

Sarah Kurnick, Ph.D.

Department of Anthropology
University of Colorado Boulder
Hale Science 350, 1350 Pleasant Street
Boulder, CO 80309
Sarah.Kurnick@Colorado.edu

– Updated January 2019 –

Education:

- 2013 Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania, Department of Anthropology
Dissertation: *Negotiating the Contradictions of Political Authority: An Archaeological Case Study from Callar Creek, Belize*
- 2006 B.A., Haverford College, Department of Anthropology
Thesis: *The Dead are Fed with Fragrance: A Study of Maya Censers from the Guatemala Highlands*

Professional Appointments:

- 2017– Assistant Professor of Anthropology, University of Colorado Boulder,
Department of Anthropology
- 2015–17 Chancellor’s Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Colorado Boulder, Department of
Anthropology
- 2015 Postdoctoral Research Scholar, Gerda Henkel Foundation
- 2014– Consulting Scholar, University of Pennsylvania, Penn Cultural Heritage Center
- 2014–15 Adjunct Professor, Lehigh University, Department of Sociology & Anthropology
- 2013 Lecturer, University of Pennsylvania, Department of Anthropology

Publications:

Kurnick, Sarah

Forthcoming. Creating Nature in the Yucatan Peninsula: Social Inequality and the Production of Eco-Archaeological Parks. *American Anthropologist*.

Kurnick, Sarah

2019. Navigating the Past in the Aftermath of Dramatic Social Transformations: Postclassic Engagement with the Classic Period Past in the Northeast Yucatan Peninsula. *Journal of Anthropological Archaeology* 53: 51-65.

Kurnick, Sarah

2016. Competition and Conflict in the Upper Belize River Valley: Insights from the Ancient Maya Minor Center of Callar Creek, Belize. *Journal of Field Archaeology* 41(3): 297-311.

Kurnick, Sarah and Joanne Baron, eds.

2016. Political Strategies in Pre-Columbian Mesoamerica. Boulder: University Press of Colorado.

Kurnick, Sarah

2016. Paradoxical Politics: Negotiating the Contradictions of Political Authority. In Political Strategies in Pre-Columbian Mesoamerica. Sarah Kurnick and Joanne Baron, eds., Pg. 3-36. Boulder: University Press of Colorado.

Kurnick, Sarah

2015. The Origins of Extreme Economic Inequality: An Archaeologist's Take on a Contemporary Controversy. *Archaeologies: Journal of the World Archaeological Congress* 11(3): 400-416.

Kurnick, Sarah

2013. The Importance of the Past to the Ancient Maya Political Present: Recent Investigations at Callar Creek, Belize. *Research Reports in Belizean Archaeology* 10: 105-114.

Yaeger, Jason, Sarah Kurnick, Christina Dykstra, and Meaghan Peuramaki-Brown

2012. Charting the Histories of Hinterland Settlements around Buenavista del Cayo. *Research Reports in Belizean Archaeology* 9: 15-28.

Yaeger, Jason, Meaghan Peuramaki-Brown, Christina L. Dykstra, Sarah Kurnick, and Sebastian Salgado-Flores.

2011. Political Dynamics in the Mopan River Valley: Recent Research in the Buenavista del Cayo Hinterlands. *Research Reports in Belizean Archaeology* 8: 31-44.

Kurnick, Sarah

2009. Crossing Boundaries: Maya Censers from the Guatemala Highlands. *Expedition: The Magazine of the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology* 51(1): 25-32.

Book Reviews:

Kurnick, Sarah

2017. Review of Classic Maya Polities of the Southern Lowlands: Integration, Interaction, Dissolution. *American Anthropologist* 119(14): 771-772.

Kurnick, Sarah

2012. *Review of Natives, Europeans, and Africans in Colonial Campeche: History and Archaeology*. *Hispanic American Historical Review* 92(1): 178-179.

Kurnick, Sarah

2012. *Bringing Maya Sculpture to Life: Review of The Copan Sculpture Museum: Ancient Maya Artistry in Stucco & Stone*. *Expedition: The Magazine of the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology* 54(1): 52.

Grants and Fellowships

- 2017 – National Science Foundation Senior Archaeological Research Grant: “Strategies which Foster Long Term Social Stability” (\$111,921)
- 2015 National Geographic Society Committee for Research and Exploration Grant: “In the Aftermath of Collapse: Documenting the Postclassic Maya Site of Punta Laguna, Mexico” (\$11,450)
- 2015 American Philosophical Society Franklin Grant: “In the Aftermath of Collapse: Political Authority at the Postclassic Maya Site of Punta Laguna, Mexico” (\$6,000)
- 2014 Gerda Henkel Foundation Research Grant: “In the Wake of Collapse: Political Authority at the Postclassic Maya Site of Punta Laguna, Mexico” (\$5,500)
- 2012-13 National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant: “The Exercise of Political Authority at Callar Creek, Belize” (\$19,977)
- 2011 American Philosophical Society Lewis and Clark Field Scholar Grant: “Political Authority among the Ancient Maya: A Case Study from Callar Creek, Belize” (\$4,100)
- 2011-13 Dissertation Research Fellowship, School of Arts and Sciences, University of Pennsylvania (\$5,000)
- 2011-13 Junior Fellow, Louis J. Kolb Foundation (Tuition and Stipend)
- 2006-11 Benjamin Franklin and William Fontaine Fellowships, University of Pennsylvania (Tuition and Stipend)
- 2010 Dissertation Research Fellowship, School of Arts and Sciences, University of Pennsylvania (\$5,000)
- 2010 Summer Research Grant, Penn Museum (\$1,500)

- 2009 Departmental Field Funds, Department of Anthropology, University of Pennsylvania (\$2,500)
- 2009 Sorenson Student Fieldwork Fellowship, Penn Museum (\$2,250)
- 2008 Departmental Field Funds, Department of Anthropology, University of Pennsylvania (\$1,500)

Fieldwork

- 2014 – Co-Director, Punta Laguna Archaeology Project, Yucatan, Mexico
- 2010-12 Excavation Director, Callar Creek Site Core, Mopan Valley Archaeology Project, Cayo District, Belize, directed by Jason Yaeger, University of Texas at San Antonio
- 2009 Survey Crew Director, Mopan Valley Archaeology Project, Cayo District, Belize, directed by Jason Yaeger, University of Texas at San Antonio
- 2008 Excavation Supervisor, La Blanca Archaeological Project, La Blanca, Guatemala, directed by Michael Love, California State University, Northridge
- 2007 Excavation Supervisor, Proyecto Arqueológico Xuenkal, Yucatan, Mexico, directed by Traci Ardren, University of Miami, and T. Kam Manahan, Kent State University
- 2006 Project Member, South Jersey Archaeological Field Project, Vineland, NJ, directed by Robert Schuyler, University of Pennsylvania
- 2004 Project Member, Alexandria Archaeology, Excavation of a Freedmen’s Cemetery, Alexandria, VA

Courses Developed and Taught:

- Archaeological Seminar: Space and Power: Spring 2018
- Exploring a Non-Western Culture: The Maya: Fall 2017
- The Archaeology of Inequality: Fall 2017, Spring 2016, Spring 2014
- Ancient Aliens and Contemporary Archaeology: Fall 2015, Spring 2014, Fall 2013
- Four Field Introduction to Anthropology: Fall 2015
- Landscape Archaeology: Fall 2014, Spring 2019

Mesoamerican Archaeology: Fall 2014

The Development of Anthropological Theory: Fall 2013

Symposia Organized:

- 2016 Sarah Kurnick and David Rogoff, organizers. “Combating Inequality: Archaeology and the Production of Capital in the 21st Century.” Session organized at the 81st Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, Orlando, April 7
- 2013 Kurnick, Sarah, Joanne Baron, and Christa Cesario, organizers. 3rd Yucatan in Pennsylvania Roundtable, Penn Museum, Philadelphia, March 1
- 2012 Kurnick, Sarah and Joanne Baron, organizers. “Political Strategies in Pre-Columbian Mesoamerica.” Session organized at the 77th Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, Memphis, April 19

Academic Presentations:

- 2019 Community Archaeology and the Production of Space at Punta Laguna, Yucatan, Mexico. To be presented at the 84th Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, Albuquerque N.M., April 14.
- 2018 Space, Inequality, and Community Archaeology: Defying Spatial Commodification at Punta Laguna, Yucatan, Mexico. Presented at the 4th Annual Rocky Mountain Pre-Columbian Association Research Colloquium, Denver, October 13.
- 2018 Political Authority and the Creation of Wilderness: American National Parks and Mexican Eco-Archaeological Parks. Presented at the 83rd Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, Washington, D.C., April 12.
- 2017 Creating Wilderness: Yosemite National Park and Xcaret Eco-Archaeological Park. Presented at the 3rd Annual Rocky Mountain Pre-Columbian Association Research Colloquium, Denver, September 30.
- 2017 Navigating Social Memories and Reshaping Built Environments: An Analysis of Postclassic Reoccupation in the Eastern Yucatan Peninsula. Presented at the 82nd Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, Vancouver, March 31.
- 2016 Patterns of Postclassic Reoccupation in the Eastern Yucatan Peninsula. Presented at the 2nd Annual Rocky Mountain Pre-Columbian Association Research Colloquium, Denver, September 24.
- 2016 Archaeology and the Mitigation of Inequality. Presented at the Theoretical Archaeology Group (TAG) Conference, Boulder, April 24.

- 2016 Archaeology and the Production of Capital in the 21st Century. Presented at the 81st Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, Orlando, April 7
- 2015 Regeneration and Revitalization at Postclassic and Contemporary Punta Laguna, Mexico. Presented as part of the CU Boulder Archaeology Graduate Student Speaker Series, Boulder, November 13
- 2015 The Creation of Maya Political Landscapes in Postclassic Yucatan. Presented at the 1st Annual Rocky Mountain Pre-Columbian Association Research Colloquium, Denver, September 26
- 2015 Discordant Relationships: Household and Community at Callar Creek, Belize. Presented at the 80th Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology as part of “From Households to Communities: Bridging Scales in Search of Conflict, Coalescence, and Communitas,” organized by Cameron Wesson and Adam King, San Francisco, April 18
- 2014 Contradictions, Inconsistencies, and Incongruities: The Paradoxes of Ancient Maya Political Authority. Presented at the 2014 University of Chicago Society of Fellows Weissbourd conference, Chicago, May 10
- 2014 The End of Political Authority at Callar Creek, Belize. Presented at the 79th Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, Austin, April 26
- 2013 A Different Vision of Ancient Maya Politics: A Look at Political Strategies at the “Minor Center” of Callar Creek, Belize. Presented at the 78th Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, Honolulu, April 5
- 2013 The Politicization of the Past: An Ancient Maya Case Study. Presented at the 3rd Yucatan in Pennsylvania Roundtable, Philadelphia, March 1
- 2012 The Importance of the Past to the Ancient Maya Political Present: Recent Investigations at Callar Creek, Belize. Presented at the 10th Annual Belize Archaeology Symposium, San Ignacio, Belize, June 27
- 2012 How Rulers Rule: Negotiating the Contradictions of Political Authority. Presented at the 77th Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, Memphis, April 19
- 2011 Political Authority among the Ancient Maya: 2010 Excavations at Callar Creek, Belize. Presented at the Penn Museum Scholars Lecture Series, Philadelphia, April 6
- 2011 Political Authority among Ancient Maya Mid-Level Elites: 2010 Excavations at Callar Creek, Belize. Presented at the 76th Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, Sacramento, March 31

- 2011 Power and Authority among the Ancient Maya: A View from the Middle. Presented at the 2nd Yucatan in Pennsylvania Roundtable, State College, February 24
- 2010 Women in Stone: Understanding the Classic Period Maya Female Ajaws. Presented at the 75th Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, St. Louis, April 15
- 2010 Women in Stone: A Consideration of Female Rulership among the Classic Period Maya. Presented at the Penn Museum's 28th Annual Maya Weekend, Philadelphia, April 10
- 2009 Centering the Universe: A Triadic Stone Sphere Cache from La Blanca, Guatemala. Presented at the 74th Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, Atlanta, April 23
- 2009 Nourishing the Dead and the Divine: A Look at the UPM Burkitt Censers. Presented at the Penn Museum's 27th Annual Maya Weekend, Philadelphia, April 4

Public Lectures

- 2019 Ancient Aliens and Contemporary Archaeology. To be presented as part of the CU on the Weekend programming, Boulder, March 16.
- 2016 Assembling the Past and Altering the Future: Memory Construction and Collaborative Archaeology at Punta Laguna, Mexico. Presented as part of the Archaeological Institute of America Boulder Chapter Lecture Series, Boulder, April 13
- 2016 Archaeology for the People. Presented as part of the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP) Faculty Meet and Greet. University of Colorado, Boulder, January 21
- 2014 Razing the Roof: Acts of Purposeful Destruction in the Belize River Valley. Presented at Voices of the Past: Maya Research Today, Philadelphia, March 15
- 2012 The Truth about the Ancient Maya. Presented as part of the "Maya 101" programming associated with the "Maya 2012: Lords of Time" exhibit at the Penn Museum, Philadelphia, April 14
- 2012 The Ancient Maya and Contemporary America. Lecture presented to the docents of the "Maya 2012: Lords of Time" exhibit as part of a training session at the Penn Museum, Philadelphia, March 21

Research Reports

Kurnick, Sarah and David Rogoff

2018. Proyecto Arqueológico Punta Laguna: Informe Parcial de la Temporada 2018 para el Consejo Nacional de Arqueología de México.

Kurnick, Sarah and David Rogoff

2017. Proyecto Arqueológico Punta Laguna: Informe Parcial de la Temporada 2017 para el Consejo Nacional de Arqueología de México.

Kurnick, Sarah and David Rogoff

2016. Final Report on the Punta Laguna Archaeology Project's 2015-2016 Fieldwork. Submitted to the National Geographic Society.

Kurnick, Sarah and David Rogoff

2014. Final Report on the 2014 Field Season of the Punta Laguna Archaeology Project. Submitted to the Gerda Henkel Foundation.

Kurnick, Sarah

2012. Laboratory Analysis of Artifacts from the Callar Creek Site Core. *In* The Mopan Valley Archaeology Project: Results of the 2012 Season. Jason Yaeger, ed. Submitted to the Belize Institute of Archaeology, National Institute of Culture and History, Belmopan, Belize.

Kurnick, Sarah and Alexander Hulse

2011. Continued Investigations in the Callar Creek Site Core. *In* The Mopan Valley Archaeology Project: Results of the 2011 Season. Jason Yaeger, ed. Submitted to the Belize Institute of Archaeology, National Institute of Culture and History, Belmopan, Belize.

Kurnick, Sarah

2010. Investigations in the Callar Creek Site Core. *In* The Mopan Valley Archaeology Project: Results of the 2010 Season. Jason Yaeger, ed. Submitted to the Belize Institute of Archaeology, National Institute of Culture and History, Belmopan, Belize.

Kurnick, Sarah

2009. Opportunistic Survey of the Area North of the Callar Creek Settlement Zone. *In* The Mopan Valley Archaeology Project: Results of the 2009 Season. Jason Yaeger, ed. Submitted to the Belize Institute of Archaeology, National Institute of Culture and History, Belmopan, Belize.

Professional Service:

2016- Peer Reviewer, National Science Foundation

2016- Peer Reviewer, National Geographic Society

2016- Peer Reviewer, Expedition Magazine

- 2018- University of Colorado Boulder Center to Advance Research and Teaching in the Social Sciences (CARTSS) Steering Committee Member
- 2017- University of Colorado Boulder Department of Anthropology Curriculum Committee Member
- 2017- University of Colorado Boulder Department of Anthropology Space Committee Member

- 2017- Ph.D. Committee Member (Pascale Meehan, CU Boulder Anthropology)
- 2017- Ph.D. Committee Member (Vanessa Monson, CU Boulder Anthropology)
- 2017-2018 M.A. Committee Member (Samantha Linford, CU Boulder Anthropology)
- 2017-2018 B.A. Honors Thesis Committee Member (Rachael Wedemeyer, CU Boulder Anthropology)

Other Experience:

- 2010-11 Museum Outreach Assistant to the Andrew W. Mellon Associate Deputy Director of the Penn Museum, Philadelphia, PA

- 2010-12 Development Assistant, “Maya 2012: Lords of Time” exhibit, Penn Museum, Philadelphia, PA

- 2009-10 Publications Assistant, Quirigua Publication Project, American Section, Penn Museum, Philadelphia, PA

- 2010 Consultant, University of Delaware Pre-Columbian Study Days, University of Delaware University Museum, Newark, DE

- 2005 Intern, Department of Anthropology, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.

- 2003 Intern, Native American Awards Program, Department of Anthropology, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington D.C.

Professional Memberships:

- American Anthropological Association
- Society for American Archaeology