

CHRIS THORNOCK



EDUCATION:

2009 - MA, Anthropology, University of South Carolina
2001 - BA, Anthropology, Georgia Southern University

SUBFIELD:

Archaeology

RESEARCH INTERESTS:

Architecture, the Built Environment, and the Mental and Physical Production of Space
Mississippian Religions, Ideologies, and Power Structures, and the Physical Manifestations of These
Inequality, Symbolic Power, and Hegemony
Mississippian Communities and the Communities of Their Descendant Populations
Occupations of the Savannah River Valley
GIS Analysis of Archaeological Sites

THESIS:

AN ANALYSIS OF ARCHITECTURE AND POWER IN THE CEREMONIAL CENTERS OF THE SOUTH
APPALACHIAN MISSISSIPPIAN BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Thesis Abstract:

Mississippian society had a hierarchical structure of capital distribution and leadership. The construction of ceremonial space in the Mississippian built environment was used in the production and maintenance of inequality, and was constructed at multiple scales that reflected Mississippian ideology. The repetitive structure constructed across the landscape reinforced the Mississippian religious idea of inequality of space. Elites benefited from the inequality of space by maintaining control over the symbolically important spaces that allowed elites to control access not only to sacred spaces but also to knowledge. Access to sacred space and knowledge were two means of producing symbolic capital. By limiting access to symbolic capital to an elite minority, elites maintained the symbolic power needed to rule the community by consent. In this thesis I examine two Mississippian towns to demonstrate how the construction of ceremonial space was used in the production and maintenance of inequality.

Thesis Committee:

Gail E. Wagner
Adam King
Ann Kingsolver

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS:

Identity and Meaning in Mississippian Female Regalia

Paper presented with Johann Sawyer (Texas State University / University of South Carolina) at the 65th Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Archaeological Conference in Charlotte, North Carolina, examining the function of female regalia and symbols in the social context of late prehistoric southeastern societies. (2008)

Archaeogeophysics at Etowah Indian Mounds State Park

Poster presented with Chester P. Walker, Adam King, Duncan P. McKinnon, at the 73rd Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology in Vancouver, Canada, describing the recent archaeogeophysical work conducted at the Etowah mound site. (2008)

Landscapes of the Mississippian Built Environment

Paper presented at the 34th Annual Meeting of the Archaeological Society of South Carolina in Columbia, South Carolina, examining the construction of space and social organization in late prehistoric southeastern societies. (2008)

Native American Children and the Introduction of Social Action Archaeology

Paper presented at the University of South Carolina Women's and Gender Studies Conference in Columbia, South Carolina, recounting the historical experiences of Native American children in boarding schools at the turn of the century and how the discipline of archaeology might be used as a political tool to rectify past injustices. (2007)

The Search for Mason's Plantation

Paper presented at the 62nd Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Archaeological Conference in Columbia, South Carolina, recounting the history, rediscovery, and ongoing field research at the Mississippian mound site of Mason's Plantation. (2005)

Crewsing for a Bruising

Paper co-authored with Tammy R. Forehand and presented at the Annual Meeting of the Archaeological Society of South Carolina in Columbia, South Carolina, recounting the history, rediscovery, and exploration conducted at the Confederate fortification site along the Lower Three Runs Creek in Allendale County, South Carolina, manned by Col. Crews, CSA. (2005)

Results of Site Survey and Testing of Fort Moore, 2001-2002

Paper co-authored with Mark Groover and Geoff Hughes and presented at the 2003 Society for Georgia Archaeology Spring Meeting in Jekyll Island, Georgia, and the 60th Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Archaeological Conference in Charlotte, North Carolina, recounting the survey, testing and artifact analysis of the colonial site of Fort Moore along the Savannah River. (2003)

EXPERIENCE:

Program Chair and Organizer of the 35th Annual Conference of the Archaeological Society of South Carolina

Organized the preparation and conduction of the Conference including the organization of presenters, Anthropology Department Colloquium, and ASSC Banquet. (April 3rd and 4th 2009)
Archaeological Society of South Carolina
George Stubbs, President

Graduate Research Assistant

Part time position with the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology conducting research and fieldwork in the Southeastern United States while in Graduate School at the University of South Carolina.

(August 2006 – 2010)
South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology
Dr. Charlie Cobb, Director

Research Assistant, Mississippian Iconographic Conference

Organization and facilitation of research data and materials during the Mississippian Iconographic Conference in San Marcos, Texas.

(2008)

Center for the Study of Arts and Symbolism of Ancient America
Dr. F. Kent Reilly, Director

President of Anthropology Graduate Organization for Research Action and Ethics (AGORAE)

Organized and presided over the first year of the graduate organization in the Department of Anthropology at the University of South Carolina.

(January 2008 – December 2008)

University of South Carolina
Dr. Joanna Casey, Graduate Director

Assistant Director of Field Survey & GIS Database Manager

Full time position at The Savannah River Archaeological Research Program conducting survey, testing, mapping, excavations, artifact analysis, and research on the Savannah River Site and around South Carolina and Georgia.

(July 2002 - 2006)

Savannah River Archaeological Research Program
South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology
University of South Carolina
Dr. Mark J. Brooks, Director

Assistant Collections Manager

Part time position at Georgia Southern Museum cataloging, locating, storing, and maintaining all the collections of the museum.

(2002)

Georgia Southern Museum
Georgia Southern University
Dr. Brent Tharp, Director

Museum Instructor and Tour Guide

Part time position at Georgia Southern Museum teaching children, pre-k thru middle school, about such topics as Native Americans and fossils, giving tours, aiding in the setup and breakdown of exhibits and general maintenance of the museum.

(1999-2001)

Georgia Southern Museum
Georgia Southern University
Dr. Brent Tharp, Director

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:

Anthropology Graduate Organization for Research Action and Ethics (AGORAE)
Archaeological Society of South Carolina (ASSC)
Savannah River Archaeological Research Program (SRARP)
Society for Georgia Archaeology (SGA)
South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology (SCIAA)
Southeastern Archaeological Conference (SEAC)

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