

North American Archaeological Research Group (NAARG)

Inaugural Symposium, 11 February 2012
10 am – 3.30 pm

McDonald Institute Seminar Room, Department of Archaeology,
 University of Cambridge, CB2 3ER

Contact: Jamie Hampson jh431@cam.ac.uk

10.00 Registration

10.20 Welcome: Dave Robinson & Jamie Hampson

10.30 Ciprian Ardelean (Exeter)

Hunter-gatherers, early human occupation and palaeoenvironments in Zacatecas,
 northern Mexico

10.50 Jamie Hampson (Cambridge)

Rock art and identity in far west Texas

11.10 Sheila Kohring (Cambridge)

The Piasa Bird: defining a Mississippi Valley identity

----- Coffee 11.30–11.50 -----

11.50 Sean O'Neill (Aberdeen)

Towards a prehistoric transportation model for the Pacific Northwest coast of
 North America

12.10 Louisa Pittman (Bristol)

Living on the edge: contact archaeology in the Outer Banks of North Carolina

12.30 John Creese (Cambridge)

Northern Iroquoian deathways and the re-imagination of community

----- Lunch 12.50–2.00 -----

2.00 Patrick Quinn (UCL) & **Margie Burton** (San Diego Archaeological Center)

Ceramic distribution, migration and interaction among hunter-gatherers in Late
 Prehistoric (1300 – 200 YBP) San Diego County, California

2.20 David Robinson (Central Lancashire) & **Fraser Sturt** (Southampton)

Ambivalent environments and the sacred: watery places within Indigenous south-

central California landscapes

2.40 Teri Brewer (Bristol)

Archaeology from the ashes: wildfire and archaeology in California (short film)

3.00 Discussants: Colin McEwan (Head of the Americas section, British Museum) and
Chris King (Lecturer, University of Nottingham)

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Symposium Abstract

North American Landscapes and Seascapes: Transatlantic Views

The landscapes and seascapes of North America have been idealized in Western mythology, exploited by Modernist agendas, and often portrayed in popular media as mesmerizing, enchanted, wild, untamed or tamed. However, archaeological research not only critically challenges these perceptions of landscape and the ideologies underpinning them, but also investigates the much deeper human engagement from initial human occupation, throughout Indigenous prehistory, and on through multi-ethnic Colonial and post-Colonial Periods. As such, North America is of immense importance, both within the expanse of the continent itself and on the wider stage of the human experience.

This symposium asks 'What can the archaeology of North America contribute to wider understandings of landscapes and seascapes?' Various topics across the archaeological disciplinary spectrum will be considered, including terrestrial and maritime archaeologies, from prehistory through to contemporary times. Varying theoretical perspectives are appreciated, including but not limited to environmental, material, spatial, cognitive, and phenomenological approaches.

Background

The North American Archaeological Research Group (NAARG) was established in 2010 by Dr David Robinson (University of Central Lancashire) and Dr Jamie Hampson (University of Cambridge). NAARG focuses on research by Americanist archaeologists based in the UK. The inaugural NAARG session at TAG 2010 in Bristol highlighted the theoretical value of North American archaeology, the Big Questions it addresses, and the histories and possible futures of North American research in the UK.

Please circulate this document to colleagues and students who might be interested in attending on 11 February 2012. Please let us know if you plan to attend.

We look forward to hearing from you and welcoming you to Cambridge.

Jamie Hampson & David Robinson

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