



Department of Anthropology
31st Annual Colloquium

Friday, March 5th, 2021
10:00 am–1:30 pm
Virtual Event

Program

10:00-10:15

Opening Remarks

Dr. Barnet Pavão-Zuckerman, Department Chair
Dr. Christina Getrich, Director of Graduate Studies

10:15-10:50

Panel 1: “Tenancy and slavery/plantation archaeology”

Moderator: Dr. Matthew Thomann

Angela Bailey

Alex Vindas Cruz

Discussion

10:50-11:00

BREAK

11:00-11:35

Panel 2: “Mixed method applications outside the academy”

Moderator: Dr. Madeline Brown

Nicole Ursin

Olivia Wolford

Discussion

11:35-12:05

Guest Speaker:

Megan Springate, M.A.A., Ph.D.

12:05-12:15

BREAK

12:15-1:10

Panel 3: “Immigration/migration and contested spaces”

Moderator: Dr. Paul Shackel

Samantha Matera

Aryn Neurock Schriener

Michael Paul Betsinger

Discussion

1:10-1:20

Closing Remarks

Panel 1: Tenancy and slavery/plantation archaeology

“The Archaeology of Tenancy at Susquehanna Plantation”

Angela Bailey

In 1942, Susquehanna Plantation, along with four other communities located along the Patuxent River in St. Mary’s County, MD, was seized by the US government to make way for a new Naval base. Prior to this land seizure, Susquehanna maintained an ongoing tenancy system since emancipation. The study of tenancy has received limited academic attention within archaeology. Previous scholarship on Susquehanna Plantation has overlooked the contributions of archaeology in the study of tenancy. CRM reports of previous excavations include only assumptions that construct an inaccurate depiction of tenant life on the property. Namely, the differing experiences of black and white tenants. This study utilizes historic documentation and archaeological data to study tenancy leading up the destruction of Susquehanna Plantation and racial segregation within tenancy in the early 20th century.

“The Southwest Yard: A Faunal Analysis and Landscape Examination at James Madison’s Montpelier”

Alex Vindas Cruz

Recent zooarchaeological research at James Madison’s Montpelier has explored the diet of enslaved communities, cuisine practices, and power dynamics. Recovered remains of wild and domestic species indicates the interplay between the plantation landscape and accessibility to foodways. While social dynamics and diet are largely inferred, examining the impact of agricultural activities help understand changes in landscape use over time. This study will explore how zooarchaeological remains recovered at the Southwest Yard site can further describe the complex interactions between the landscape, labor, and diet at James Madison’s Montpelier plantation.

Panel 2: Mixed method applications outside the academy

“A Mixed-Methods Approach to Nonprofit Membership Development in the Heritage Sector”

Nicole Ursin

Many membership-based nonprofit organizations that rely on membership dues, like US/ICOMOS, an international heritage nonprofit, are facing membership declines. To help the organization increase its membership base and better serve its members, this project seeks to develop a research methodology that applies to membership growth, gather insight into how a wide range of heritage professionals view international heritage and practice, and provide data-driven strategic development plans for US/ICOMOS. The study relies on a mixed-methods approach with an adapted policy Delphi method that will gather stakeholder insight on how US/ICOMOS can change its membership policies and benefits moving forward.

“Shoot, Sell, Buy: The Commodification of Bird Bands and Implications for Migratory Bird Conservation Management”

Olivia Wolford

This project investigates the cultural significance that metal bird bands have taken on within the waterfowl hunting community, and how this has impacted the integrity of data reported to the USGS Bird Banding Laboratory (BBL). Through an online survey and semi-structured interviews with BBL staff, waterfowl hunters, and band sellers, this project sought to explore the phenomenon of bands as a prized trophy and commodity. Emergent themes of generational and technological shifts in the hunting community allowed for deeper insight into the varied motivations for the pursuit of bands, and the impacts this trend has on continued migratory data collection and management.

Panel 3: Immigration/migration and contested spaces

“Rediscovering Children in Archaeological Contexts: Texas, MD”

Samantha Matera

This project looked at the material culture of the largely immigrant, quarry town of Texas, Maryland. By focusing on artifacts associated with childhood, Irish heritage, and religion, it is clear there is evidence of assimilation to Victorian American ideals, however there is also a conscious effort to strengthen Irish culture and identity in children born to Irish immigrants. This project explored the dichotomous struggle of the town defining their Irish American identities through consuming materials, in hopes that the next generation would move forward in American society while simultaneously being connected to their Irish heritage.

“Community and Consumption at Eckley Miners’ Village”

Aryn Neurock Schriener

Previous scholarship of Eckley Miners’ Village in Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, has failed to account for the daily lives of the town’s most disadvantaged population, recently arrived immigrants. Facing economic hardships and ethnic persecution, immigrants from Eastern and Southern Europe in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century employed many methods to navigate and survive these pressures of unchecked capitalism and xenophobia. Following excavations in 2016 of domestic structures belonging to this population, artifact analysis, minimum vessel analysis, and census data reveal strategic consumption patterns rooted in both self-reliance and community support.

“Mobility, Drinking, and Prohibition in the Fargo-Moorhead Border Complex (1870-1940)”

Michael Paul Betsinger

During the late 19th and early 20th centuries, hundreds of thousands of migratory farmhands arrived in the Red River Valley during the spring and summer months to labor in the wheat fields. As a mobile labor force, these men traveled through various contested spaces and regardless of origin, were perceived as outsiders and possible threats to local order. By being temporary in nature, the material traces of these men are difficult to identify especially in urban contexts. However, recent archaeological investigations of the Saloon Row site, located in Moorhead, MN, revealed a high quantity of flask artifacts that may illuminate a fraction of their material world. By connecting and framing these migrant workers and flask artifacts within the context of a border economy between the cities of Moorhead and its neighbor, Fargo, ND, a complex consumption pattern emerges, emphasizing concealment and mobility, thereby reinforcing, and threatening the borders of prohibition.