

tower and sport activity in the form of an archery lesson. A social event took place in the rectorate dining hall where a banquet was held accompanied by dance music.

The conference was very well organized and as usual, it offered the opportunities to meet colleagues from several Central European countries, listen to their papers, discuss their research and thus deepen scientific cooperation during the official as well as social part of the conference programme.

Next meeting will be the 6th International Anthropological Congress of Ales Hrdlicka in 2019.

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A Workshop on Gerasimov's Plastic Facial Reconstruction - 17th Meeting of the International Association of Craniofacial Identification, Brisbane, July, 2017

Following the written correction of 20 years of entrenched but erroneous accounts of Gerasimov's method in the English literature, the 2017 IACI meeting presented an ideal opportunity for students and experts in the field to gain experience with Gerasimov's authentic methods, as taught by Herbert Ullrich and first described in full-length in *Anthropologie* (2016, Vol 54, Issue 2, Pp. 97–107). Representing one of the first, hands-on, workshop of its kind outside of Russia, the session outlined the unambiguous evidence for Gerasimov's heavy reliance on mean facial soft tissue thicknesses and avoidance of the muscles of facial expression. The workshop provided delegates with the opportunity to build a face using the wax modelling mastic specially formulated by Gerasimov and access to a comprehensive range of Gerasimov's original volumes that outline the basis of his methods, including e.g., the hard-to-come-by *Osnovy Vostanovleniia Litsa po Cherepu*, 1949 and *Vosstanovlenie lica po cerepu*, 1955. Delegates were therefore able to independently verify teachings with Gerasimov's own written instructions during the session to dismiss mistaken views otherwise broadly circulated in the established craniofacial identification literature.

For at least the past 20 years, the field of facial reconstruction has been confused about its historical methods, and subsequently its overarching thematic classification. It is advocated that: 1) Russian facial

reconstruction methods did not use mean tissue depths making them distinct from American methods that use these metrics; and 2) Russian methods require the construction of the muscles of the face, including those of facial expression. In reality, Gerasimov's methods heavily relied upon mean facial soft tissue thicknesses and there was no building of the muscles of facial expression (Gerasimov 1949, Gerasimov 1955, Stephan 2006, Ullrich and Stephan 2011, Ullrich and Stephan 2016). While readily observable from Gerasimov's primary sources (Gerasimov 1949, Gerasimov 1955), these facts have been lost in the English literature due to reliance on other influential secondary literature, e.g., Prag and Neave's hallmark work *Making Faces* (Prag and Neave 1997), that have set false standards. Other works include: *The reconstruction of face on the base of structure of skull: Translation with some shortages by W. Tshernezy*, which represents an incomplete translation of Gerasimov's 1955 work; and *The Face Finder; Translated from the German by Alan Houghton Brodrick* (Gerasimov 1971), which is an incomplete English translation of the German *Ich suchte Gesichter* (Gerassimow 1968) that describes an unusual circumstance of Gerasimov working by eye, from memory, and under a time-pressure challenge.

The theme of the 17th Biennial Meeting of the International Association of Craniofacial Identification (IACI), *Science Supercharged Methods*, presented an excellent opportunity for a hands-on full-day workshop on Gerasimov's authentic methods based on: 1) Gerasimov's primary sources (Gerasimov 1949, Gerasimov 1955); 2) teachings made by Gerasimov to Herbert Ullrich during five training sessions held between 1959–1969 as previously summarized in *Anthropologie* (Ullrich and Stephan 2016).

The workshop began with an overview of Gerasimov's methods to delegates who then were provided the opportunity to consult, in person, all five of Gerasimov's most pertinent original sources to verify teachings and satisfy their own curiosities (see e.g., Fig. 1). Not only do Gerasimov's Russian texts provide unambiguous confirmation that corrections to popular English-centric views are necessary, moreover, it is useful to note that E. Veselovskaya (a 2nd generation student of Gerasimov via the now retired G. Lebedinskaya) verbally confirmed during a chance meeting with the first author in 2013 that popular English perceptions differed to Gerasimov's

authentic methods as described above. Subsequently, there is no doubt as to the key components of Gerasimov's authentic method (and/or the established confusion that surrounds them).

During the workshop introduction, a recap of the importance for referring to original sources (even if recorded in another language) was provided, since correct summaries in primary Russian sources have been available for the last 60 years (Gerasimov 1949, Gerasimov 1955), and also in secondary German sources for the last 50 years (Ullrich 1958, Ullrich 1966, Ullrich 1967). Difficulties and hurdles in changing engrained views were briefly discussed

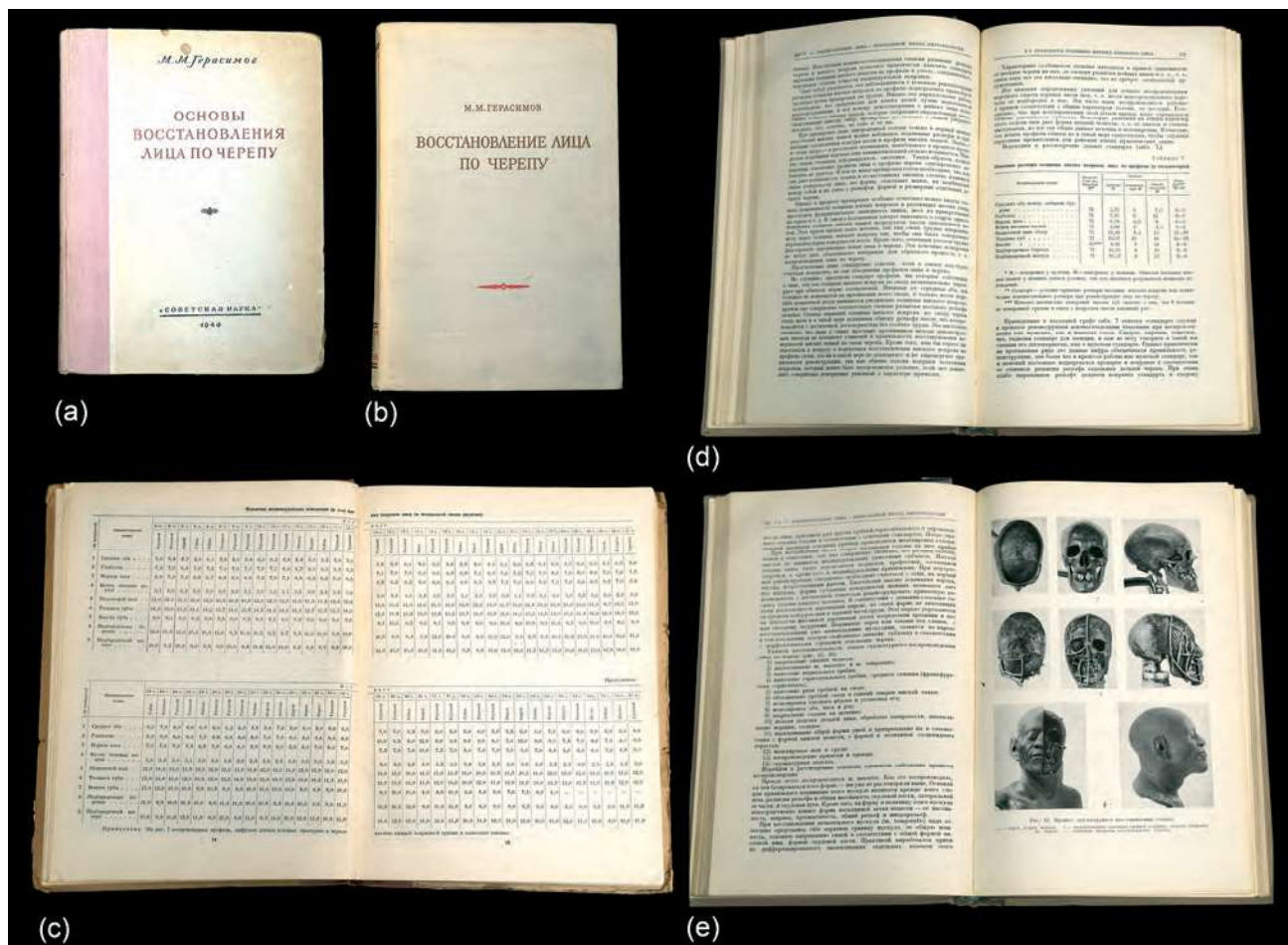


FIGURE 1: Two examples of Gerasimov's original text: (a) *Osnovy Vostanovleniia Litsa po Cherepu*, Izdat. Akademii Nauk SSSR., Moskva, 1949; (b) *Vosstanovlenie lica po cerepu*, Izdat. Akademii Nauk SSSR, Moskva, 1955; (c) the 1949 volume open to p. 14–15 showing the raw data table of facial soft tissue depths (Gerasimov 1949); (d) p. 104–105 of the 1955 text showing the typical facial soft tissue thicknesses by sex at nine different landmarks along the median tissue profile (Gerasimov 1955); and (e) p. 132–133 of the 1955 text presenting a pictorial representation of the profile lines and typical facial soft tissue thicknesses in place on a skull per Gerasimov's method (Gerasimov 1955).

provided the eight years it took to publish the content contained within the *Anthropologie* paper (including more than 1 year delay on a second round review in another journal before author retraction and resubmission elsewhere).

Due to unavoidable circumstances Herbert Ullrich was unfortunately unable to jointly direct the session as anticipated. Consequently, CS drew on three training sessions with HU held at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin between 2005–2010 to deliver the workshops with assistance by Ronn Taylor and Jodi Caple. The practical component of the workshop saw participants building masseter and temporalis muscles (only) according to Gerasimov's instructions on a plastic replica skull, before using (Gerasimov measured) means to construct 2D graphic profile reconstructions that served as the basis/template for 3D profile lines in wax on the skull. Rulers were used

to check the average measurements of the profile lines along the skull surfaces as undertaken by Gerasimov.

The multiple accounts of Gerasimov's authentic plastic facial reconstruction methods in the scientific literature (Gerasimov 1949, Gerasimov 1955, Ullrich 1958, Ullrich 1966), and recent English summaries (Stephan 2006, Ullrich and Stephan 2011, Ullrich and Stephan 2016), now mandate correct reporting in the future. The popular description of facial reconstruction methods being comprised of two main approaches, American and Russian (Gibson 2008, Prag and Neave 1997, Stephan and Henneberg 2001, Taylor 2001, Vermeulen 2012, Verzé 2009, Wilkinson 2004), are wholly obsolete and should be cited – even if used as recently as last year (Evison *et al.* 2016, Herrera *et al.* 2017, Johnson 2016, Sever 2017).

The conference also saw three other workshops conducted over the course of two days: a full-day face

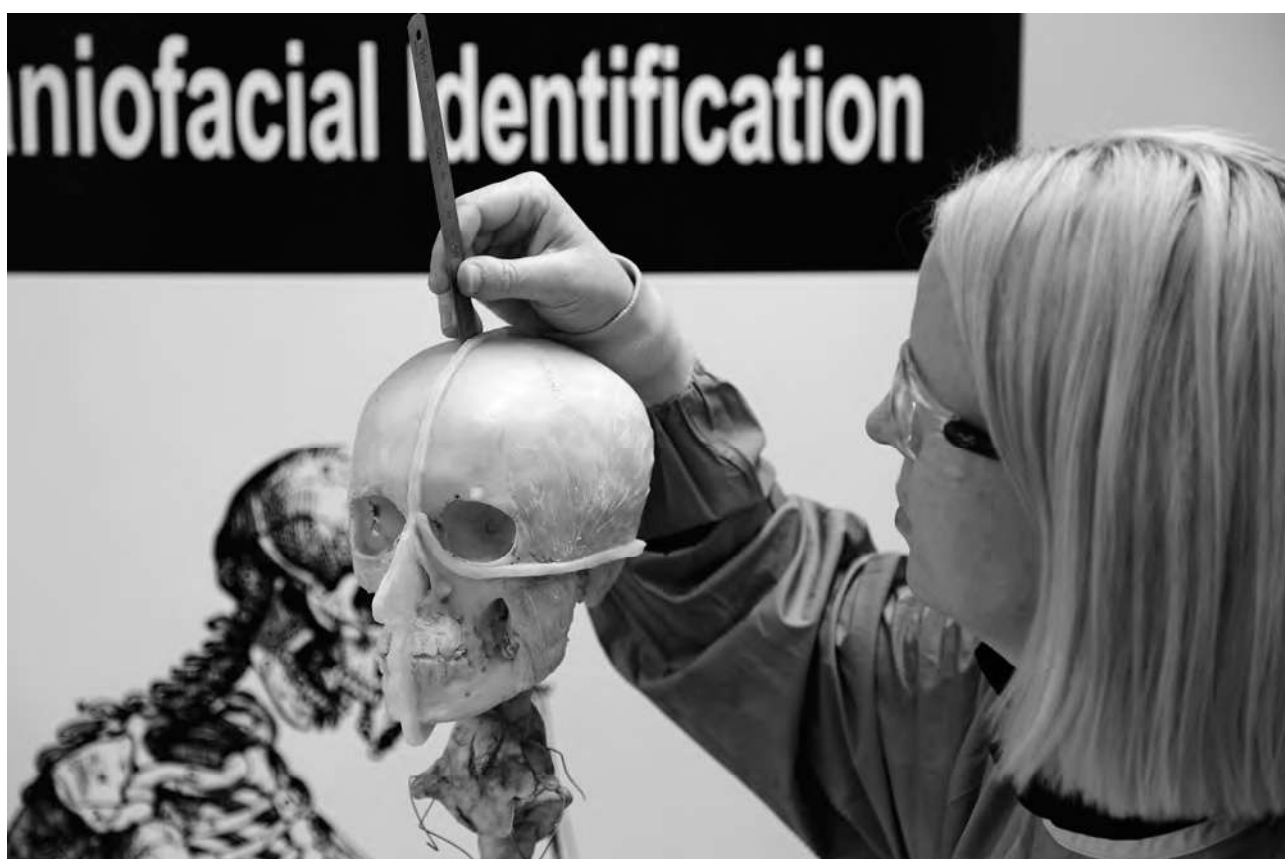


FIGURE 2: Jennifer Atkins, one of the student delegates at the 17th IACI conference workshop, mastering the construction of the profile lines in wax modelling mastic, after Gerasimov's formulation (Gerasimov 1949, Gerasimov 1955). Here Jennifer is sliding a scale along the profile lines to ensure that the tissue depths correspond to the average or typical values measured by Gerasimov. The face is being constructed on a high precision replica skull made by Ronn Taylor.

anatomy workshop including dissection; an introduction to 3D scanning with structured-light, stereophotogrammetry and laser scans; and TDSstats with R. The conference itself ran for 2 days of scientific sessions, including 45 contributors from 10 countries (Stephan and Guyomarc'h 2017). Networking highlights included a red carpet gala dinner at The University of Queensland's Historic Customs House and a social outing to nearby Moreton Island. A special virtual issue of full-length papers from the conference is forthcoming and will be published in *Forensic Science International* in 2018 (Stephan and Guyomarc'h 2017).

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