Bachelor's degrees in Geology and History from Cornell College (Iowa) in 2004, he began working as an archaeological field and laboratory technician for the University of Iowa Office of the State Archaeologist, a cultural resource management firm in Iowa City. During his seven years with this organisation, he participated in and led hundreds of archaeological surveys and excavations, ultimately rising through the ranks to become an assistant project archaeologist and assistant geomorphologist. During his tenure here, he also began making yearly trips to Nijmegen, the Netherlands, to volunteer on various prehistoric, Roman and Medieval excavations with the Gemeente Nijmegen Bureau Archeologie en Monumenten, beginning in 2006. This work sparked a love for the country that ultimately coaxed Andrew back to the Netherlands in 2011 to pursue a Master's Degree in Palaeolithic Archaeology and Material Cultural Studies at Leiden University, where his thesis research applied experimental and microwear analytical methods towards understanding and identifying possible Neandertal fire making technology. Upon receiving his degree in early 2012, Andrew began working for Prof. dr. Wil Roebroeks as a Junior Researcher, which allowed him to expand on his Master's research and put together a proposal for a PhD project in a similar vein. This proposal was ultimately awarded by the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO) in 2013 through their 'PhDs in the Humanities' funding initiative. His project 'Beyond Prometheus', described in this dissertation, sought to provide insight into Neandertal fire use practices, how these present themselves archaeologically and to try to identify evidence for Neandertal fire making capabilities, and was co-supervised by Prof. dr. Wil Roebroeks (Human Origins) and Prof. dr. Annelou van Gijn (Material Culture Studies). This research culminated in four articles published in peer-reviewed, international journals, one book chapter and more than a dozen conferences presentations. During his PhD, Andrew lectured in, supervised, coordinated and served as a teaching assistant for multiple Bachelors and Masters-level courses. He also helped to organise two international conferences in Leiden: the Association of Archaeological Wear and Residue Analysts (AWRANA) meeting in 2015, and the European Society for the study of Human Evolution (ESHE) meeting in 2017. Also in 2017, in parallel to his PhD position, Andrew began working as a post-doctoral researcher on the Auneau Hearth project under Prof. dr. Marie Soressi and Prof. dr. Wil Roebroeks.