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BIOARCHAEOLOGY IN NEW MEXICO: STATE OF THE SCIENCE AND THE ART

Ann L. W. Stodder

Office of Archaeological Studies, Museum of New Mexico

**7:30 PM, Tuesday, October 15, 2019
Albuquerque Museum of Art and History
2000 Mountain Road NW**

Anthropologists have studied human remains from archaeological sites in New Mexico for nearly a century and a half, and there is substantial continuity between the earliest studies and those we do today. But the field of bioarchaeology has evolved as the field has become more clearly defined and professionalized. Examples of bioarchaeological studies will be presented to demonstrate the interdisciplinary and multi-scalar nature of current work, and the scope of questions we can explore through the careful accumulation of observations on bones, individuals, communities, and populations of past peoples in New Mexico. Examples of “big data” projects are described, including the NMBIOARCH project, an effort to centralize and systematize the bioarchaeological record of New Mexico. At the other extreme are the osteobiographies of individuals whose stories personalize the past. Some of the challenges facing bioarchaeologists today are considered in the contexts of federal and state legislation, consultation and repatriation, and the range of attitudes among agencies, archaeologists, and descendants towards the study of the dead.

Ann Stodder is a bioarchaeologist with the Office of Archaeological Studies in the Museum of New Mexico, Adjunct Associate Professor in the Anthropology Department at UNM, and Research Associate in Pacific Archaeology at the Field Museum of Natural History. Her research concerns bioarchaeological data management, paleopathology, human taphonomy, and mortuary archaeology in the US Southwest, as well as Hawaii, Guam, and Papua New Guinea. She contributed chapters on Southwest bioarchaeology to *The Handbook of North American Indians* and *The Oxford Handbook of Southwest Archaeology* and is the editor of *Reanalysis and Reinterpretation in Southwestern Bioarchaeology*, and co-editor of *The Bioarchaeology of Individuals*. Dr. Stodder serves on the Advisory Board of *The International Journal of Paleopathology* and is an Associate Editor of *Bioarchaeology International*.

MINUTES OF THE ALBUQUERQUE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

September 17, 2019

In President Evan Kay's absence, Vice President Gretchen Obenauf began the meeting at 7:32 pm. There were no new members, and four visitors.

Gretchen thanked Ann Carson for bringing the refreshments this evening, and noted that Ann and her daughter Cindy did this every month (cookies are brought by others, last month by Joan Mathien and this month by Roman Anaya). Gretchen noted that Cindy was home ill and that we sent good thoughts to her.

Minutes: There were no corrections to the July minutes, so they stand as distributed.

REPORTS

Vice President – Gretchen Obenauf: There is a speaker for October and Tom Windes will be November's speaker.

Treasurer – Tom Obenauf: Membership forms are available.

Membership – Mary Raje: Membership renewals begin October 15.

Laboratory – Karen Armstrong: The laboratory crew is now working on a collection from Chaco Canyon excavations. They work Wednesday mornings and welcome volunteers.

Rock Art – Carol Chamberland: They did not record sites during the hot and rainy August, but they have been back working for the last three weeks.

Carol said that when they are recording rock art they sometimes note archaeological features. Tom Windes has been volunteering and recording them. Now Tom would like additional help with some surveying on BLM land south of Albuquerque. He noted that it would require doing "old-style" mapping. He will train the volunteers. The work will involve being able to hike two miles and carry some equipment. They need to get permission from a landowner to cross private land to access the site but once that is done, the work can start. There will be a lavender sign-up sheet in the foyer following the meeting.

Newsletter – Helen Crotty: Please send in any items for next month's newsletter to Helen by Saturday September 21, because she is going out of town soon and needs to complete everything before she leaves.

Field Trips – Pat Harris: On Saturday, September 21, tonight's speaker Cyler Conrad will lead a tour of sites TA 70 and 71 at Los Alamos National Laboratory. The trip is full, but people can sign on to a waiting list. On October 12, we have a tour of Nogales Cliff House and Rattlesnake Ridge with Mike Bremmer and John Hayden. Members may sign up tonight. In addition, members can sign up for a November 2 field trip that Ann Braswell will lead to Cerro Indio Pueblo by San Acacia Dam.

Pottery Southwest – Hayward Franklin: The Summer issue is out and can be accessed on line by Googling the name. Gretchen added that there were some good articles in there.

Seminars – Carol Chamberland: Tom Windes will be leading a seminar on archaeomagnetic sampling September 28 at the Hibben Center from 9 to noon. The seminar is free to members and the signup sheet will be in the foyer.

NEW BUSINESS

Membership dues: Gretchen announced that the Board had voted to put the question of raising annual dues for families to the membership attending the September meeting. She noted that this would make the dues structure fairer, because currently the dues are \$25 for individuals and \$25 for families, while membership is required for such privileges as participation in field trips and seminars. Helen Crotty moved and it was seconded that dues for a basic family membership be raised by \$5, to \$30 annually. The motion was approved by voice vote.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Gretchen held up a copy of the latest edition of *American Archaeology*, the quarterly journal of The Archaeological Conservancy and urged people to support the Conservancy for its protection of archaeological sites — usually by purchase of the land. She will leave a copy of the magazine in the lobby for people to view.

SPEAKER

Cyler Conrad gave a presentation on the cultural resources compliance program at Los Alamos National Laboratory, where he is the Archaeological Technical Lead. Dr. Conrad will provide a synopsis for the November Newsletter.

Respectfully submitted by Susan King

DUES CHANGE APPROVED AT THE SEPTEMBER MEETING

At the September 17 27 meeting, the membership in attendance voted to approve the recommendation of the AAS Board to increase the basic family membership dues by \$5 to \$30. It was felt that with field trip and seminar participation requiring a current membership in AAS, there was a degree of unfairness in having individual members pay the same dues as families do for these privileges. Basic dues for individual memberships remain the same, \$25 with emailed Newsletters, as do institutional memberships at \$10, and student memberships (defined as applying only to the person named on the current student identification card) remain free. The new dues schedule goes into effect October 15, when dues paid will be credited through 2020.

OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER FIELD TRIPS

Field Trip Chair Pat Harris reports that a few spaces are left for the October 12 joint tour to Nogales Cliff Dwelling and Rattlesnake Ridge, led by Mike Bremer, Santa Fe National Forest Archaeologist, and John Hayden. Contact Pat at trips@abqarchaeology.org.

On November 2, Ann Braswell, AAS Vice President, will lead a tour of the Cerro Indio petroglyph site near San Acacia. As with all AAS field trips, these are for current members only, and a \$10 AAS fee will be collected at the time of signup. Because of the difficulty of the hikes, these field trips are for members over 18 only.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT – MARY RAJE

The Membership Committee has been quiet over the summer with only a few new members joining AAS. For any new members or for current members who like to renew early, the date after which you will be credited for membership year 2020 is October 15, 2019, which coincidentally will be our next AAS meeting. You may renew for 2020 at the meeting if you wish. The members present at the September 17 meeting voted for a slight dues increase for family memberships to \$30 from the previous \$25. Individual memberships remain \$25.

Membership Directories are still available. Members who subscribe to the print Newsletter may request a print version, or an electronic version will be sent. Contact Mary Raje at info@abqarchaeology.org.

SUMMER 2019 ISSUE OF POTTERY SOUTHWEST NOW POSTED

The Summer 2019 edition of the free online publication *Pottery Southwest* is now available. It features an amazing Tabira Polychrome canteen, pottery analysis from testing at Kuaua near Bernalillo, and identification of blue pigment on four sherds from a Pueblo II site in southern McKinley County. See potterysouthwest.unm.edu.

For those who don't know its history, *Pottery Southwest (PSW)* originated as a subscription print publication sponsored by the Albuquerque Archaeological Society in 1994 and continued as such to 1996, when William Sundt, its original editor, died. It was revived by M. Patricia Lee in 2004 as a free online publication hosted by the Maxwell Museum. Lee served as its editor until 2018. Following her resignation, several members of the

PSW editorial board stepped in to keep the periodical in production. These include Gretchen Obenauf as lead editor, with Peter McKenna and Hayward Franklin (as co-editors). Also serving on the editorial board are Kari Schleher, Kelley Hays-Gilpin, and David Phillips. For the time being, *Pottery Southwest* appears two, rather than four, times a year. The editors welcome articles on such subjects as: regional ceramics; refinement of pottery types; case studies from surveys or excavations; bulletins and museum displays; reviews of books and articles; results profiles from poster presentations; results of replication studies and gatherings; and bits of ceramic whimsy. Contributions can be sent online at the same web address and guidelines for submissions including deadlines, can be found at the end of the latest issue on the website.

BOOK REVIEWS

Ten Thousand Years of Inequality: The Archaeology of Wealth Differences, edited by Timothy A. Kohler and Michael E. Smith. University of Arizona Press, Tucson, 2018, 337 pp. \$70 hardcover (ISBN 9780816537747), \$40 paperback (ISBN 9780816539444), \$40 Ebook (ISBN 9780816538362).

Reviewed by Matthew J. Barbour

Early in my career, I was fixated with statistical measures to examine wealth inequality. Economic scaling through averaging mean ceramic price index values has been the norm in historical archaeology for decades and works remarkably well, especially in the twentieth century when choices are regularly driven more by item cost than availability. However, this is only one of many statistical tools available to archaeologists focused on socio-economic status.

Ten Thousand Years of Inequality examines wealth inequality with the Gini coefficient, a popular statistic utilized by economists and sociologists today. At its heart, the Gini coefficient measures the concentration of a quantity (money, structure size, pottery, etc.) and is represented by a number on the scale of 0 to 1. If there are study units with high and low quantities, the Gini coefficient is closer to 1 and suggests strong division between the haves and have-nots. If all of the quantities are roughly equal, the Gini coefficient is closer to 0 and suggests a more egalitarian society.

As one can surmise from the title, Kohler and Smith take the view that human history has a long tradition of wealth inequality. The book examines this concept with case studies around the world, but the majority of sections are centered on pre-contact cultures in North America. Chapters include: “Studying Inequality’s Deep Past” by Michael E. Smith, Timothy A. Kohler, and Gary M. Feinman; “Letting the Gini Out of the Bottle: Measuring Inequality Archaeologically” by Christian E. Peterson and Robert D. Drennan; “Dreaming Beyond Gini: Methodological Steps Toward a Composite Archaeological Inequality Index” by Rabul C. Oka, Nicholas Ames, Meredith S. Chesson, Ian Kuijt, Chapurukha M. Kusimba, Vishwas D. Gogte, and Abbijit Dandekar; “Testing Hypotheses About Emergent Inequality (Using Gini Coefficients) in a Complex Fisher-Forager Society at the Bridge River Site, British Columbia” by Anna Marie Prentiss, Thomas A. Foor, and Mary-Margaret Murphy; “In and Out of Chains? The Changing Social Contract in the Pueblo Southwest, AD 600 – 1300” by Timothy A. Kohler and Laura J. Ellyson; “Steady Inequality in Changing Times: An Examination of Regional Patterns in Hohokam Structure Data” by Matthew Pailles; “Exploring Measures of Inequality in the Mississippian Heartland” by Alleen Betzenhauser; “Foraging, Inequality, and Urbanization: A Comparative Analysis of Late Prehistoric Northern Mesopotamia and Southwestern Germany” by Amy Bogaard, Amy Styring, Jade Whitlam, Mattia Fochesato, and Samuel Bowles; “The Trajectory of Social Inequality in Ancient Mesopotamia” by Elizabeth C. Stone; “Assessing Wealth Inequality in the Pre-Hispanic Valley of Oaxaca: Comparative Implications” by Gary M. Feinman, Ronald K. Faulseit, and Linda M. Nicholas; and “Deep Inequality: Summary and Conclusions” by Timothy A. Kohler, Michael E. Smith, Amy Bogaard, Christian E. Peterson, Alleen Bezenhauser, Gary M. Feinman, Rabul C. Oka, Matthew Pailles, Anna Marie Prentiss, Elizabeth C. Stone, Timothy J. Denneby, and Laura J. Ellyson.

To readers in the American Southwest, the sections on Pueblo and Hohokam societies potentially have the greatest value. Kohler and Ellyson’s “In and Out of Chains?” uses evidence from the Four Corners Region to examine the transition (potentially back and forth) from a labor-limited (more egalitarian) to land-limited (more

hierarchical) society between the Basketmaker III and Pueblo III periods. Pailes's "Steady Inequality in Changing Times" documents what appears to be an unchanging social hierarchy throughout the Pioneer, Colonial, Sedentary, and Classic Periods of the Hohokam Region.

Both articles are thought provoking and make excellent use of the Gini coefficient as an interpretive tool to explain societal change – or the lack thereof. However, the conclusions are somewhat limited by the sample size. Also, as the authors would admit, these places may or may not be representative of Native American communities in the American Southwest as a whole.

Perhaps the most fascinating deduction to come out of the research is that, while there clearly was wealth inequality in the pre-industrial societies examined, these inequalities pale in comparison to the Gini coefficients developed for cultures in the twenty-first century. This is perhaps not so surprising, but what is concerning is that in most historical instances high levels of inequality typically lead to acts of violence and social upheaval.

Statistic-rich books are not for everyone. However, editors Kohler and Smith make a great effort to keep the book accessible to a general audience. You do not need to understand the details to appreciate the thoughts developed from the statistical analyses. Moreover, these thoughts are worth reading and add greatly to the discourse on how wealth inequality has shaped, and continues to shape, human history.

Reframing the Northern Rio Grande Pueblo Economy, edited by Scott G. Ortman. Tucson: University of Arizona Press. Anthropological Papers of the University of Arizona No. 80. 2019. Viii+203 pp., 33 tables, 43 figures, bibliography, index. \$19.95 paperback (ISBN 9780816539314), \$19.95 ebook (ISBN 9780816539949).

Reviewed by Thatcher A. Rogers

For over a century, archaeological investigations have been conducted in the Northern Rio Grande. *Reframing the Northern Rio Grande Pueblo Economy* investigates several transitions in economic production and exchange and their consequences during the A.D. 1300–1550 period in northern New Mexico. The compiled papers originated partially from a 2015 American Anthropological Association session organized by Scott Ortman, and the authors represent a mixture of University of Colorado Boulder graduate students, Crow Canyon affiliates, and an assortment of well-established scholars in the Northern Rio Grande.

Individual papers cover a diversity of topics and are entitled: "Economic Growth in the Pueblos?" by Scott G. Ortman and Kaitlyn E. Davis; "Economic Development and Big Subsistence in the Regional Agricultural Economy of the Ohkay Owingeh Homeland" by B. Sunday Eiselt; "Prehispanic Pueblo Cotton Cultivation with Gravel-Mulch Technology in the Northern Rio Grande Region" by Eileen L. Camilli, Kurt F. Anschuetz, Susan J. Smith, and Christopher D. Banet; "Cotton, Community, and Entanglement: Prehispanic Cotton Growth and Textile Production among the Rio Grande Pueblos" by Pascale Meehan; "Revisiting Settlement Clusters: Political Organization and Economic Cooperation" by Patrick Cruz and Scott G. Ortman; "The Network Effects of Rio Grande Pueblo Rituals" by Scott G. Ortman and Grant L. Coffey; "Diachronic Changes in Tool Stone Raw Material Distributions and Exchange Systems in the Northern Rio Grande" by Fumi Arakawa, Christopher Nicholson, and Douglas Harro; "The Economics of Becoming: Population Coalescence and the Production and Distribution of Ancestral Tewa Pottery" by Samuel Duwe; "Community Specialization and Standardization in the Galisteo Basin: The View from Pueblo San Marcos" by Kari L. Schleher; "Martial Rock Art in the Northern Rio Grande: Reconciling the Disjunction between Actual Violence and Its Expressions" by Anna E. Schneider; "The Ambassador's Herb": Tobacco Pipes as Evidence for Village Specialization and Interethnic Exchange in the Northern Rio Grande" by Kaitlyn E. Davis; and "Economic Growth in the Past: Empirics, not Ontology" by José Lobo. The variety of perspectives and research backgrounds is successful, resulting in innovative approaches and intriguing conclusions. The inclusion of five papers authored or co-authored by graduate students is particularly commendable.

Ortman, as editor and lead author with Davis for the introductory chapter, presents an impressive theoretical and methodological framework for exploring past economic developments. The variety of topics broached and the conclusions reached in this volume are substantial, enhanced by the comprehensive manner in which individual

papers connect, build upon one another, and incorporate data provided by Samuel Duwe's phenomenal 2011 dissertation, *The Prehispanic Tewa World: Space, Time, and Becoming in the Pueblo Southwest*. One minor editorial issue noted by Cruz and Ortman is that their estimated room counts differ from those presented by Eiselt due to underlying methodologies and data sources. These differences may or may not impact a reader's interpretation of an individual paper's conclusions and, when combined with the differing use of archaeological site names and their traditional Tewa names, lead to the occasional flipping back and forth. This is perhaps for the best, as this volume is well worth revisiting in its entirety.

While all papers in this volume are strong, papers by Patrick Cruz and Scott Ortman and by Scott Ortman and Grant Coffey exemplify why their contributions to the understanding of the Northern Rio Grande region stand out as transcending regional specificity. Cruz and Ortman investigate associations between community clusters and sociopolitical organization in terms of mother-daughter village relationships, while Ortman and Coffey explore relationships between settlement structure, ritual practice, and economic development. The discussion paper by José Lobo is a personal favorite. Lobo is an urban economist and his discussion exemplifies the benefits of integrating a cross-disciplinary or alternative approach in an edited volume.

Two potential, but minor issues are: the reliance on quantitative methods (e.g., probability density analysis, inverse distance weighting, settlement-scaling models) that may be unfamiliar or confusing to readers yet underpin substantial conclusions and the application of limited or predominately early comparative data sources from the Middle Rio Grande or Salinas areas. While investigations into the Classic Period in the Middle Rio Grande have been relatively stagnant compared to the Northern Rio Grande, there exist several excellent and modern reports or accessible unpublished data on excavations at Alameda School Site, Paa-ko, Price, Tijeras, etc. Nevertheless, this compilation of innovative papers stands out as the premier and authoritative work on what transformations undergirded Northern Rio Grande Pueblo economic development in the Classic Period and what methodologies archaeologists can employ to elucidate these trends elsewhere.

Reframing the Northern Rio Grande Pueblo Economy is a highly valuable edited volume and a must purchase for scholars with research foci in the American Southwest/Mexican Northwest region, the application of quantitative methods, or diachronic economic transformations. Ortman and colleagues have provided a fascinating, innovative compendium that challenges the current understanding of the Northern Rio Grande Classic Period and how anthropologists should characterize and interpret socio-economic developments. I highly recommend this volume be placed on my colleagues' shelves and employed as a source of inspiration for investigations elsewhere.

NEWS AND NOTES FROM HERE AND THERE

BLM's Sale of Leases in Utah Likened to 'Fire Sale.' Conservation and tribal groups are criticizing the Bureau of Land Management for its latest oil and gas lease sale of more than 70,000 acres of public land in Utah. The sale, which occurred last week, brought in around \$1.63 million, according to the BLM, more than half of which came from 32,027 acres in San Juan County. The sale is the third since March 2018 to include land between Bears Ears and Canyon of the Ancients National Monument, much of which conservation groups say should not be leased. "This area has more archaeological sites than any other area open to oil and gas drilling in the United States," said Josh Ewing, director of Bluff-based conservation group Friends of Cedar Mesa. The BLM does not survey land for cultural artifacts prior to offering it for lease, so there's no way to know exactly what's there. But Ewing pointed to reports from archaeologists who have worked in the area to back up his claim. "Just to give you a sense, there are at least a dozen ancient community centers in this area that are larger than the largest site in Bears Ears National Monument," he added. Critics say the BLM is flooding the market with leases, which is driving prices down. <http://bit.ly/2Ly9PUJ> – KUER (NPR) by Kate Groetzing [Via *Southwest Archaeology Today*, a service of Archaeology Southwest.]

Your October Newsletter Is Early. Due to travel plans of your editor, who will be out of town at the usual distribution time, it is being sent in late September. See Calendar Check (next page) for events in late September and early October you might not want to miss.

CALENDAR CHECK EVENTS

Free Lectures

“Chocolate in Chaco and Beyond” by Patricia L. Crown at 6 pm Friday, September 27 in Anthropology Room 163 on the UNM campus. The free lecture will be followed by a fund-raising wine and chocolate reception for the Maxwell Museum. Reception tickets are \$40 from the Museum store online, or at 505-277-3700.

“Hardship, Greed and Sorrow: An Officer’s Photo Album of 1866” by Devorah Romanek at 1 pm on Saturday, October 5 at the Maxwell Museum. Lecture and book signing.

“Robinson Pueblo and the Archaeology of the Sierra Blanca, New Mexico” by Thatcher Rogers at 6:30 pm Tuesday, October 8 at the Sandia Ranger Station, Tijeras. Friends of Tijeras Pueblo Lecture Series. \$5 donation from non members.

“Chaco Canyon and the University of New Mexico: 90 years of Discovery” by Wirt “Chip” Willis at 7:30 pm Thursday, October 10 in Hibben 105 on the UNM campus.

Conferences

Southwest Kiln Conference October 4-6 at the Gila Pueblo, Besh Ba Gowah, and the Timber Camp Recreation Area of the Tonto National Forest, Globe, AZ. Further information and registration at the website swkiln.com.

21st Biennial Jornada Mogollon Conference October 11–12 at the El Paso Museum of Archaeology in El Paso, TX. Contact George Maloof at MaloofGO@elpasotexas.gov.

New Mexico Archaeology Fair Saturday October 26 at Blackwater Draw near Portales.

New Mexico Archaeological Council Fall Conference “Collaborative Archaeology, Indigenous Archaeology, and Tribal Historic Preservation in the Southwestern United States” November 9 at the Hibben Center on the UNM campus.

Southwest Mesoamerica Conference November 9-10 at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff. Scholars local to the Southwest region and working in archaeology, ethnography, art history, and other anthropological fields with a focus on Mesoamerica invited to submit a ~150-word abstract about their current research to claire.ebert@nau.edu by September 30.

ALBUQUERQUE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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2019 OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

To contact officers or committee chairs, or to change mailing or email address, email info@abqarchaeology.org or consult Membership Directory. Current members can sign up for field trips at meetings or by emailing trips@abqarchaeology.org.

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