Dr. April Nowell is a Paleolithic archaeologist and Professor in the Department of Anthropology. She holds a PhD in Anthropology from the University of Pennsylvania. She directs an international team of researchers in the study of Paleolithic sites in Jordan and collaborates with colleagues on the study of cave art in Australia and France. In 2016, she and her colleagues working in Jordan published the world's oldest identifiable blood on stone tools, demonstrating that 300,000 years ago early humans ate a range of animals from duck to rhinoceros. She is known for her publications on cognitive archaeology, Paleolithic art, the archaeology of children and the relationship between science, pop culture, and the media. Her work has been covered by more than 100 outlets and her blood residue work was named one of Time Magazine's top 100 discoveries. She is the author of the recent book Growing Up in the Ice Age (2021) which is the subject of CBC Radio's Ideas ("Growing Up in the Ice Age", 2022) and CBC television's The Nature of Things ("Little Sapiens", broadcast date Spring 2024).

Dr. Nowell joined the University of Victoria in 1999 as a sessional instructor before accepting a tenure-track position in Anthropology in 2000. Since that time, she has served as the Department's Undergraduate Advisor, Graduate Advisor and most recently as its Chair. She has sat on more than 25 different Faculty of Social Science and University committees including the Institutional Research Review Committee, the University Academic Appointments Committee and the Strategic Enrollment Planning Task Force. Outside the University, she serves on several editorial boards including for the Cambridge Archaeological Journal. She served on the SSHRC Insight Grants adjudication committee for 3 years before acting as its Chair. Finally, she is active in science communication and community engagement giving numerous talks annually for the Smithsonian and other institutions and associations.