

Graduate Student Research Symposium
Graduate Students in Anthropology
January 29, 2016



- 8:00 Light breakfast
- 8:30 **Susan Kooiman** “Sizing up the Past: Evaluating the Relationship between Rim Diameter and Volume in Late Woodland Upper Great Lakes Ceramic Jars”
- 8:45 **Nicole Geske** “Facets of Devotion: The Relationship Between Religion and the Skeleton”
- 9:00 **Caitlin Vogelsberg** “Using Exploratory Spatial Data Analysis Techniques on Undocumented Border Crosser Death Data from Southern Arizona”
- 9:15 **Lisa Bright** “Differentiating Hospital Interred Individuals from the Larger Cemetery Population: The Curious Case of SCVMC’s Buttons”
- 9:30 Break
- 9:45 **Anna Martinez** “Maya Medical Knowledge and the Problem of Modernizing Health Care Reform in Post-Civil War Guatemala”
- 10:00 **Amy Michael and Jack Biggs** “Re-Appraisals and New Excavations at Caves Branch Rockshelter in Central Belize”
- 10:15 **Deon Claiborne** “At intersections of law and clinical research: Implementing a new law on clinical research in Costa Rica or How an anthropologist found herself stuck in the middle”
- 10:30 **Mujiburohman Abas** “Serving American Muslims: Developments of Religious Authority in the Islamic Centers of Greater Lansing, Michigan”
- 10:45 Break
- 11:00 **Amy Michael and Lisa Bright** “Combining Archives and Campus Archaeology: The Reconstruction of the Gendered Landscape at Michigan State University”
- 11:15 **Lynnette King** “What happens when neoliberalism is added to “medical citizenship:” The construction of the “good doctor” in San José, Costa Rica”
- 11:30 **Erin Pevan** ““She was made to feel she wasn’t Norwegian”: The role of Sami fiction to reconstruct the Norwegian national narrative”
- 11:45 **Kate Frederick and Becca Albert** “I’ll take mine well-done: a Late Woodland acorn charring pit, implications and acorn identification”

12:00 Lunch

1:00 **Gabriel Wrobel with Josh Schnell** “Digital Modeling in Bioarchaeology”

1:20 **Jodie O’Gorman** “War at the Door: Sociobiology, Warfare, and Female Fighters”

1:40 **Andrea Louie** “Negotiating Family Identities in the Context of Chinese Transnational Adoption”

2:00 Break

2:20 **Linda Hunt** “Chronic Illness Management in the Digital Age: Electronic Health Records (EHRs) and the Disappearing Patient”

2:40 **Ethan Watrall** “Public Heritage at Scale: Building Tools for Authoring Mobile Digital Heritage & Archaeology Experiences”

Graduate Student Research Symposium
Graduate Students in Anthropology
January 29, 2016
List of Abstracts



Mujiburohman Abas “Serving American Muslims: Developments of Religious Authority in the Islamic Centers of Greater Lansing, Michigan”

This study tries to understand the presentation of Islamic religion in Lansing as Muslims were trying to establish the presence of an Islamic authority, which constitute a reference for local Muslims and the public at large in any matter of Islam. The first issue to deal with is how to define authority in the context of American Muslims. The second is to describe its temporal context, in which an assessment of historical records will try to connect the development of Islam in America with the growth of Muslim community in Lansing. The third is cultural contextualization, which will include political, economic and educational backgrounds to understand how structural relationships emerge among generations of Muslims who have gathered routinely since 1970s to fulfill their common spiritual needs. Their diversity of origins, occupational interests and schools of thought have necessitated negotiations that resulted in a variety of compromises, once called minority fiqh (Islamic legal codes), in relation to their understandings of Islamic holy texts. The next focus is to analyze anthropologically the Muslims? strategies in practicing their religious beliefs.

Lisa Bright “Differentiating Hospital Interred Individuals from the Larger Cemetery Population: The Curious Case of SCVMC’s Buttons”

The excavation of the Santa Clara Valley Medical Center Historic cemetery from 2012 to 2014 resulted in the exhumation of 1,004 individuals. Clothing related objects were present in 734 burials, including 3,485 buttons. This research project centers on the separation of hospital direct interred individuals from individuals buried from the larger community via artifact and spatial analysis. In this study the presence and absence of specific buttons types and patterns was used. Individuals with the hospital gown button pattern highly trend toward clustering, and had statistically significant higher rates of periosteal reactions and fractures.

Deon Claiborne “At intersections of law and clinical research: Implementing a new law on clinical research in Costa Rica or How an anthropologist found herself stuck in the middle”

What happens when the problem you came to research becomes a problem for your research? After one and a half years, I became the subject of my own research when a new law to regulate biomedical research went into effect overturning a five year ban on biomedical research. Depending on who I talked to I either needed a local ethics committee's approval; I only needed to register my study; or my study was exempt from the law. Reading the law and its regulations only added to the confusion with ambiguous language that could indicate inclusion or exclusion for my study.

Kate Frederick and Becca Albert "I'll take mine well-done: a Late Woodland acorn charring pit, implications and acorn identification"

This presentation will discuss our preliminary findings and proposed methodologies for a Late Woodland acorn charring pit found in Perry, MI. Subterranean food storage became a common practice during the Late Woodland (AD 600-1600) of Michigan, but the food preservation techniques utilized in food storage have never been identified archaeologically. This recent discovery of an acorn charring pit, dating to 1240 BP, is the first of its kind for this area, and has the potential to shed further light on integral food storage practices. We'll discuss our preliminary methodologies for identifying the acorn species and the resulting implications.

Nicole Geske "Facets of Devotion: The Relationship Between Religion and the Skeleton"

This research examines the association between higher expressions of Catholicism and the presence of squatting facets on the distal anterior tibiae in a Catholic cemetery population from Iowa. The presence of these facets was noticed during data collection and hypothesized to be the result of habitual kneeling or squatting as this cemetery contained individuals of Catholic faith, including nuns and monks. The correlation between religious iconography and tibial squatting facets was examined, with results demonstrating that a direct link is not shown. Multiple conclusions can be drawn, including the difficulty of recovering religion archaeologically.

Linda Hunt "Chronic Illness Management in the Digital Age: Electronic Health Records (EHRs) and the Disappearing Patient"

By 2019, electronic medical records (EMRs) will be used in nearly all clinical encounters. EMRs consolidate medical records and streamline healthcare, toward improving the efficiency and quality of healthcare. They incorporate a large amount of information for each patient, such as medical history, family history, test results and treatment recommendations. At the same time they serve a variety of bureaucratic purposes such as classifying diagnosis for billing purposes and fulfilling various regulatory requirements encountered by clinicians and health care systems. Despite the widespread use of EMRs, the implications of these developments for individual patient care and for clinical decision-making are not well understood. In our observations of clinical consultations and interviews with clinicians and patients in a diabetes management center, we have found that EMRs are already occupying center stage in the clinical encounter, both literally and figuratively. In this paper we consider overt and subtle ways EMRs impact

clinical interactions and clinical work. We examine how EMR use may be circumscribing clinical medicine, and how clinicians and patients respond to these effects.

Lynnette King “What happens when neoliberalism is added to “medical citizenship:” The construction of the “good doctor” in San José, Costa Rica”

This paper examines what happens to medical citizenship in an era of neoliberalism in health care by looking at narratives of the “good doctor” gathered in ethnographic interviews in Costa Rica from July 2013 to May 2014. Medical citizenship defined broadly is a lens to investigate health care entitlements based on rights of citizenship. Since most health care systems are a mix of public and private health care, medical citizenship can be extended to a flexible medical citizenship that includes the contrasting ideologies and paradoxes of entitlement in both public and private health care. Narratives of the “good doctor” reflect this flexible mixing and illuminate the lived realities of health care where national health care systems are facing pressures to privatize, a phenomena occurring in Latin America as well as globally.

Susan Kooiman “Sizing up the Past: Evaluating the Relationship between Rim Diameter and Volume in Late Woodland Upper Great Lakes Ceramic Jars”

Vessel size has become an increasingly significant inferential tool for identifying past human behaviors such as feasting. This paper explores the relationship between rim diameter, frequently used as a proxy for relative vessel size throughout the world, and volume of Great Lakes ceramic jars. The strength of the relationship between these two dimensions is evaluated using statistical analysis of measurements from reconstructed and precisely replicated Late Woodland jars from across northern and central Michigan. The positive outcome could prove useful for evaluating highly fragmentary Great Lakes ceramic jar assemblages and their roles in both domestic and ceremonial life.

Andrea Louie “Negotiating Family Identities in the Context of Chinese Transnational Adoption”

In this talk, I provide an overview of my longitudinal, multi-sited ethnographic research with Asian American and white adoptive parents and their teenage children, focusing on how parents construct racial and ethnic identities for their children and how children respond to these productions over time. While white adoptive parents rework their own identities as white ethnics as they become parents to adoptees from China, they also struggle to raise their children with a sense of the ethnic and religious identities they themselves grew up with. Asian American adoptive parents are able to exercise more “ethnic options” (Waters) in raising their children who “match” them, and they also possess more flexibility in how they define and practice “Chinese” or “Chinese American” culture.

Anna Martinez “Maya Medical Knowledge and the Problem of Modernizing Health Care Reform in Post-Civil War Guatemala”

This is a discourse analysis of a health policy document I obtained during pre-dissertation research in Guatemala during Summer 2014. The document is related to Guatemala’s Coverage Extension Plan (PEC), a healthcare program where NGOs are contracted by the Ministry of Health to provide healthcare to marginalized Maya regions of the country. In my paper I discuss contemporary Maya healing practices, focusing primarily on the practices of Mayan midwives. In my analysis I explore how Maya medical knowledge and the midwife are represented and problematized in the PEC policy document. Ultimately I argue that the PEC frames indigenous health practices in Guatemala as anti-modern as it devalues and seeks to reform the practices of Mayan midwives.

Amy Michael and Jack Biggs “Re-Appraisals and New Excavations at Caves Branch Rockshelter in Central Belize”

This paper details the summer 2015 excavations, performed by the Central Belize Archaeological Survey (CBAS), at Caves Branch Rockshelter (CBR), a large mortuary site containing the remains of hundreds of pre-Hispanic Maya. Owing to the number of burials, CBR has been excavated by various archaeologists and field projects since the mid-1990s. The overall commingled nature of the site, along with the piecing together of previous excavations from field notes and existing literature, provided a challenge for the excavators. CBR has long been considered a repository for commoners who lived at proximal settlements, though the discovery of an individual with a modified cranium during the 2015 excavations lends another layer to the mortuary picture. This paper will review previous research at CBR, highlight the 2015 field season excavations and challenges, and discuss future research goals of the CBAS project.

Amy Michael and Lisa Bright “Combining Archives and Campus Archaeology: The Reconstruction of the Gendered Landscape at Michigan State University”

In this paper, we will present a combined archival and archaeological approach to understanding gendered space and early female student experience on the historic Michigan State University campus. Primarily, we are interested in the recovery of material culture during Campus Archaeology Program excavations that aids in the understanding and prediction of gendered space on the changing campus landscape. Documents maintained by the University Archives supplement and bolster archaeological findings, leading to a more sophisticated understanding of what student life was like at Michigan State University during the early years.

Jodie O’Gorman “War at the Door: Sociobiology, Warfare, and Female Fighters”

Warfare studies in archaeology are often predicated on the specific identification of battlefields and warriors. But the lived experience of violence in times of war transcends normative social and spatial boundaries. In this paper, we examine a Late Prehistoric Oneota/Mississippian site in

the Central Illinois River Valley as a case study for questioning the binary structures at the core of many traditional warfare studies. Though heuristically useful, deconstruction of combatant/warrior and noncombatant/victim categories allow us to consider the possibility of women's significant and active participation in warfare. Although much sociobiological research has been historically focused on males' physical and mental propensity for aggression and warriorhood, we focus instead on the evolutionary biology and psychology of motherhood as a motivator for situational female aggression.

Erin Pevan ““She was made to feel she wasn’t Norwegian”: The role of Sami fiction to reconstruct the Norwegian national narrative”

In the study of national narrative and heritage studies, the role of historical fiction is a key factor in the construction of a national identity about Norway. This identity is consumed on an international level and is capitalized upon in Norway itself through its national literature, media, music, and tourism. However, upon delving deeper into the history of the construction and components of this national narrative, a demand arises to consider and examine what is not readily popular or being spoken about, yet forms a part of this identity. My introduction to Sami fiction has cracked open this popular, strong national narrative of Norway, and this paper seeks to establish the role of this fiction in a reexamination of the Norwegian national narrative. I hope to find an answer, or guide to an answer, for a greater question: how and why do constructions, changes, or reconstructions of national narrative arise in the guise of fiction? Drawing upon the literature of Benedict Anderson, Avery Gordon, Michel-Rolph Trouillot, Richard Bauman, and Charles L. Briggs, as well as scholars from cognitive literary theory, I intend to frame this changing narrative around my knowledge of the fiction of Norway, and seek to understand what it is about fiction that causes changes in national identity.

Caitlin Vogelsberg “Using Exploratory Spatial Data Analysis Techniques on Undocumented Border Crosser Death Data from Southern Arizona”

This research examines the structure of human remains recovered from a contested region in Southern Arizona. Between 2001 and 2013 the Pima County Office of the Medical Examiner (PCOME) in Tucson, Arizona has received the remains of 2,203 suspected undocumented border crosses, with 740 of them unidentified (PCOME 2013). A directed analysis of the location and distribution of undocumented migrant deaths processed by the PCOME was warranted due to previous studies being only preliminary or limited regarding the analysis of who is dying and where in southern Arizona. The focus of this study is to explore for any patterns in the location of where individuals died as it relates to both their year of recovery, as well as their sex. This exploratory data analysis will direct future studies investigating the interaction between these variables, as well as the possibility of other contributing factors to any spatial patterns.

Ethan Watrall “Public Heritage at Scale: Building Tools for Authoring Mobile Digital Heritage & Archaeology Experiences”

The spaces we inhabit and interact with on a daily basis are made up of layers of cultural activity

that are, quite literally, built up over time. While museum exhibits, archaeological narratives, and public archaeology programs communicate this heritage, they do not generally allow for interactive, place-based, and individually driven exploration by the public. In addition, public heritage programs rarely explore the binary nature of material culture, the preserved record of human activity, and heritage: the presented information about the heritage and the scholarly process by which that knowledge was generated. In short, the scholarly narrative of material culture, heritage, and archaeology is often hidden from public exploration, engagement, and understanding. Further, traditional public heritage and archaeology programs often find it difficult to support rich and vibrant multivocality, social interaction, narrative co-creation, or citizen scholarship. In recent years, however, new platforms and models have emerged that allow mobile heritage experiences to begin to address these issues. Despite this, the bar for developing mobile heritage applications is getting increasingly more difficult to reach for many heritage institutions and projects. Quite simply, building robust and compelling mobile applications is too technically complicated, specialized, and expensive for many in the heritage community. It is within this context that this paper will introduce and explore mbira. Currently being developed at Michigan State University, mbira is an open source platform that empowers cultural heritage institutions, archaeological projects, and heritage landscapes to create, serve, manage, and sustain engaging mobile heritage experiences. The paper will pay special attention to the design metaphor of "space and place as museum" that is woven into the fabric of mbira. In addition the paper will explore mbira's features that support multivocality and public discourse.

Gabriel Wrobel "Digital Modeling in Bioarchaeology"

ABSTRACT NOT PROVIDED