The majority of English language scholarly material about Zoroastrianism concentrates either on its sacred texts or on the living Parsi community in India. Examples include *Zoroastrians, their Beliefs and Practices* by Mary Boyce and *The Good Parsi* by T. H. Luhrmann. These treat Zoroastrianism either as primarily a religion of the past, or one that is in a deep state of crisis growing nearer to extinction. Zoroastrians in India are said to be embroiled in bitter debates about how to deal with problems such as the declining birthrate (Luhrmann 1996: 168) and the questions of accepting Zoroastrians who marry out of the community (Luhrmann 1996: 146-147) as well as those who wish to convert to Zoroastrianism (Luhrmann 1996: 179).

However, there is comparatively little information written about Zoroastrian diaspora communities in the West. I wanted to see if Zoroastrians in North America faced the same problems and struggled with similar debates, or if they have worked out solutions to their problems.

In order to investigate this question I am going to determine what North American Zoroastrians in Illinois believe the greatest problems facing their community are by using a seven-question survey, with both online and printed copies. After I am informed of the problems facing North American Zoroastrians I will formulate questions about how the community is dealing with these problems. I will ask these questions in face-to-face interviews with members of the community in order to gain in-depth responses. Based on these responses I will come to conclusions about how the North American Zoroastrian community is similar to, and different from, the Zoroastrian communities in Iran and India.

The responses I have received from the survey suggest that Zoroastrians in the Chicago area have managed to resolve the central issue facing Parsis in India by accepting the fact that many Zoroastrians marry out of the religion and accepting their children who want to be Zoroastrians. Instead the major problem seems to be ensuring the education and participation of the younger generations. In order to tackle this issue Zoroastrians have founded community classes for adults and children, organizations that sponsor the scholarly study of the religion, as well as yearly events such as the World Zoroastrian Youth Congress intended to inculcate Zoroastrian tenets and responsibilities into the minds of the youth (Dolly 2008: FEZANA Journal). Although their community is still very small, Zoroastrians in North America tend to have a more positive outlook on the future than those in India because of the changes they have made.

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Angela Haines
Focus: Ohio Valley Archaeology and GIS
Committee: Dr. Tankersley and Dr. Jackson
Site: Shawnee Lookout Archaeological District
Title: Determining Prehistoric Site Locations in Southwestern Ohio: A Study in GIS Predictive Modeling

This study evaluates anthropological assumptions about prehistoric human use of the landscape with a spatial analysis in a Geographical Information Science (GIS) environment. Through a multi-stage, multi-method, cross-cultural analysis, this study proves that it is possible to predict where prehistoric archaeological sites are located on a highly dynamic landscape. Using each archaeological site found within a local scale as data points, the variables of elevation, slope aspect, distance from water and soils are statically evaluated and modified using GIS. The results of this analysis proves that not only is it possible to produce a predictive model of prehistoric landscape use, but it is also possible to make conclusions about prehistoric land use strategies.

Angela Hood
Focus: Archaeology, Paleoethnobotany
Advisor: Dr. Vernon L. Scarborough
Committee: Dr. Alan P. Sullivan III and Dr. David L. Lentz
Field Site: Cerén, El Salvador
Laboratory: Lentz Paleoethnobotany Laboratory, Department of Biological Sciences

Invisible Plant Resources: Paleoethnobotanical Studies of Ancient Agricultural Fields South of the Cerén Village

In addition to architecture, artifacts, and living surfaces, the rapid burial of Cerén – an ancient Maya farming community in present-day El Salvador – in tephra from the Loma Caldera eruption in AD 590 (Sheets 1994) preserved plant materials in a manner unprecedented for archaeological sites in the Maya area. Plant remains have been recovered at Cerén in the form of plaster casts of the hollow impressions left by plants enveloped by tephra at the time of the eruption and as carbonized macroremains, or plant materials large enough to be seen by the unaided eye. The snapshot of plant use practices at Cerén afforded by its sudden abandonment and burial in tephra has revealed plant resources both commonly found in the paleoethnobotanical assemblages of ancient Maya sites, such as maize (Zea mays) and squash (Cucurbita sp.), and those rarely found, malanga (Xanthosoma...
violaceum) and manioc (Manihot esculenta), for example (Lentz and Ramírez-Sosa 2002:36-37). This concurrence of common and rare plant remains is starkly exhibited in a midden located 200 meters south of Cerén’s center among intensively cultivated manioc and maize fields, uncovered during the 2009 field season at the site. Manioc stems cast in plaster were found growing out of the midden, although analysis of the abundant carbonized plant macroremains recovered from the midden did not result in the identification of any manioc plant parts. This paleoethnobotanical assemblage evidences how the absence of manioc – and other plant taxa – in the form of carbonized macroremains in the archaeological record of ancient Maya sites does not necessarily preclude their presence and use by the ancient Maya at sites lacking the unique preservation conditions present at Cerén. By comparing the plant remains found at Cerén to those found at other sites in the Maya area, my thesis demonstrates how taphonomic processes, natural and cultural site formation processes, and archaeologists’ sampling strategies greatly affect the recovery of plant remains and our interpretation of past plant use practices.

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Ashley McCall
Focus - Isotopes in the Ohio Valley
Tankersley
Tankersley and Norton
The Turpin site near Newtown, OH
The OVA lab.

Cassidy (1984) stated that the subsistence and health in the Turpin site area are important for analysis not only because the Ohio River Valley was and is ecologically rich and was used in prehistoric times, but because evidence points to this area for the earliest practice of agricultural means in eastern North America. Therefore, this population is located in a key area and understanding the changes and uses of staple crops associated with agriculture of the Turpin population will supplement the overall knowledge of prehistoric agriculture in the Ohio Valley area.

My thesis research will test the hypothesis that there is a connection between the changed or altered diet as a result of agriculture and associated paleopathologies. The development of agriculture is displayed through the introduction of maize or corn in the diet (Armelagos et al., 1991; Rose, 2008; Sharp, 1996), which shows a differing isotopic value in the collagen of bone. The individuals with paleopathologies will have distinct isotopic carbon markers that show a
higher consumption of vegetal matter in comparison to those who do not have paleopathologies, who will have a higher rate of nitrogen, which implies more meat consumption. The relationship between paleopathologies and a distinct carbon isotopic value that shows a vegetal-based diet indicates a homogenous diet with a limited nutritional value (Cassidy, 1984).

Additionally, the population will show little movement across the landscape, especially those with paleopathologies. Due to the agricultural-based diet and the assumption that intensive agriculture results in sedentism, there would be little movement to scavenge for additional food items that would supplement the diet with additional nutrition through other vegetables and meat (Armelagos et al., 1991). The isotopes of strontium and oxygen will support this by giving me the necessary diet indicators present in the collagen. Moreover, the presence of severe disease also indicates poor diet; if an individual contracts a disease while having a nutritional deficient diet they are less likely to fight off the disease, allowing it to worsen.

50 samples of collagen from bones of the individuals will be taken. All individuals will be assessed and 25 will be considered healthy, which means that they do not show visible paleopathologies in the bones, and 25 will have visible paleopathologies. 20 animals will also be sampled for collagen. Animal bones that are available will be sampled, however, if there are enough different species with the necessary amount of collagen these will also be sampled. Samples will be taken from multiple species for a more holistic view. These animals will be used to set a base for the strontium isotope.

Liz Miller
Master’s Thesis Candidate May 2012
Focus: Biological Anthropology
Thesis Advisor: Dr. Katherine Whitcome
Thesis committee: Dr. Heather Norton (UC), Dr. Daniel Lieberman (Harvard)
Field Site: Human Evolutionary Locomotor Lab, Anthropology
Department
Effect of Natural Running on Foot Strength

Recent biomechanic based evolutionary studies indicate that human long distance running evolved some 2 million years ago with the emergence of our genus Homo (Bramble and Lieberman, 2004; Lieberman et al., 2010). This novel locomotor strategy may have allowed human ancestors who faced a changing landscape of expanding grassland and increased aridity to forage across wider areas and ultimately disperse beyond Africa into Europe and Asia (Pontzer et al., 2010). Modern humans share a suite of anatomical and physiological adaptations with human ancestors making them excellent endurance runners-- a derived short compact talus, a longitudinal arch, and midfoot joints that ‘locks’ to convert the tarsus into a stiff lever. The recent popularity in minimal running footwear-- a barefoot proxy designed explicitly for urban runners allowing them a natural running style that utilizes the spring mechanism of the longitudinal arch followed by stabilizing mechanisms of the plantar intrinsic muscles of the feet during toe-off (Mann and Inman, 1964)-- reflects interest in both the evolutionary basis of barefoot running and the performance biomechanics associated with key adaptations in the human foot.

Through much of the last 2 million years human ancestors ran barefoot or in light support moccasin style footwear, the latter with smaller heels and less cushioning than standard modern running shoes. Unlike stiff, cushioned running shoes, which inhibit the natural movement of the arch, minimal support running shoes are flexible with no built-in arch support, thus, they allow the foot to recruit more of the intrinsic musculature for arch support and energy storage. Muscle responds to mechanical stimuli, changing morphologically and functionally with the amount of use or disuse (Kubo, 2000). Thus, the high loading of the arch during both barefoot (BF) and minimal shoe running is likely to impact the longitudinal arch and increase the intrinsic plantar muscles of the foot. Because foot strength in natural running has yet to be fully investigated (see Bruggeman, 2009), my master’s thesis in biological anthropology will look to answer if natural running increases the strength of the intrinsic plantar musculature of the foot.

Foot kinematics and longitudinal arch data will be collected at the UC’s Human Evolutionary Locomotor Laboratory, Department of Anthropology, which is permanently equipped with Vicon 3D motion capture system and high speed digital video recording. The Arch Height Index Measuring System (AHIMS) will be on loan for the duration of the study from the Human Performance Laboratory, Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center. Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) of the foot will be performed at UC’s Varsity Village. Kinematic data will be processed and analyzed using semi-automated custom scripts in MatLab. MRI scans will be converted from their original DICOM format to bitmap images of 448 x 288 resolution (Broderick et al., 2010) and then input into MatLab to calculate PCSA.

The recent popularity in minimal running footwear reflects interest in key evolutionary adaptations in the human foot. Minimalist running shoes allow a natural running style that utilizes the intrinsic plantar musculature of the longitudinal arch unlike standard running shoes that are stiff and constrain the foot from natural movement. Having spent the past three years managing and working in specialty running stores both in Chicago and Cincinnati, I witness this trend every day and observe the growing popularity of barefoot and minimal shoes. This study, which is my master’s thesis
research in biological anthropology, will inform whether a return to barefoot and minimal shoe running increases the strength of the intrinsic plantar muscles of the feet.

**References**


**Denise Knisely**  
Master’s Thesis Candidate, May 2012  
Focus: Archaeology  
Thesis Advisor: Dr. Vernon Scarborough  
Thesis Committee: Dr. Kenneth Tankersley  
Field Sites: Programme for Belize Archaeology Project, Belize and Mesoamerican Archaeological Research Laboratory, University of Texas at Austin

**Social Hierarchy and Regional Heterarchy as evidenced by Mortuary Practices and Dietary Isotopic Analysis in the Three Rivers Region, Belize**

The goal of this research project is to analyze expressions of elite identity, social hierarchy, and regional affiliations via the context of Maya burials in Northwest Belize. The specific area of study is within the boundaries of the Rio Bravo Conservation and Management Area, a nature preserve in the Three Rivers Region. This conservation
district includes 250,000 acres of land and more than fifty ancient Maya sites. The Programme for Belize Archaeological Project (PfBAP) has conducted original research in this area since 1992 and has amassed a large collection of artifacts from sites which vary in size and socio-political complexity. A number of burials have been excavated in the decades of research with at least fifty specimens and their related funerary objects and field notes under the care of the PfBAP. My dataset will include the human remains curated both on-site in Belize and at the Mesoamerican Archaeological Research Laboratory in Austin, Texas.

The final interment of human remains is defined by the religious, social, and political lives of that individual’s society. Funerary practices encapsulate a multitude of individual traits according to age, sex, and social ranking. Previous work has shown that labor intensive tomb construction, such as tombs and crypts, in conjunction with specific grave goods can be indicators of social status within Classic Maya society. Items considered prestigious are those fashioned from human or animal bone, beads or other jewelry made of *Spondylus* shell, stingray spines, pyrite mirrors, polychrome ceramic vessels, any object inscribed with hieroglyphs, and articles fashioned from obsidian, jade, or jadeite (Rathje 1970; Weiss-Krejci 2004; Welsh 1988).

The study of stable carbon and nitrogen isotopes has become a common method of examining ancient diets. Carbon and nitrogen are the most frequently analyzed elements for determining nutrition (Schoeninger 1995). Isotopic compositions are calculated using the measured ratio of heavy to light isotopes in a sample relative to the ratio of heavy to light isotopes in a universally accepted standard reference material such as Vienna PeeDee Belemnite for carbon and atmospheric nitrogen for nitrogen (Sharp 2007). Bones and teeth are the biological tissues most often utilized for isotopic analysis due to their persistence in the archaeological record. To complete the isotopic analysis portion of my research, I will be collecting small bone samples from each burial. These samples will be prepped in house for analysis by a mass spectrometer.

Through the study of burial context, funerary inclusions, and isotopic analysis of diet, patterns of intra-site hierarchy as well regional inter-site heterarchy may be discerned. I propose that there is a correlation between prestige funerary goods and higher quality diet. This hierarchical configuration of food consumption should be apparent at large centers and a number of secondary sites associated with them. Small rural sites further from the central districts should contain more homogeneity in food resources. A secondary focus will be the comparison of diet across the region to investigate patterns of food usage among those of similar social standing, with particular attention to those of higher status.

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Holly Dorning  
Master’s Thesis Candidate June 2012  
Thesis Advisor: Dr. Sarah Jackson  
Thesis Committee: Dr. Vernon Scarborough  

Architectural Expressions of Elite Identity at a Classic Maya Secondary Site, Say Kah, Belize

My intent for this thesis research project is to explore the question: What is the role of architecture in expressing and constructing elite identity at Say Kah, and how does this compare to other sites in the region? Specifically, I will examine Say Kah architecture through three theoretical perspectives, informed by previous scholarly work: architecture as a container, architecture as a material manifestation of labor, and architecture as a communicative device. Thinking about structures as a container involves examining how architectural spaces contain behavior, and how they direct or restrict movement and interactions. The built environment can be considered a “socially-constructed place” (Fisher 2007: iii), communicating function, social status, and appropriate behavior (Rapoport 1990).

Approaching architecture as a material manifestation of labor demonstrates the elite ability to direct and control resources; resources in this sense are the physical materials, laborers, and technology required to construct structures. Elite status can be understood in means of energy and the ability to direct that energy (Hendon 1991). Monumental architecture is a manifestation of energy and resource control, a physical representation of power. Structures require differing amounts of energy based on size, materials, and architectural elaboration. Elite architecture requires more energy, which is evidence of differential control and access to material resources (Hendon 1991). Architectural data from Group C of Say Kah will allow for characterization of structures as displays of elite status.

Investigating how architecture functions as a communicative device focuses on the meanings that are portrayed and received. Architectural elements communicate status and act as a means of legitimizing power (Fisher 2007). Architecture can be viewed as a symbol of group identity and utilized as a vehicle of social integration. Together, these three perspectives provide three investigative avenues for illuminating how elites at Say
Kah used architecture to display and communicate a narrative of their status and regional political affiliations.

In order to conduct my research, I will travel to the Belize site of Say Kah to participate in excavations during the 2011 field season to gather data for my thesis. Say Kah’s location within the Programme for Belize region, where other archaeological projects are also being conducted, provides a rich context and available data for regional comparisons. Comparisons will be made with nearby sites, both large and secondary centers, to explore differences in types of elite expressions. Examination of architectural elements on a regional basis will help identify which elements are present or absent at Say Kah, and reveal patterns of architectural manifestations of elite status and power.

In addition, excavations at Group C will provide a clearer picture of the site of Say Kah as a whole. This will allow for the characterization and understanding of the site within a regional political sphere. Elite markers at Group C will help us to characterize material evidence and expression of a local elite identity, as well as regional political affiliations, or lack thereof, with other sites of varying size and complexity in the region.

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Janine Sparks
Master’s Thesis Candidate May 2012
Focus: Archaeology
Thesis Advisor: Dr. Kenneth Tankersley
Thesis committee: Dr. Vernon Scarborough
Field Site: Shawnee Lookout Park, Hamilton County, Ohio

The Movement and Procurement of Raw Lithic Materials in Shawnee Lookout Park
Previous archaeologists have investigated the cultural processes associated with the movement of lithic materials across the landscape (Tankersley 1989, 1991, 1998). Explanations for the movement of lithic artifacts includes both geological processes as well as through human activity. In order to best examine the cultural processes associated with raw lithic procurement, Optimal Foraging Theory will be applied. Winterhalder
(1981) presents a model of Optimal Foraging with which to consider the strategies by which hunter-gatherer groups satisfied their dietary needs. It considers aspects such as resource acquisition, reproduction, and best route to increase efficiency (Winterhalder 1981:15). Groups use these optimization principles in order to maximize their maximum gain. This model, in the context of resource and food attainment, also applies to the acquisition of lithic materials.

This model of Optimal Foraging considers that groups are attempting to maximize their total gain. The use of waterways in lithic procurement could offer a way for groups to maximize this gain and acquire raw quality lithic materials. Research has also found evidence of people operating on the waterways. Evidence of dugout canoes operating on lakes and rivers has been recovered (Fagan 2004; Gamble 2002; Johnston 1962). Bose and Greber (1982) detail the recovery of a dugout canoe in Savannah Lake in Ashland County, Ohio in 1976. Two other canoes had been previously recovered in 1957 and 1962 (Bose and Greber 1982:247). Using these and other recovered dugout canoes, Bose and Greber (1982:257) create a model in an attempt to place Archaic canoes within the context of early economies.

The area for the data collection, the Lynch site, is located in Shawnee Lookout Park in Hamilton, OH. It is situated between the Ohio River and the Great Miami River. Intermittent streams run on both sides of the site. The Lynch site is also located by other previously known archaeological sites such as Twin Mounds. I plan to investigate the movement of raw lithic materials to the Lynch site, located within Shawnee Lookout Park in Hamilton County, Ohio. I will examine the lithic procurement and exploitation strategies of the prehistoric peoples in order to determine if they were optimizing river resources. The lithics considered will be primary cherts. It should be noted that all outcropping of cherts are “nonlocal.” Those cherts that are considered “local,” such as Laurel and Cedarville-Guelph, were brought to the region through geological process and do not natural outcrop in Hamilton County. Analysis of the data will include a basic sorting between bifacial and unifacial lithics, examination of debitage, and the use of low and high magnification binocular and petrographic microscopes. This sorting will assist in determining between the cherts as well as establishing possible time frames. Microfossils and non-silica mineral inclusions will be utilized to discriminate chert sources. In order to date the timeframe of the lithics, established typologies and radiocarbon dating will be used. If pottery is found in conjunction with the stone tools, their typology will also be used.

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Jessica L. Hughes  
Master’s Thesis Candidate May 2012  
Focus: Biological Anthropology
Thesis Advisor: Dr. Katherine Whitcome

Field Sites:
- Bramblett Collection, University of Texas, Austin, TX
- Hamman-Todd Non-Human Primate Collection, Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Cleveland, OH
- USNM Mammals Collection, Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, Washington D.C.

The Nuances of Locomotor Strategies in Suspensory Primates (Apes):
Locomotor Costs in Terms of Skeletal Injury.

Locomotor costs are often assessed in terms of energy expenditure (Pontzer and Wrangham, 2004; Fleagle, 1999; Hunt, 1991). Injury may also be a significant cost in that a severely injured animal may be unable to secure enough food to maintain activities or may be unable to avoid predation. Thus, safety is as likely as energetics to be the target of natural selection, and both have the potential to impact reproductive fitness. Suspensory apes, to varying degrees, have a high-injury risk locomotor strategy (Schultz, 1944). Although all of the apes primarily use their forelimbs to swing through the forest canopy, body size diversity, nuanced differences in locomotor strategy, and a range of ecological factors (i.e., substrate availability) make the risk of injury from falls variable among the suspensory primates. Evidence of skeletal trauma in chimpanzees and other apes (Schultz, 1969; Jurmain, 1997; Lovell, 1990; Carter et al., in prep.), along with observation of arboreal falls (Goodall, 1986), underscore the morbidity and mortality costs associated with suspensory falls (Pontzer and Wrangham, 2004). However, physiological and anatomical evidence of injury and injury recovery have not been systematically investigated with respect to locomotor variation among the suspensory apes.

I will investigate long bone fractures in three genera of suspensory apes *Hylobates*, *Pongo* and *Pan* among whom locomotor strategies differ in order to identify whether varying locomotor repertoires manifest with equal or differential patterns of limb injury. The genus *Papio*, a terrestrial quadruped, will be studied to compare suspensory and terrestrial modes. In addition to quantifying the location and frequency of long bone fractures among these primates, I will also examine the repair and remodeling of limbs associated with fracture injury. Cross-sectional geometry of affected long bones will be biomechanically assessed for differential loading associated with injury use/disuse. According to Schultz, 1944, the higher peak forces inherent in double-pendulum brachiation may increase the likelihood of branch failure, and falling does appear to be a hazard of brachiation. With this model in mind, I predict that brachiators, gibbons, will have a higher rate of fracture and fracture severity due to their habit of moving through high canopy areas. High canopy areas have less reliable and more flimsy substrates. The inconsistent substrate quality and high speed “flight phase” locomotion leads to more falls that will be evident in the osteological specimens. Quadramanus locomotors, orangutans, will have a high rate of fracture/severity as well, but fracture will be less frequent than that of brachiators. This difference will be accounted for by the slower and more cautious locomotion exhibited by quadramanus locomotors. Climbers/knuckle walkers, chimpanzees, will have the lowest frequency of fracture and severity. This will
be accounted for by their habit of being less arboreal (Fleagle, 1999) and less prone to falling from a height.

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Jessica M Hughes
Master’s Thesis Candidate May 2012
Focus: Archaeology
Thesis Advisor: Dr. Kenneth Tankersley
Thesis committee: Dr. Vernon Scarborough
Field Site: Field Museum of Natural History Chicago, IL, American Museum of Natural History New York City, Fort St. Joseph Museum Niles, MI

Archaeology in Museum Education
By the late nineteenth century, anthropology was beginning to emerge as a distinctive discipline in universities, resulting in the development of anthropological museums. The primary purpose of these museums was to present artifacts from a primitive society as if they were specimens of natural history (Ames 1992:51). The World’s Columbian Exposition in 1893 led to the founding of the Field Columbian Museum in Chicago which took over most of the anthropological and natural history collections that were assembled for the World’s Fair. By the year 1900, anthropological activities developed a basic pattern of programs including exhibition, research, scientific and popular publication, contributions to journals, teaching, and popular lectures (Collier et al. 1954:770). In the late 1960s and early 1970s, classical archaeology gained great support from the elite Anglo-American society giving them many resources for major excavations and expensive museum acquisitions (Dyson 1993: 196). The practice of anthropology at the museum level is different than the practice of it at the university level, but there are some commonalities: Museum curators conduct field research, publish in scholarly journals, and attend conferences. When in small museums, the curator is
expected to be familiar with a wide range of artifact types and culture areas as well as perform a vast variety of duties. At the larger scale, curators work with professionals from other areas of the museum such as designers, writers, and educators (Jones 1993:202).

It is not false to say that anthropology has influenced the museum system. The subfields of anthropology, especially archaeology, influence the systems of museums including exhibits and the education system within the museum. But how do the education departments in museums, small and large, incorporate archaeology into their teaching? How do the directors incorporate it into their exhibits as well? I theorize that the use of archaeology in the development of museum education programs and exhibits goes to the root of the source; when a program is in development or an exhibit is under construction, archaeological research is one of the main sources of the information being used. The museum educators might understand the importance of using archaeology in their programs and possibly use a conscious effort to include archaeological research in the development of these programs. But also, there is the possibility that the museum educators do not appreciate the importance of archaeology in their programs and including the information unbeknownst to them that it is archaeology they are using. The use of archaeological research in the programs may be by accident and the directors and educators do not realize the importance of archaeology in the development of their programs.

To the public, museums are a valuable source of information. It is, therefore, important for the information to be accurate. By incorporating information obtained through archaeology, the information being shared is accurate.

Key Beck
Master’s Thesis Candidate May 2012
Focus: Social Cultural Anthropology/ Ethnography
Thesis Advisor: Dr. Stephanie Sadre-Orafai
Thesis committee: Dr. Sarah Jackson (UC)
Field Site: Tokyo, Japan

The African-American Expatriate Experience of “Blackness” in Japan

Representations of African-Americans are present in Japan in the form of advertisements, television personalities, animated films, and other popular culture domains. "Blackness" is seen in everyday life in the form of subcultures like ganguro, jazz and hip-hop venues, and souvenir shops that specialize in the sale of racial kitsch. Anthropologists and historians have examined this commodification of "blackness" as "coolness" in Japan through pop culture forms like rap music (Condry 2000), film (Russell, 1998a; 1998b), and jazz and hip hop clubs (Atkins, 2000). It is necessary to differentiate between representations of "blackness" that can be sites of racialized but not racist identity-work, such as racial play (Russell 1998a), and less reflexive sites of commodification. My project directly addresses Japanese forms of racial play with “blackness” and seeks to understand how African-American expatriates in Japan experience it ethnographic
methodologies. In addition to contributing to racial and ethnic studies, this project will add to the growing literature on Afro/Asian relations (Frazier 2006; Ho & Mullen 2008; Prashad 2002). Largely represented by historical and sociological research, this literature will benefit from the study in two ways: (1) The ethnographic approach will provide first-hand experiential data on what it subjectively feels like to be an African-American expatriate in Japan; (2) By focusing on African-Americans in a non-US context, it will broaden our understandings of how racial meanings travel and take different shape in different national contexts. In addition to Afro/Asian scholarship, this project will also be of interest to African Diaspora Studies, particularly literature on African-American migration.

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1998b Jurassic Japanese and Silicon Samurai: Rising Sun, Tech-noir Orientalism, and the
The Relationship Between Cultural Representation and Stewardship: NAGPRA & Museums

The primary focus of my thesis investigation is to discover the balance between accurate representation and stewardship of the cultural past of Native American tribes in the United States of America. Some tribes prefer remains to stay in museums due to looters (Mihesuah 2000: 1). This is often in contrast to perceived expectations. However, the tribal communities understand that the academic community still retains power over the people they study and whose artifacts they collect (Daehnke 2009: 210). Whatever is thought of these activities today, more than a century ago, the federal government believed they were acting out their roles as responsible inheritors of the stewardship of the continent and absorbed their predecessors into their own identities and civilized future (Hinsley 2000: 52). The Native American community, which as a result of the repatriation issue, is again entangled in the question of who does or does not qualify as ‘Indian’ should attempt an objective analysis of what it expects to gain through past and projected future confrontations with scientists and preservationists (Mallour 2000: 69). In order to answer these questions, I plan to conduct a survey of institutions affected by NAGPRA in the United States. Additionally, a one-month internship will be conducted at The Dayton Society of Natural History at the Boonshoft Museum. The Boonshoft Museum has a NAGPRA-Review board that serves, not only the Dayton Society of Natural History, but also other museums of the region that do not house review boards, such as the Cincinnati Museum Center. Primary responsibilities entailed in this internship will include handling the osteological remains associated with NAGPRA, conducting an inventory, updating the NAGPRA records, and providing guidance and input regarding the maintenance and upkeep of the institute’s NAGPRA’s policies and procedures.

The primary research method that will be used during this study is a questionnaire survey. I plan to create an online survey that can be distributed to museums, universities, and other institutions that serve as stewards for NAGPRA remains. Additionally, the survey will be sent electronically to professors, Federally recognized Native American tribal representatives, and other professionals to gather as much data as possible regarding the reactions, policies, and procedures to the newly instated NAGPRA regulations. The survey will be sent to as many professionals as possible in hopes to gather the maximum amount of data. Participants will be given the option to not answer...
any question, answer questions anonymously, or opt-out of the electronic survey at anytime.

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Andras Nagy
Master’s Thesis Candidate May 2012
Focus: Archaeology
Thesis Advisor: Dr. Vernon Scarborough
Thesis committee: Dr. Kenneth Tankersley (UC)
Field Site: Maya Archaeology Lab, Anthropology Department

Investigations of lowland Maya water management practices has largely focused on large-scale water storage facilities such as reservoirs and other artificial drainages that were used to hold water year-around (Johnston 2004). The scarcity of surface water in the karst landscape of the Maya lowlands meant that these projects provided perhaps the only predictable source of water in much of the region (Beach 2009). As a consequence, much has been made of the centralization of water storage as a parallel for the developing ritual authority of Maya elites over dispersed commoners on the periphery of these communities (Lucero 1999). However, this project instead investigates Maya water management practices as a series of ecological transactions between people and their environment (Binford 1987) which have led to a specialized and disturbed landscape developed over long periods of time (Dunning 2002).

My project investigates the developmental stages of a tropical anthropogenic landscape at Tikal, engineered from the Middle Preclassic through Late Classic and abandoned during the Postclassic Period. Using sedimentological information from both dry and wet cores
of the Corriental and Perdido reservoirs, conventional excavation data, and tephrochronological results, this project directly addresses the widespread scale of human disturbance, continued use and costs of this artificial hydraulic system as well as the mechanisms by which growing population needs were satisfied. On the larger scale, this project will further investigation of engineered landscape development, water management systems, as well as deliver insights into the importance of “bajos” or swamp-margin areas in the karst Maya lowlands.

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