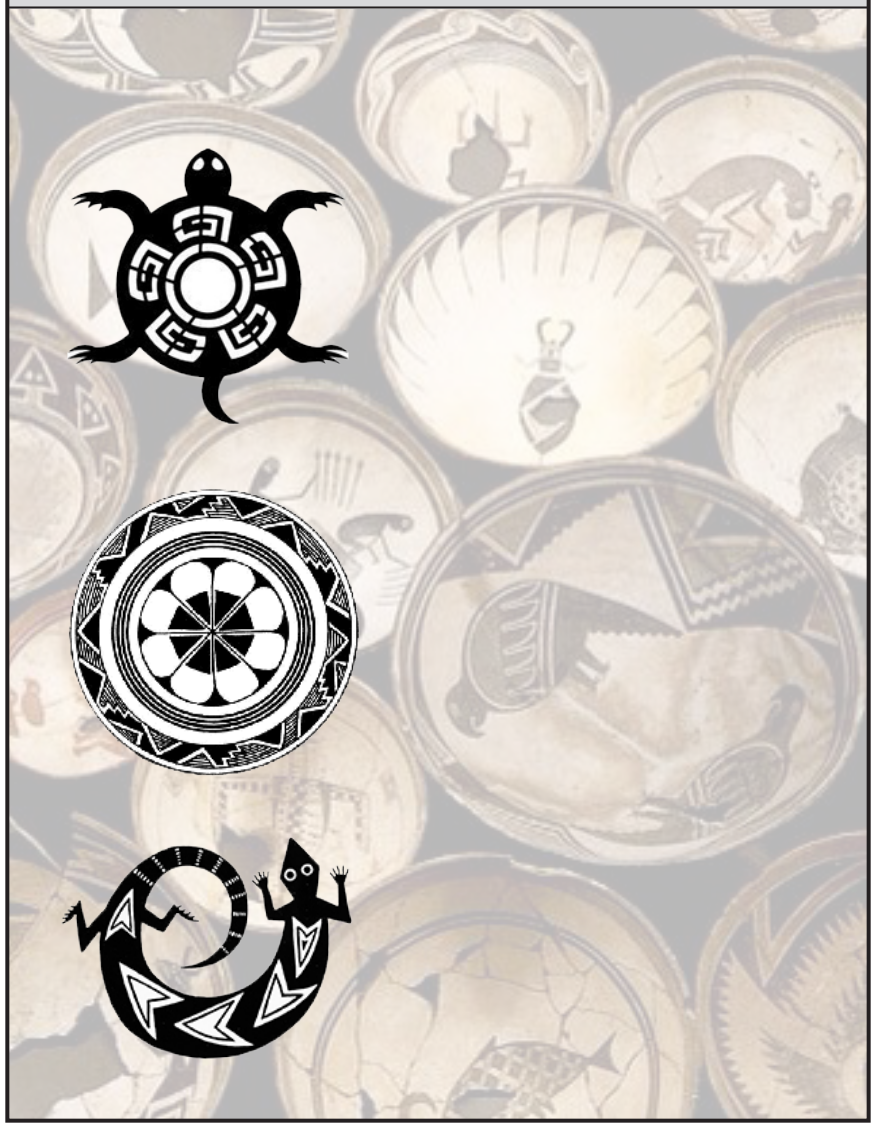
21st Biennial Mogollon Archaeology Conference

Tucson, Arizona
November 3–5, 2022



21st Biennial Mogollon Archaeology Conference Program

Thursday, November 3, 2022

5:00 pm Reception, Archaeology Southwest

Friday, November 4, 2022

8:00 am Registration Desk Opens

8:15 am Welcoming Remarks, Michael W. Diehl

Session 1, Special Session: Investigations at the Elk Ridge Site, Grant County, New Mexico

8:20 am Summary of Excavations at Elk Ridge
Barbara J. Roth & Darrell Creel

8:40 am Gila National Forest Elk Ridge Ruin Preservation Efforts 1989-2022
Christopher D. Adams & Belinda Mollard

9:00 am The Architecture of Elk Ridge
Darrell Creel, Danielle Romero, & Barbara J. Roth

9:20 am From Pots to Potters: The Ceramics from the Elk Ridge Site
Danielle Romero

9:40 am Investigating Lithic Technology at the Elk Ridge Site
J. Dylan Person & Barbara J. Roth

10:00 am BREAK

10:20 am Paleoethnobotany of the Elk Ridge Site
Michael W. Diehl

10:40 am Classic Period Faunal Use at the Elk Ridge Site
Virginia Lucas

11:00 am An Assessment of Biological and Mortuary Indicators from the Burials at Elk Ridge
Kathryn Baustian

11:20 am Elk Ridge: New Insights from Ongoing Analyses
Judith Berryman & Karl Laumbach

11:40 am The Elk Ridge Community
Barbara J. Roth, Danielle Romero, & Scott Nicolay

12:00 pm LUNCH BREAK

Session 2: General Session

2:00 pm Corn Grinding Stations at Point of Pines
Patrick D. Lyons, Don L. Burgess, Virginia W. Jones, & Marilyn M. Marshall

2:20 pm Paleopathology and Prehistoric Turkey Management at Point of Pines
Amanda Semanko & Martin H. Welker

2:40 pm What We Have Learned from Emil Haury's Field Notes at Mogollon Village
Patricia A. Gilman & Lori Barkwell Love

3:00 pm Out of the Blue: Revisiting Walter Hough's "Great Sacred Cave in Eastern Arizona"
Scott Nicolay

3:20 pm BREAK

3:40 pm Human Securities, Sustainability, and Migration in the Ancient U.S. Southwest and Mexican Northwest
Scott E. Ingram & Shelby Patrick

4:00 pm T-Doors in the North American Southwest: The Case for a Mesoamerican Origin
Marc Collins

4:20 pm New Data about the Ariabi Sites and the Selena Obsidian Source in Sonora, Mexico
Jupiter M. Ramirez

4:40 pm Reframing "The Land Between": Hohokam and Mogollon in Southeastern Arizona
Thatcher Rogers

Saturday, November 5, 2022

8:00 am Registration Desk Opens

Session 3: General Session

8:20 am Archaeological Investigation on the Georgetown Phase Great Kiva at Twin Pine Village in the Gila Forks Region
Fumi Arakawa

8:40 am A Zooarchaeological Study of Biodiversity at Twin Pines Village (LA75947) and South Diamond Creek Pueblo (LA181756), Gila Forks Region, New Mexico
Kailey Martinez

9:00 am Results of Our First Season of Work at the Agape Acres Site, a Black Mountain Phase Pueblo in the Lower Mimbres Valley
Robert Stokes, Cash Ficke, & Joanna Schultz

9:20 am Salado Archaeology: A View from the Upper Gila of Southwest New Mexico
Karen Gust Schollmeyer & Jeffery J. Clark

9:40 am Interaction at the Foot of Tonuco Mountain between the Southern Jornada and Eastern Mimbres Branches of the Mogollon: The Case of LA6340
Paul M. Miller

10:00 am BREAK

10:20 am Villa Ahumada Polychrome Black on Buff and Black on White Slip Discovery
R. G. Wakeland

10:40 am The Social Networks of Classic Period Decorated Mimbres Pottery
David Lewandowski

11:00 am Kill Holes in Context: A Study of Post-firing Modification in the Mimbres Area
Rebecca J. Harkness

11:20 am Rites of Passage in Site Closure
William H. Walker & Judith Berryman

11:40 am The Pithouse Period at Cañada Alamosa
Karl W. Laumbach & Toni S. Laumbach

12:00 pm LUNCH BREAK

1:45 pm Business: Acknowledgments, Vote for Location of 22nd Mogollon Conference (2024)

Session 4: General Session

2:00 pm The Mogollon Rim Experience: Observations of Change from the Carrizo to Linden Phase
Abigail R. Dockter & Sara Stauffer

2:20 pm Understanding Architecture, Identity, and Behavior in AD 500 to 700 Communal Structures within the American Southwest
Aimee Oliver-Bozeman

2:40 pm Lion's Den Cave: A Rock Art Site in the East Potrillo Mountains, New Mexico
Andrew Wright

3:00 pm BREAK

Session 5: Special Session

3:20 pm A Roundtable Discussion of Mogollon Archaeology Going Forward with Q&A
Roger Anyon, Karl Laumbach, Patrick Lyons, Barbara Mills, Barbara Roth, Harry Shafer, & Karen Schollmeyer

5:00 pm ADJOURN

6:00 pm Happy Hour and Dinner, El Charro Cafe
When is a Keynote Speaker not a Keynote Speaker?
Michael W. Diehl

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ADAMS, CHRISTOPHER D. & MOLLARD, BELINDA C.
Gila National Forest

Gila National Forest Elk Ridge Ruin Preservation Efforts 1989-2022

Elk Ridge Ruin is a large Classic Mimbres 100+ room pueblo that was covered by several meters of alluvium for the last 900 years. In 1989, the private land portion of Elk Ridge Ruin was looted by a landowner. That portion of Elk Ridge Ruin on the Gila National Forest, however, remained pristine until monsoon rains exposed portions of it. From 1990 through 2014, attempts by the Gila National Forest Heritage Team to protect the exposed Mimbres rooms failed. It was decided that emergency excavation was warranted. From 2015 through 2018, the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, under the direction of Dr. Barbara Roth, excavated the exposed rooms. All excavation areas were backfilled and protected by several rows of gabion baskets. The Gila National Forest Heritage Program along with New Mexico Site Watch and Grant County Archaeological Society volunteers monitor the site monthly.

ARAKAWA, FUMI
New Mexico State University

Archaeological Investigation on the Georgetown Phase Great Kiva at Twin Pines Village in the Gila Forks Region

This presentation details ongoing archaeological field research at the Twin Pines Village site in the Gila Forks region and presents new discoveries from the recently excavated Georgetown Phase great kiva. Twin Pines Village is distinct in that it contains both an extensive pithouse and Classic Mimbres component. In 2021, the Department of Anthropology at New Mexico State University conducted an intensive, three-week archaeological field school at the site with a focus on the great kiva. Because the kiva is larger than many Georgetown Phase great kivas discovered in the Mogollon-Mimbres region, I hypothesize that more people inhabited the Gila Forks region than the Mimbres River Valley, Upper Gila, and Eastern Mimbres from AD 550 to 650. This presentation concludes with a discussion of population interaction between those who inhabited the Twin Pines Village site and people in the other areas of the Mogollon-Mimbres region and beyond.

BAUSTIAN, KATHRYN
Skidmore College

An Assessment of Biological and Mortuary Indicators from the Burials at Elk Ridge

Fifty individuals were excavated from 41 burials over four years of excavations at the Elk Ridge site in the Upper Mimbres River Valley. Ages of the dead ranged from newborn to old adult, and both sexes were represented. As a whole, mortuary treatments did not deviate from typical Classic Mimbres patterns, although some burials varied in specific ways that indicate special identities, roles, or status. Among these were higher numbers of jewelry items for subadults, the presence of nonlocal ceramic vessels, and the location of graves within superimposed rooms. The data reveal a level of subtle complexity in Mimbres cultural interactions and offer new ways of contemplating community social dynamics and lived experiences.

BERRYMAN, JUDY & LAUMBACH, KARL
Human Systems Research, Inc.

Elk Ridge: New Insights from Ongoing Analyses

Elk Ridge (LA 78963) is a large Late Pithouse to Classic period site on the west fork of the Mimbres River. The site is on U.S. Forest Service land, as well as at least three parcels of privately owned land. The private landowners discovered the presence of the ruins in 1989 and began massive mechanical looting of the site. After the burial law went into effect, sporadic digging continued until a two-acre parcel of land was sold to the Russells in 1990. Subsequent salvage efforts coordinated by Human Systems Research, Inc. led to the excavation of 14 whole and 27 partial rooms. A synthesis of basic data was presented at the 2018 Mogollon Conference. Ongoing room and artifact analyses have indicated the presence of at least three kivas or community rooms. This presentation will focus on the structure and contents of these data from these structures.

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CALLIS, MARC
University of Arizona

T-Doors in the North American Southwest: The Case for a Mesoamerican Origin

Although the North American Southwest is not considered part of Mesoamerica, contact between the two areas was frequent and extensive. T-shapes encountered in Southwestern ceremonial architecture after AD 1000 are a result of that contact. The T-shape represents the Mayan glyph Ik'—one of several Mayan motifs and rain iconography that spread to other areas. T-shaped architectural iconography is found throughout the Mayan area and Central Mexico, including the Terminal Classic mega mouth doors of the Yucatan Peninsula, especially during the late Classic at Palenque. Given the similarity of Palenque's Ik' iconography to that of the Southwest compared with other Ik's in the Mayan area, and the fact that Palenque, because of its water and geographical setting, is uniquely spectacular among Mayan sites, it is conceivable that the model for the specific manifestations of Ik' in Southwestern architecture comes from Palenque.

CREEL, DARRELL
University of Texas, Austin

ROMERO, DANIELLE
Western New Mexico University Museum

ROTH, BARBARA J.
University of Nevada, Las Vegas

The Architecture of Elk Ridge

Excavations at Elk Ridge between 2015 and 2018 identified 17 adobe and cobble-adobe pueblo rooms, a Late Pithouse period pithouse, a ramada, a turkey pen, several other extramural features, and a midden. Key architectural features, including a substantial amount of remodeling and reuse, document the long-term use of some pueblo rooms and indicate the presence of founding households within the roomblock. In this presentation, we discuss the architectural changes that occurred through time. We propose a building sequence that illustrates the growth of the roomblock and potential familial relationships.

DIEHL, MICHAEL W.
Desert Archaeology, Inc.

Paleoethnobotany of the Elk Ridge Site

In 75 flotation samples from the Elk Ridge site, I observed 18 food plant taxa and 10 wood charcoal taxa. Seed and maize cupule recovery rates were excellent. Charred plant macroremains indicate a strong emphasis on crops, including beans, maize, and squash, affiliated high-density weeds, and locally available arboreal foods. All wood charcoal types were from floodplain and nearby ridgetop locations. The assemblage is consistent with heavy reliance on agricultural crops and agricultural spaces and with use of the most productive wild food plant types. The most abundant wood charcoal types were juniper, mountain mahogany, oak, and pine; cottonwood/willow was nearly absent. The dearth of floodplain arboreal plants is consistent with Minnis' observation that Classic Mimbres occupations in the Mimbres Valley may have seen a reduction in floodplain arboreal cover associated with heavy reliance on agriculture.

DOCKTER, ABIGAIL R.
Harris Environmental Group

STAUFFER, SARA
Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests

The Mogollon Rim Experience: Observations of Change from the Carrizoa to Linden Phase

The 2002 Rodeo-Chediski Fire was the largest wildfire in Arizona up to that time, burning more than 166,000 acres of the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests and impacting thousands of cultural resources. A recent re-examination of the Rodeo-Chediski burn scar resulted in more than 50,000 acres of archaeological survey, producing a large-scale data assemblage. This work provides the opportunity to examine communities associated with Great Kivas in the Mogollon Rim region, as well as how they transitioned after the Chacoan system collapsed and Great Kiva use declined in the area. Changes in community structure are evident in architecture, in the scale and location of individual sites, and in cultural material such as the development and production of local pottery. Using recent data collected from archeological sites in the region, we will investigate the Carrizo to Linden Phase transition from dispersed farming communities centered on Great Kivas to populations aggregated in pueblos in the late AD 1200s.

GILMAN, PATRICIA A.
University of Oklahoma

LOVE, LORI BARKWILL
University of Texas, Austin

What We Have Learned from Haury's Field Notes on Mogollon Village

Emil Haury helped define the Mogollon culture in the 1930s based on excavations at Mogollon village and the Harris site in southwestern New Mexico. His field notes and maps, however, contain much more information than he published in his monograph on the sites. Our presentation focuses on Mogollon village and what we have learned from those field notes and maps. Specifically, even though it is primarily an Early (AD 200-750) and Middle (AD 750-800/850) Pit Structure period site, we note that Mogollon village has two possible plazas that are surrounded by pit structures. As well, some pit structures were never finished, and there is one much later pit structure at the site. Haury excavated very few burials, with only one being inside a structure, suggesting that people were quite mobile. Haury's field notes have opened new interpretations of the site, and his data support recent analyses of mobility during these periods.

HARKNESS, REBECCA J.
University of Arizona

"Kill Holes" in Context: A Study of Post-firing Modification in the Mimbres Area

Mimbres Classic Black-on-white is the hallmark of the Mimbres Classic period (AD 1000–1130) in prehispanic Southwest New Mexico. Bowls from this region are often marked by a practice in which holes, often called "kill holes," are deliberately punched out of the bottom. Deliberate holes are found across sites in the Mimbres archaeological region, and many explanations for this practice have been proposed, primarily associating the hole with burial rituals. This study analyzes the intra-site context in which these bowls are found within five sites using the Mimbres Pottery Image Digital Database and museum collections. Exploratory data analysis shows bowls with deliberate holes are placed in burials at significantly higher rates. Bowls with deliberate holes found outside of burial contexts were found in disturbed contexts and rooms that had burials. Understanding the context in which bowls with deliberate holes are found has important implications for how we study and display these artifacts.

INGRAM, SCOTT E.
Colorado College

PATRICK, SHELBY
University of Toronto

Human Securities, Sustainability, and Migration in the Ancient U.S. Southwest and Mexican Northwest

In the US Southwest and Mexican Northwest, tens of thousands of people were on the move in the 1200s through 1400s CE. By the end of the 1400s, regional-scale population levels had declined by about 50 percent. What conditions led to this pulse of migration and depopulation? Through a meta-analysis of subregional archaeological studies, we show the distribution, intensity, and variation in social and environmental conditions within eight culture areas (including Mogollon) prior to depopulation. As these conditions, identified as human insecurities by the UN Development Programme, worsened, the speed of depopulation increased. As insecurities increased, migration increased, and the sustainability of places decreased. Population decline was not the result of a single disturbance, such as drought, to the regional system; it was a spatially patterned, multigenerational decline in human security. A mechanism for the progressive north to south regional-scale depopulation is a contagion of migration-induced human insecurity.

LAUMBACH, KARL W. & LAUMBACH, TONI S.
Human Systems Research, Inc.

The Pithouse Period at Cañada Alamosa

The end of the Archaic period saw 200 years of stable climatic conditions followed by 200 years of severe drought. Populations in the Cañada Alamosa continued growing corn but established small fortified villages on defensible positions, presumably to defend their limited resources. Circa AD 600, the skies filled with clouds, and a wet cycle allowed agriculture to rebound. Artifacts and recovered corn cobs reflect successful corn agriculture, setting the stage for the succeeding pueblo periods. The pithouse villagers at Cañada Alamosa were linked by architecture, ceramics, and kinship to both the Mogollon and Ancestral Pueblo regions. What is truly surprising is the areal extent of these connections across central New Mexico. These connections faded by the middle of the ninth century as the canyon was depopulated just as the Medieval Warm Period was propelling the Southwestern centers of Mimbres and Chaco into unparalleled growth.

LEWANDOWSKI, DAVID
Logan Simpson Design

The Social Networks of Classic Period Decorated Mimbres Pottery

This paper uses the Neutron Activation Analysis (NAA) dataset that has been compiled for decorated pottery within the Mimbres region to conduct Social Network Analysis (SNA) for the Classic period. The use of NAA data to build social networks allows for previously established SNA methods to be used within a region and temporal period that lacked diversity in ceramic wares. Recent Mimbres NAA and pottery studies provide a context of production, distribution, and social significance from which to view the networks. This study uses network analysis to examine the distribution of decorated pottery across the Mimbres region, identifies subregional networks, explores site centrality within the network, and examines the geospatial relationship of sites within the network. The paper demonstrates the applicability of SNA as a tool for examining the production and distribution of pottery within the Mimbres region, as well as the viability of NAA data for building such networks.

LUCAS, VIRGINIA
University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Classic Period Faunal Use at the Elk Ridge Site

Excavations from the 2017 University of Nevada, Las Vegas Field School at the Elk Ridge site yielded a large number of faunal remains. One aspect of the zooarchaeological analysis examines subsistence trends through time. This paper examines the faunal trends and changes as a shift occurred from transitional pithouses to pueblos. Zooarchaeological analyses such as species diversity, seasonality, and taxonomic abundance as well as the Artiodactyl, Lagomorph, and Turkey Indices provide a greater understanding of subsistence trends and occupation at the site.

**LYONS, PATRICK D., BURGESS, DON L.
JOHNS, VIRGINIA W., & MARSHALL, MARILYN M.**
Arizona State Museum

Corn-grinding Stations at Point of Pines

A long-standing research focus in the archaeology of the Point of Pines region has been understanding interactions between immigrants from the Kayenta region, who arrived during the Maverick Mountain phase (traditionally dated circa 1265–1300), and local groups. Recent work has been devoted to better identifying traces of the immigrant population and refining the chronology associated with its arrival. In this paper, we reexamine information about corn-grinding stations documented at sites in the Point of Pines region and reevaluate a model previously used to explain differences in technological style among these features, from site to site and through time. Using recently published tree-ring dates and information not previously considered, including data associated with the Maverick Mountain phase pithouse occupation at Point of Pines Pueblo, AZ W:10:50(ASM), and AZ W:10:51(ASM), we offer an alternative model. We conclude with a call for additional data that might either support or contradict this new model.

MARTINEZ, KAILEY
New Mexico State University

A Zooarchaeological Study of Biodiversity at Twin Pines Village (LA75947) and South Diamond Creek Pueblo (LA181756), Gila Forks Region, New Mexico

This thesis project was a zooarchaeological study of the Twin Pines Village (TPV) (LA75947) and South Diamond Creek Pueblo (SDCP) (LA181756) faunal assemblages. Both sites are within the forests of the Gila National Forest, Gila Wilderness, and Aldo Leopold Wilderness in western New Mexico. These two Classic Mimbres period (AD 1000–1130) assemblages were compared to one another and similarly dated assemblages from the Mimbres River Valley and eastern Mimbres area to observe if TPV and SDCP had similar taxonomic abundance trends that may elucidate subsistence practices and eventual migration into lower elevations of the Mimbres cultural region. Data interpretation pulled from resilience theory, source-sink dynamics, and prey choice models and signified that TPV and SDCP had faunal abundance trends, high artiodactyl and low lagomorph abundance, differing from sites in the lower regions during the Classic Mimbres period.

MILLER, PAUL M.
Westland Engineering and Environmental Consultants

Interaction at the Foot of Tonuco Mountain between the Southern Jornada and Eastern Mimbres Branches of the Mogollon: The Case of LA 6340

For more than 75 years, archaeologists have classified discriminate aspects of the Mogollon culture into regionally distinct branches chiefly based upon ceramic traditions. Over time, however, regional boundaries have grown less rigid, and the area encompassed by the Mimbres branch has extended eastward from the Gila and Mimbres rivers to the east bank of the Rio Grande. Recent data work at LA 6340—a site at the east foot of Tonuco Mountain and looking west over the Rio Grande valley—may further expand the overlap between the Southern Jornada and Eastern Mimbres. Excavation of several features along a narrow corridor through this site has revealed significant interaction between the Southern Jornada and Eastern Mimbres branches. In this paper, we examine some of these features and their associated artifacts and present some preliminary interpretations regarding the place of LA 6340 among the wider scholarly discussion of Mogollon cultural branches.

OLIVER-BOZEMAN, AIMEE
New Mexico State University

Understanding Architecture, Identity, and Behavior in AD 500 to 700 Communal Structures within the American Southwest

This study focuses on great kivas occupied between AD 500 and 700 in the Mimbres-Mogollon and Ancestral Puebloan cultural regions. I inquire if the early Pithouse period great kivas found in the Mimbres region differ from the Basketmaker III great kivas found in Ancestral Puebloan sites. If architectural styles from those two regions represent different elements, it indicates distinct cultural developments: specifically, ethnogenesis (the formation and development of an ethnic group). Although numerous great kivas have been studied in Ancestral Puebloan and Mimbres-Mogollon sites, this study focuses on a single temporal time frame, which enables us to comprehend a larger picture of communal structures from two different regions (AD 500–700). For further research, communal structures outside of AD 500–700 will be required to gain a better understanding of whether the architectural elements of great kivas indicate the concept of ethnogenesis.

NICOLAY, SCOTT
University of California, Merced

Out of the Blue: Revisiting Walter Hough's "Great Sacred Cave in Eastern Arizona"

Archaeologist Walter Hough spent 10 days in 1905 excavating a remarkable cave in a side canyon of the Blue River in eastern Arizona. Of the many sites Hough visited during this expedition, none made a deeper impression on him than Bear Creek Cave. Hough felt he had arrived "not a moment too soon," as vandals and looters had begun destroying and removing artifacts from the cave over a decade earlier. Although more than a century has elapsed since Hough's excavations, neither the extensive assemblage he recovered there nor the cave itself have received much attention from the archaeological community, and the lack of diagnostic ceramics from the site has frustrated attempts to identify its cultural affiliations. This paper presents new information from personal observations, unpublished material from Hough's archives, and other comparative data that suggest the site may have been used by people from the nearby Gila Mimbres area.

PERSON, J. DYLAN & ROTH, BARBARA J.
University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Investigating Lithic Technology at the Elk Ridge Site

UNLV's excavations at the Elk Ridge site have identified a series of pueblo rooms that represent chronological change and architectural modification through time, including a Transitional phase pithouse that links the Classic period occupation with an earlier chronological component. In addition, a large extramural area and midden were associated with these indoor contexts. In this paper, we present the results of the analysis of lithic tools, cores, and debitage found in this variety of site contexts. We discuss the various activities these artifacts represent and examine the role of lithic technology during the life history of Elk Ridge. We particularly focus on how people living at Elk Ridge incorporated stone tools into their daily lives and explore if this changed through time.

RAMÍREZ, JÚPITER MARTÍNEZ
Centro INAH, Sonora

New Data about the Aribabi Sites and the Selene Obsidian Source in Sonora, Mexico

The selene obsidian source is located around the Aribabi small modern town settled on Huachinera municipality, upper Bavispe River in the state of Sonora. This source was poorly used by Casas Grandes communites in the Medio Period, but in contrast, the local sites perfectly fit as Casas Grandes with ceramics and architecture. One of them (el pueblito) has impressive size and complexity with two jacal compounds with more than 60 rooms each but very low obsidian, and there are other small sites with plenty of obsidian nodules. What is happening on the obsidian trading network and these sites? In this paper, I present a social dynamic interpretation between the Viejo and Medio period based on settlement patterns and obsidian procurement.

ROGERS, THATCHER
University of New Mexico

Reframing "The Land Between:" Hohokam and Mogollon in Southeastern Arizona

Archaeologists commonly characterize the archaeological record of southeastern Arizona as representing either Hohokam or Mogollon, typically dependent upon individual archaeologist's experiences. The specifics of how we interpret this area often relate behavioral shifts to patterning fitting primarily within the expansion of the Hohokam regional system or the outcomes of Ancestral Pueblo migrations. Yet, data from numerous sites ranging from the San Carlos Safford area to the San Bernardino Valley area, and from the Upper San Pedro Valley area to the Animas area suggest southeastern Arizona contained a more sizable, permanent population than previously envisioned. Archaeological data support the establishment of a near 1,000-year borderland zone within which processes of cultural hybridity, adoption, termination, and experimentation abounded. In this paper, I discuss these using data procured from previous field investigations and my analysis of nearly 100,000 ceramic artifacts from far southeastern Arizona and southwestern New Mexico.

ROMERO, DANIELLE
Western New Mexico University Museum

From Pots to Potters: The Ceramics from the Elk Ridge Site

Throughout the four seasons of excavation at the Elk Ridge site, the recovered ceramic assemblages were different from type patterns seen at other Mimbres Valley sites. The most notable was the presence of Reserve style plain and corrugated wares with smudged interiors. Partial and whole vessels were tested using the chemical clay sourcing technique INAA to discover the manufacturing locales of these artifacts. This paper presents the results of those tests, as well as the potential discovery of a single potter or potting family based on distinct painted design elements produced at a single source.

ROTH, BARBARA J.
University of Nevada, Las Vegas

CREEL, DARRELL
University of Texas, Austin

Summary of Excavations at the Elk Ridge Site, Grant County, New Mexico

This paper summarizes recent excavations at Elk Ridge, a large Classic period (AD 1000–1130) Mimbres pueblo located in the northern portion of the Mimbres River Valley. Our work has focused on a series of pueblo rooms and associated features along an arrow on the west side of the site that was eroding this portion of the pueblo. Our goals were to mitigate the impact of the erosion and to gain insights into the pueblo occupation that could enhance current understanding of the Classic period occupation in this portion of the Mimbres Valley and explore the relationship between Elk Ridge and other large Classic period Mimbres pueblos in the valley. We present an overview of our work at the site, highlighting some of the major results. Subsequent papers in this session will discuss the findings in more detail.

21st Biennial Mogollon Archaeology Conference

ROTH, BARBARA J.
University of Nevada, Las Vegas

ROMERO, DANIELLE
University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Western New Mexico University Museum

NICOLAY, SCOTT
University of California, Merced

The Elk Ridge Community

The relative location of large and small Classic Mimbres sites in relation to one another leads to questions regarding a broader community and the role of each site within it. Elk Ridge was the largest pueblo in the northern portion of the Mimbres River Valley during the Classic Mimbres period (AD 1000–1130). The presence of surrounding variably sized sites, including Cottonwood Pueblo located 1 mile south, presents an opportunity to examine this broader community. Using data from the Elk Ridge excavations, preliminary work at Cottonwood, and survey data, we explore the nature and composition of the Elk Ridge community. Our data suggest Elk Ridge had social ties to other nearby pueblos and likely served as the ritual and perhaps economic hub for these smaller pueblos. We think this broader community potentially provides a framework for understanding settlement patterns throughout the Mimbres Valley.

SCHOLLMEYER, KAREN GUST, CLARK, JEFFERY J. & LA ROCHE, CHRISTOPHER E.
Archaeology Southwest

Salado Archaeology: A View from the Upper Gila of Southwest New Mexico

The Salado phenomenon has a long history of debate over its origins, geographic extent, and whether Salado refers to a cultural group, religious movement, pottery ware, or some combination of all three. Much of this debate is due to the highly variable material culture across the region where Salado polychrome dominates decorated ceramic assemblages. The Archaeology Southwest field school has focused on Salado archaeology in the Upper Gila area since 2008. This area was a hotbed of Salado archaeological investigations during the 1960s and 1970s, but received little attention in subsequent decades. Many of these older excavations remain underreported or underused, with Steve Lekson's 2002 synthesis a notable exception. Our past decade of work adds new insights into the variability inherent in Salado sites at both the inter- and intra-settlement scales. In this paper, we explore this variability and how it contributes to understanding the Salado phenomenon in this region.

SEMANKO, AMANDA
WELKER, MARTIN H.
University of Arizona

Paleopathology and Prehistoric Turkey Management at Point of Pines

Prehistoric inhabitants of the American Southwest and Mexican Northwest utilized domestic and wild turkeys (*Meleagris gallopavo*) for food, feathers, and ceremonial purposes. Existing archaeological studies on turkey domestication and management typically focus on Ancestral Puebloan assemblages from the Four Corners and Chaco Canyon. We expand this discussion to the Mogollon Highlands by contrasting paleopathological analyses of turkey remains from Point of Pines and Turkey Creek Pueblos in eastern Arizona. We employ data on healed fractures identified in turkey skeletons to show variation in turkey management practices between two contemporaneous neighboring sites.

STOKES, ROBERT, FICKE, CASH, & SCHULTZ, JOANNA
Eastern New Mexico University

Results of Our First Season of Work at the Agape Acres Site, a Black Mountain Phase Pueblo in the Lower Mimbres Valley

The Agape Acres site in the lower Mimbres Valley on the NAN Ranch is a small, pristine, Black Mountain phase pueblo buried under alluvium. The site was recorded by the Mimbres Foundation in the 1970s, and surface documented by Harry Shafer's NAN Ranch field school in the 1980s. A small arroyo cutting through the site revealed various subsurface features, including a burned floor and adobe hearth, a poured adobe wall, several rock clusters, and a burial. In this first season of data recovery, we mapped the artifact scatter, faced and profiled the arroyo cut, used ground-penetrating radar to detect subsurface features of the pueblo, and excavated several shovel probes at detected anomalies. These data will be used to structure future field schools at the site. Our presentation discusses the results of our initial work and provides an early interpretation of the size and nature of the site.

WALKER, WILLIAM H.
New Mexico State University

BERRYMAN, JUDY
Human Systems Research, Inc.

Rites of Passage in Site Closure

In this paper, we argue that ritually closed pueblos of the North American Southwest likely contain purposely deposited objects in an effort to neutralize the anima left in these places and to prophylactically protect their former inhabitants from future witchcraft. We present Cottonwood Spring Pueblo, New Mexico as a case study of the roles magic and witchcraft play in closure of archaeological sites. We argue that these closures create two-fold rites of passage. These rites mark both movement of animate beings (artifacts and architecture) to the next world, as well as movement of peoples from one home to the next. For example, burned pueblo rooms contain ash, projectile points, crystals, and other animate objects whose transition allows past pueblo peoples to transfer gifts to their ancestors. These materials and the closure process also purified the site, negating the potential uses of these materials left behind in malicious magic.

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Affiliation

Villa Ahumada Polychrome Black on Buff and Black on White Slip Discovery

Clay body composition, morphology, and painted design traits established Villa Ahumada polychrome style around 1930. Dated between 1100–1375 CE, it was distinguished by predominantly line and geometric painted black and red designs, with or without white slip, on a buff or tan clay body. Consensus attributed its manufacture to Casas Grandes culture (Chihuahua, Rio Carmén, and Paquimé). Trade extended into Post-Classic Mimbres and Jornada Mogollon at El Paso, Black Mountain, Animas, Carretas, southern New Mexico, and southern Arizona sites. By 1974, four variants emerged. However, here, whole vessels and sherds exhibit a black paint and black on white slip style beyond the parameters of established subtypes. Eleven vessels and nine sherds in collections of the Maxwell Museum, University of California at Berkeley Hearst Museum, Mexican National Museum (INAH), and El Paso Museum of Archaeology display this new subtype. Among these, only the Hearst Museum and INAH ceramics contain provenience.

WRIGHT, ANDREW
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Lion's Den Cave: A Rock Art Site in the East Potrillo Mountains, New Mexico

The East Potrillo Mountains lay in the southernmost reach of the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument in southern New Mexico. The surrounding area contains cultural deposits left by the Jornada Mogollon and other ancient groups. Within the mountains themselves, Lion's Den Cave contains one such deposit in the form of rock art. While on a trip to the record this site in 2021, one feature in particular, a mask, was rather unusual when compared not only with the other imagery in the cave, but with other masks within the region. One rectilinear element within the mask resembles imagery found on Casas Grandes pottery, as do lines protruding from the corners of the eyes. Perhaps more unusual is the distinct "T-shaped" mouth part. Comparing examples of Casas Grandes pottery and evidence from 'dirt' archaeology for the area, an argument is made for a Casas Grandes influenced image in southern New Mexico.

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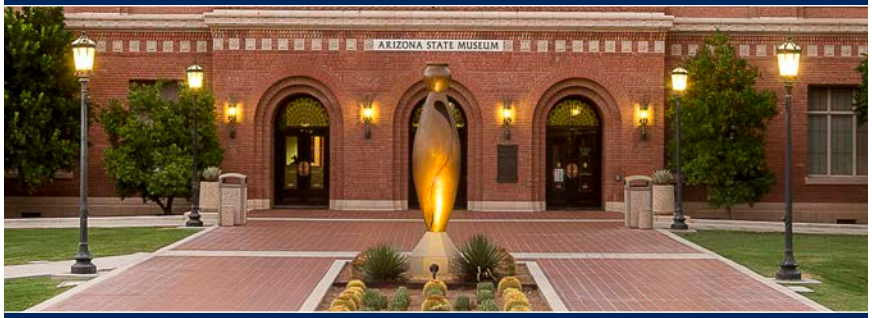

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