

Graduate Student Research Symposium
Graduate Students in Anthropology
January 27, 2017



8:30 Light breakfast

Moderator: Susan Kooiman

- 9:00 **Melissa Chavarria** “Medicalization: The Autistic Patient and the 'Omniscient Physician”
- 9:15 **Nikki Silva** “Community, Household, and Landscape: Examining the Use of Space for Evidence of Coalescence among Mississippian and Oneota Peoples of Morton Village”
- 9:30 **Goots, Alexis, Kelly R. Kannikar, and Amber M. Plemons** “LAMBDA: Landmark and Measurement-Based Data Assistant”

9:45 Break

Moderator: Nicole Geske

- 10:00 **Jessica Yann** “Using Resource Dependency Theory to Examine Economic Relationships at Shin-Gwah-Koos-King”
- 10:15 **Erin Pevan** “Using a digital landscape to traverse the progression of Norwegian national identity”
- 10:30 **Jeff Painter and Autumn Beyer** “Rim Sherds and Bone Frags: Exploring Foodways at Morton Village”
- 10:45 **Jack Biggs and Amy Michael** “Past and Future Excavations at Sapodilla Rockshelter, Central Belize: Exploring Evidence for Biological Affinity Through Foot Pathologies”

11:00 Break

Moderator: Caitlin Vogelsberg

- 11:15 **Sara Tahir** “Silence and Ruination”
- 11:30 **Sabrina Perlman** “Gender and Diabetes Self-Management in Ghana”
- 11:45 **Lisa Bright** “Bioarchaeological Evidence of Caregiving from a Historic-era County Hospital”

12:00 Lunch

Moderator: Nicole Geske

- 1:00 **Linda M. Hunt and Heather A. Howard** “The Tyranny of Numbers in U.S. Clinics: Practice Standards, Insurance Requirements and the Disappearing Patient”
- 1:20 **Joe Hefner** “Global variation in macromorphoscopic trait expression”

1:40 **Mindy Morgan** “Anthropology and the Indian Office: Examining Anthropological Theory and Practice during the New Deal”

2:00 Break

Moderator: Susan Kooiman

2:20 **Elizabeth Drexler** “Conceptualizing Criminalization in Indonesia: The Reverse Vernacularization of Human Rights”

2:40 **Lynne Goldstein** “Altering Aztalan: Creating New Landscapes”

3:00 **Lucero Radonic** “Is stormwater a boundary object? Some preliminary thoughts”

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List of Abstracts



Biggs, Jack, Amy Michael “Past and Future Excavations at Sapodilla Rockshelter, Central Belize: Exploring Evidence for Biological Affinity Through Foot Pathologies”

Two Maya individuals from the Sapodilla Rockshelter (SDR) in the Sibún Valley of the Cayo District, Belize yielded skeletal evidence of Tarsometatarsal Coalition (TC). Similarly, two individuals from a proximal cave site, J?reftheel, exhibited TC while a third individual presented with talo-navicular coalition. Previous bioarchaeological research on rockshelters in the region has revealed evidence that their use was by local non-elite farming communities, including extended family groups. Cave burials may reflect this local pattern as well, though it is unclear if all persons interred at a single cave site are representative of a single community.

TC presents variably in the human foot, and can have ligamentous involvement or total osseous fusion of the lateral cuneiform and third metatarsal. The condition is regarded as a potentially mild or asymptomatic congenital abnormality with comparatively higher frequencies in Native American groups and East Asian Populations than within European populations. In many archaeological cases, the relatedness of mortuary populations is interpreted as a function of their shared mortuary space while familial closeness is often assumed. The cultural significance of finding four cases of TC in two small mortuary populations is evidence of a high degree of biological affinity.

Bright, Lisa “Bioarchaeological Evidence of Caregiving from a Historic-era County Hospital”

Between 2012 and 2014 the remains of 1,004 individuals were exhumed from the Santa Clara Valley Medical Center Historic-era Cemetery in San Jose, California. This cemetery was used from 1875 to 1935 and served as the county potters field where unknown and indigent members of the community were buried. The hospital opened in 1875 with the specific function of caring for the indigent sick and injured of the area. Historic materials indicate that patients were sometimes treated for years at a time. The pathological conditions in the skeletons also indicate the management of long-term illness due to the extremely high rates of severe infection and chronic illness such as syphilis and tuberculosis. Many individuals also exhibit drastic surgical intervention such as amputation and cranial trepanation.

The creation and management of this hospital and adjacent cemetery can be best understood

contextualized within the rise of institutions and public health management during the progressive era. Prior to the late nineteenth century, family groups traditionally managed long-term caregiving. However the industrial era, gold rush and the extreme rate of immigration to the United States, and specifically California, served to spilt up family groups and break community ties. This necessitated the creation of government run aid sources to serve as caregivers in lieu of family. The bioarchaeological indicators of health and nutrition documented within this cemetery highlight the skilled care provided by the public county hospital.

Chavarria, Melissa “Medicalization: The Autistic Patient and the 'Omniscient Physician”

This presentation will offer a brief overview of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), surrounding controversies, and the processes of medicalization that have impacted autistic individuals and their families. This presentation will also discuss how the biomedical authoritative role of the physician is challenged within the ASD patient-physician relationship. Additionally, this presentation puts forth key questions regarding how the unique needs of the ASD patient can be better met by biomedical health care providers.

Drexler, Elizabeth “Conceptualizing Criminalization in Indonesia: The Reverse Vernacularization of Human Rights”

Over the last eighteen years, flagrant repression and authoritarianism have ended in Indonesia; human rights laws have been passed. And yet, today activists and critics face a subtle and insidious manipulation of the criminal code. Exploring the response to phenomenon of kriminalisasi as reverse vernacularization of human rights emphasizes the national/state scale and expands the rubric of translation to consider law as text and practice, highlighting movements of form and content. Starting with popular concerns about the relationship of law and justice resonates with recent shifts in the documentation of human rights violations and irregularities of law enforcement by diverse individuals not only the translators of human rights. Reverse vernacularization maps a moment where technicalities can subvert human rights and considers the authority and legitimacy of law.

Goldstein, Lynne “Altering Aztalan: Creating New Landscapes”

Over the last 10 years, I have studied how Mississippian people at Aztalan, located in southeastern Wisconsin, have deliberately altered their landscape to make it appropriate for their activities, cosmology, ritual, and mortuary practices. This paper will outline what was done, how it was done, and what it might mean.

Goots, Alexis, Kelly R. Kamnikar, Amber M. Plemons “LAMBDA: Landmark and Measurement-Based Data Assistant”

Craniometric analyses of human skeletal material have exploded in popularity in recent years, due to the ease of data collection, relatively inexpensive methods, and a wealth of supporting software for data collection and analysis. These methods, which are used for an abundant and varied set of research purposes, rely on the use of cranial landmarks, defined points that are theoretically homologous across all human crania. Their accuracy, therefore, critically depends on clearly-defined landmarks, whose definitions and illustrations thereof can be easily found, read, and utilized by practitioners of all skill levels. Many of these landmarks are included in the popular, free, data-collection software, 3Skull. However, 3Skull and similar software packages lack a concise, user-friendly manual with landmark definitions.

The authors are currently generating a reference tool in the form of a publicly-available web interface. Clarification of all undefined and ambiguous landmarks in 3Skull will be included with the assistance of several professionals who are experienced in collecting coordinate landmark data. This interface will provide the observer with a 3D photogrammetry model of a human cranium with reference points for each cranial landmark included in 3Skull placed in their proper locations. The observer will be able to scroll the cursor over each reference point to prompt a dialogue box providing a definition of the selected landmark, as well as manipulate the image to the desired perspective and magnification. Additionally, images and definitions of exceptions for each landmark will be provided to accommodate for human variation, as well as 2D diagrams and photographs to accompany landmark definitions. This interface will serve as a central location for all currently defined landmarks in 3Skull, as well as definitions for currently ambiguous and undefined landmarks, to provide a comprehensive reference tool for researchers using the 3Skull software. We hope that this will not only decrease observer error in geometric morphometric studies, but also serve as a teaching tool for upcoming professionals. The authors intend to present background review research and preliminary models of LAMBDA for this symposium.

Hefner, Joe “Global variation in macromorphoscopic trait expression”

This presentation addressed a substantial gap in best practice in forensic anthropology, namely appropriate reference data for the objective identification of ancestry using macromorphoscopic data. The lack of reference data has directed many forensic anthropologists to rely on their own experience or outdated methods having very little empirical support. The fundamental flaw with these approaches is that they offer no way of estimating error nor are they verifiable as a method. The result is *post-hoc* trait selection, experience-based justifications, and anecdotal expert judgement with no empirical support. After attending this presentation, attendees will be familiar with the newly created Macromorphoscopic Databank (MaMD), a data storage repository attached to a data collection and analytical tool for the analysis of macromorphoscopic trait data. The MaMD currently holds records for over 6,000 individuals representing populations from around the world. Topics of discussion will include project development, the current state of the database, data contributors, and the research/analytical potential of these data.

Hunt, Linda M., and Heather A. Howard “The Tyranny of Numbers in U.S. Clinics: Practice Standards, Insurance Requirements and the Disappearing Patient”

In the interest of assuring quality healthcare, standardized approaches to clinical practice have rapidly become common place in the U.S., and goal numbers set out in clinical practice guidelines are becoming a key focus of clinical medicine, reinforced by the looming presence of insurance carriers' discretion over which treatment regimens they will pay for, and under which conditions. In the case of common chronic conditions such as diabetes and obesity, these factors compel clinicians to intently focus on numeric representations of their patients. This trend is further amplified by the growing use of electronic health records which soon will allow nearly universal quality of care monitoring. Despite hoped-for benefits, the laser focus on achieving numeric goals encourages clinicians to recast their understanding of health as a set of numbers divorced from other indicators of the patient's well-being. Drawing on case examples from a study we have been conducting in diabetes and weight management centers in the U.S., we argue that the pursuit of target numbers as though they have value in and of themselves, now dominates the clinical agenda. We consider a logic shared by clinicians and patient alike, that accepts adverse health events that may result from this approach as the necessary consequences of reaching goal numbers. We question whether the most basic notions of clinical efficacy are being redefined, where reaching goal numbers is becoming more important than the actual health of the patient.

Morgan, Mindy "Anthropology and the Indian Office: Examining Anthropological Theory and Practice during the New Deal"

During the 1930s, the Office of Indian Affairs hired a number of anthropologists to help develop and implement the reforms associated with the Indian Reorganization Act as well as other New Deal legislation. John Collier, the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, was greatly influenced by anthropology and sought to use the field in a direct way to influence public policy. American Anthropology was at a crossroads as well. Radcliff-Brown's introduction of British functionalism and the emergence of Robert Redfield's sociologically informed community studies moved Americanist Anthropology from its Boasian roots into new areas of research. This paper traces the impact of these changes and how they impacted the work of anthropologists employed by the Bureau of American Ethnology as well as those employed by the newly formed Applied Anthropology Unit. Archival documents reveal that this process was not easy, and correspondence between key figures such as Julian Steward, W. Duncan Strong, and Scudder Mekeel suggest that anthropologists and that of the Indian office were often in conflict about what constituted anthropological knowledge and the best ways to use that knowledge to solve contemporary problems.

Painter, Jeff, and Autumn Beyer "Rim Sherds and Bone Frags: Exploring Foodways at Morton Village"

As evidence mounts that Oneota and Mississippian peoples cohabited the Morton Village site in the Central Illinois River Valley, research has begun to focus on the everyday and extra-ordinary interactions that occurred. Food, an important and flexible necessity that is used in a number of different contexts, is uniquely suited medium through which life at Morton Village can be

recreated. While multiple avenues of research are being used to approach the topic of foodways at the site, here we discuss current projects exploring faunal utilization and ceramic cooking and serving vessels. Through these analyses, we hope to better understand the social and behavioral processes that helped to create a viable community in this multicultural context.

Perlman, Sabrina “Gender and Diabetes Self-Management in Ghana”

Sabrina Perlman will be presenting photos, observations, and preliminary findings from her dissertation research in Ghana as a 2016 Fulbright Fellow. Obstacles, challenges, and strategies to conducting her fieldwork will be discussed. She will also highlight the invaluable partnerships with key collaborators at her research site at the diabetes clinic at Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital in Kumasi.

Pevan, Erin “Using a digital landscape to traverse the progression of Norwegian national identity”

This project serves as the digital component for my master’s thesis project which examines trends in national identity conceptualization in Norway over time, as expressed in the medium of literature and narrative. This project hypothesizes that trends in national identity, from the advent of constitutional independence in 1814 to the present, progressed from homogeneous, Norwegian-centric themes to more multicultural and inclusive of the many ethnic and linguistic groups in Norway. The project will examine this hypothesis by surveying a constructed corpus of Norwegian literature from the period of constitutional independence in 1814 to the present day for concepts which constitute national identity, track the usage of these concepts and their historical and literary context through data mining software, and explain their greater significance through anthropological and historical theory. The intellectual merit of this project lies in exploring the implications of national identity and its usage in defining authenticity and belonging within a greater community. Exploring national identity in Norway is important because expressions of identity in Norway and early attitudes of nationalism often had repercussions and consequences for those who did not fit into these identities; your status as a Norwegian hinged upon your participation and identification with these themes which constituted a national identity, and could lead to marginalization and exclusion if one did not “fit in”. Because of this historical trend, this evolution of national identity has continued to have implications for the people of Norway, and understanding this evolution and place of national identity in an increasingly multicultural society is important to the livelihood of those who call Norway home.

Radonic, Lucero “Is stormwater a boundary object? Some preliminary thoughts”

Until recently in the U.S. Southwest stormwater harvesting was considered at best an *a* legal practice –not expressly unlawful but unambiguously wrong. However, public perceptions and legal frameworks are rapidly shifting. Southwestern cities that are vulnerable to medium-term climate change due to declining water supplies and extreme temperatures are mainstreaming

stormwater harvesting by framing it as a form of low-impact development crucial for climate change adaptation. With attention to methodology, this presentation discusses the first stage of a research project on intersecting communities of practice involved in practices and policies of stormwater harvesting.

Silva, Nikki “Community, Household, and Landscape: Examining the Use of Space for Evidence of Coalescence among Mississippian and Oneota Peoples of Morton Village”

What happens when two populations with differing cultural identities interact and cohabitate? Are aspects of these identities exchanged, thus creating a ‘coalesced’ community? Coalescence is defined as the cultural reorganization and formation of aggregated, multiethnic, and multilingual communities. The goal of this dissertation project is to use a multiscale spatial approach to identify the level of integration or coalescence within the Morton Village community in the central Illinois River Valley. This site has evidence of two cultural groups inhabiting the location, however the degree of their integration is unknown. My doctoral dissertation contributes to the development of a more nuanced understanding of coalescence by examining the spatial dimension of cultural reorganization.

Tahir, Sara “Silence and Ruination”

In the war torn world of today and particularly in wake of the political landscape formed by the results of the presidential elections of the United States, it is important to consider what silence is and what it means. While media attention is centered around acts of outright violence and consequently enables people to rally around for justice, little attention is given to the underlying contours of these incidents of violence, in other words the enduring structures of society and the State which enable these incidents to occur. While violence in the media and in public consciousness is associated with the literal silencing of bodies, such as people dying in the war in Syria or people being gunned to death in the United States, I intend to look at the concept of silence not as an exception but as the norm; silence as a lived reality. I utilize Bourdieu’s concept of censorship and his analysis of discourse, which finds its counterpart in Trouillot’s notion of silence explicated with regard to history and the construction of historical narratives. Working with the idea of censorship and the silence it engenders, I illustrate how such mechanisms work in the context of ruination in neo-liberal developing countries and state and society in the United States. The situation in both cases can be subsumed under the label imperial formations. I employ insights from Ann Laura Stoler’s edited volume ‘Imperial Debris’, Joao Biehl’s ‘Vita’ and Veena Das’s article ‘The Signature of the State’ to illustrate my argument.

Yann, Jessica “Using Resource Dependency Theory to Examine Economic Relationships at Shin-Gwah-Koos-King”

In this paper, I explore how Resource Dependency Theory (RDT) can tell us more about the economic relationship between the Ojibwe residents at Shin-Gwah-Koos-King and the local trader, Charles Rodd, two groups residing in central Michigan in the 1840s and 1850s. Both

archaeological and archival information are available, which makes this a unique case study for examining the utility of RDT to archaeological situations, where it has typically only been applied to business and sociology. This analysis provides a new perspective on the economic relationship between these two entities.