



18th Biennial Southwest Symposium Archaeological Conference

Santa Fe, NM
January 5-7
2023

Preliminary Program

Organized Sessions

Friday Morning

Session 1: On Common Ground: Collaborative And Integrative Approaches To Archaeology And Ethnography In The American Southwest

(Organizers: Mark R. Agostini and Robert W. Preucel)

Abstract: Archaeologists and anthropologists working in the American Southwest are increasingly seeking a balance between Western scientific methods and Indigenous cultural systems and traditional knowledge. This growing body of collaborative work integrates cutting-edge archaeological science and technological applications, while also building equitable relationships with Native and other stakeholders. This common ground of inquiry between archaeologists and Native peoples has a unique potential to uncover a more holistic understanding of the past. In this session, papers explore this topic by offering examples and considerations for the future of collaborative work and integrative approaches.

Presenters: Robert Weiner, Taft Blackhorse, Richard Friedman, and John Stein; Kelsey E. Hanson and Octavius Seowtewa; Caitrin Scarlett Engle; Robert Preucel and Kai-t Blue Sky; Rick Quezada, Barry Price Steinbrecher, and Michael Spears; Joseph Aguilar, Michael C. Spears, Maren P. Hopkins, and Gary Roybal; Mark R. Agostini and Joseph Aguilar; Samuel Villarreal Catanach; Severin Fowles, Michael Adler, and Lindsay Montgomery

Friday Afternoon

Session 2: Multiscalar Perspectives on the Early Agricultural Period

(Organizers: Michelle Carpenter and Robert Hard)

Abstract: Over the last 25 years there has been a revolution in our understanding of the Early Agricultural period (4100 to 1900 BP) in Northwestern Mexico and the American Southwest. Dramatic discoveries in the Tucson Basin, La Playa, Cerro Juanaqueña, and other locations have demonstrated that the adoption of maize agriculture resulted in rapid and dramatic alteration of Archaic period lifeways. While in other regions, the rate that maize impacted societies is radically different. The goal of this session is to move beyond site level analyses and integrate these discoveries into a broader understanding of dynamics of change at multiple temporal and spatial scales during the Early Agricultural period. Broad topics that will be examined as part of this session include, social networks, territoriality, trade and exchange, Mesoamerican interactions, changing social organization, and ecological dynamics, among others.

Presenters: Bruce Huckell and Lisa W. Huckell; Joan Coltrain and Joel C. Janetski; Jonathan Mabry; Robert J. Hard and John R. Roney; John R. Roney; James M. Vint and Gregory J. Whitney; Joseph M. Birkmann; Michelle Carpenter

Saturday Morning

Session 3: Emergent Material Networks in the US Southwest and Mexican Northwest and Beyond

(Organizers: Andrea Torvinen, Robert Bischoff, and Christopher Schwartz)

Abstract: Networks emerge from the interactions of people, places, and things. As such, the material record provides the data necessary for exploring the physical, economic, and cosmological connections that formed within and between communities, as well as across regions. Analytical approaches such as network analysis allow us to shift from bounded culture areas toward dynamic systems composed of fluid identities and changing interactions. This is especially relevant in the US Southwest/Mexican Northwest since it is subdivided by an international border that has hampered the methodologies used and coverage of archaeological research conducted in each country. This session demonstrates how network methods can be applied at multiple scales using a variety of material culture types or physical features to overcome disjunctive influences on archaeological practice, such as the border. Material manifestations of the networks explored include roads and trails; similarities in artifact shape, design, and origin; and commonalities in cosmology. The geographic extent of network connections spans from a diachronic, intrasite analysis in Northwest Mexico to canal system villages in the Phoenix Basin and the influence of West Mexican exchange into the region of interest and beyond. Furthermore, these papers advance the theoretical and methodological implementation of network methods in archaeology.

Presenters: José Luis Punzo Díaz, Ben A. Nelson, Christopher W. Schwartz, and Alfonso Gastelum Strozzi; Michael D. Mathiowetz; Nora Rodríguez-Zariñán; Andrea Torvinen; Saul Shukman and Robert Weiner; Caitlin Wichlacz and Robert Bischoff; Chris Caseldine;

Saturday Afternoon

Session 4: First Person Archaeology: Interpreting and Understanding the Past on a Human Scale

(Organizers: Ann L.W. Stodder and Molly Toll)

Abstract: Microhistories, object biographies, and osteobiographies have gained a solid presence in archaeology, posing practical and conceptual challenges to counterbalance big data analyses in pursuit of understanding Southwest history. The first set of presentations in this session exemplify these alternative avenues of research that lead to understanding archaeology on a human scale. The common feature here is a close look at the behaviors and life histories of individual people, of their communities, and of the things they made and lived with. The second group of presentations portray the importance of replication studies for the archaeologists and artists who explore and adapt ancient manufacturing techniques and provide workshops and education programs in schools and community venues. Presenters consider the social, intellectual, and emotional impacts of such programs on the participants and their understanding of the past and of archaeology. The experiential, first person perspective affords a fundamental and intimate connection to the past that can provoke curiosity and insight among all of us - archaeologists, indigenous people, and students of all ages.

Presenters: Ann L.W. Stodder and Mollie Toll; Genevieve Woodhead; Catrina Banks Whitley; Ann M. Palkovich; Benjamin A. Bellorado and Christopher J. Lewis; Mary Weahkee, Isaiah Coan and Chuck Hannaford; Eric Blinman, Mollie Toll, and Mary Weahkee