



Indiana Jones: Myth, Reality and 21st Century Archaeology

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June 19th 2013: Assessments of Graduate Training in Archaeology: A Student Perspective

Previous programs have explored the changing realities of graduate student training in the age of applied archaeology. Our surveys and interviews concentrated on professors and principals in the applied and academic worlds. This week we take the pulse of active graduate students. What are their thoughts on training programs, the training they receive in graduate school and the pathways they see themselves following as they pursue career tracks? Do contemporary graduate programs satisfy their projected career goals? How do they project their career choices and what are their visions of a future

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Featured Guests



Kyle Bocinsky

Kyle Bocinsky is a doctoral student at Washington State University and a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow. His research focuses on computational approaches to understanding cultural evolution, and specifically cultural adaptations to environmental change. Kyle is a part of the Village Ecodynamics Project research team, which is a multi-institutional effort to better understand the famous depopulation of the Four Corners area of the US Southwest during the 13th century. He has participated in field projects in Mesa Verde National Park and elsewhere in southwestern Colorado. Kyle originally hails from Woodstock, Georgia and received his undergraduate degree in anthropology

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Esteban Fernandez

Esteban Fernandez is a recent graduate of the University of Colorado's M.A program. Throughout the past five years he worked in a wide variety of field projects in the countries of Belize, Mexico, and the United States. His main research interest lies within the region of Mesoamerica, namely the production of gold artifacts used as provincial tributary payments to the Aztec empire. For the purposes of this research he embraced a multidisciplinary approach that combined ethnohistoric, archaeological and experimental evidence. Currently, he is taking a year off from school in order to explore other career options outside of archeology.

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Erin Baxter

Erin Baxter is a doctoral student and Graduate Teaching Instructor at the University of Colorado, Boulder. Her research focus is on the Chacoan and Post Chacoan (AD 900-1200) Southwest with particular interesting in architecture and ceramics. Erin's dissertation is an examination of historic photographs taken by Earl Morris during excavations of Aztec Ruins (a post-Chacoan great house) and using them along historic documents and GIS to reconstruct a biography of Aztec Ruins. Erin was a professional archaeologist for 7 years (at Crow Canyon Archaeological Center) before returning to graduate school (for an early-midlife crisis), and has had the opportunity to work in Tunisia (Roman) Bolivia (

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