Rebecca R. Mendelsohn

Curriculum Vitae
November 2019

The Metropolitan Museum of Art - AAOA
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EDUCATION
Ph.D., Anthropology, University at Albany, SUNY, Albany, NY, 2017
Dissertation Title: Resilience and Interregional Interaction at the Early Mesoamerican City of Izapa: The Formative to Classic Period Transition

M.A., Anthropology, University at Albany, SUNY, Albany, NY, 2011

B.A., Archaeology and Art History, Dickinson College, Carlisle, PA, 2008

RESEARCH INTERESTS
Mesoamerica; Pacific coast; Izapan civilization; trade, migration, and culture contact; collapse and resilience; volcanism; ceramic analysis; paleoethnobotany; museum anthropology

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS
2019-Present Sylvan C. Coleman and Pam Coleman Fellow, Department of the Arts of Africa, Oceania, and the Americas, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY

2019 Lecturer, Department of Anthropology, University at Albany, SUNY, Albany, NY

2017-2018 Postdoctoral Fellow, Smithsonian Institution Fellowship Program, Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Center for Tropical Paleoecology and Archaeology, Panama

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles


2018 Obsidian Sourcing and Dynamic Trade Patterns at Izapa, Chiapas, Mexico: 100 BCE-400 CE. Journal of Archaeological Science: Reports 20: 634-646.


**Conference Proceedings**


**Chapters for Edited Volumes**


In prep.  “Global Culture” and Symbols of Political Authority on the Central American Coast (300 BC-AD 300). Chapter in preparation for the edited volume, _Waves of Influence: Revisiting Coastal Connections between Pre-Columbian Northwest South America and Mesoamerica_, edited by Christopher Beekman and Colin McEwan, for publication with the Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection.

**Technical Reports**


**GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND AWARDS**

**External**

2019 Society for American Archaeology H. and T. King Grant for Precolumbian Archaeology ($15,000)

2018 National Science Foundation Subsidy Program, University of Missouri Research Reactor (Rate reduced by $8,040)

2015-2016 Junior Fellow, Pre-Columbian Studies, Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection, Harvard University ($21,000)

2014-2015 Co-PI, National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant, Izapa Archaeology Project, #BCS-1349916 ($25,169)

2013-2014 Fulbright-García Robles Scholar, Mexico ($11,950)

2010-2013 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow ($90,000 stipend, $31,500 cost of education allowance)

**Internal**

2018 Smithsonian Travel Award Program ($920)

2017 DeCormier Award, Institute for Mesoamerican Studies, SUNY Albany ($1,955)

2017 GSA Professional Development Grant, SUNY Albany ($516)

2016-2017 Graduate Assistantship, Institute for Mesoamerican Studies, SUNY Albany

2015 GSEU Professional Development Award, University at Albany, SUNY ($1,122)

2014-2015 Graduate Assistantship, Institute for Mesoamerican Studies, SUNY Albany

2014 DeCormier Award, Institute for Mesoamerican Studies, SUNY Albany ($1,125)
2014  Karen R. Hitchcock New Frontiers Award, Initiatives for Women, SUNY Albany ($500)

2010  First Encounter Scholarship, Institute for Mesoamerican Studies, SUNY Albany ($660)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Department of Anthropology, University at Albany, SUNY (Final enrollment in parentheses)

Instructor of Record

2019  AANT/ALCS 233: Aztecs, Incas, and Mayas (116)
2019  AANT 340: Topics in Ethnology: Cultural Heritage, Nationalism, and Tourism (27)
2016  AANT 104: Archaeology (13)

Teaching Assistant

2012  AANT 335: Costa Rica Field School, Field Instructor (12)
2010  AANT 104: Archaeology, Lab Instructor (53)

INVITED TALKS

2019  Globalization and Political Authority on the Central American Coast, 300 BC-AD 300. Dumbarton Oaks Pre-Columbian Symposium, organized by Christopher Beekman and Colin McEwan, October 11-12, Washington, DC.

2018  Jade, Cetros, y Asientos de Poder: Símbolos de Autoridad en la Costa Pacífica, 300 a.C.-300 d.C., Coastal Connections Workshop, organized by Christopher Beekman and Colin McEwan, May 18, San Jose, Costa Rica.


CAMPUS TALKS

2018  Collapse, Resilience, and Daily Life at the Ancient Mexican City of Izapa: 300 BC-AD 400, Tupper Seminar Series, Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, January 16, Panama City.

2017  Microfossils and Ancient Plant Subsistence on the Pacific Coastal Lowlands of Chiapas, Mexico, Paleotalk Seminar Series, Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, December 5, Panama City.

2016  The Early Mesoamerican City of Izapa and the Southern Maya Region, Research Report, Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection, March 28, Washington, DC.
CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

Symposia Organized

2020 Volcanic Hazards and Human Resilience in Latin America. 85th Society for American Archaeology (SAA), April 22-26, Austin, TX.

Paper Presentations

2019 Jade, Scepters, and Seats of Power: Symbols of Authority on the Central American Coast, 300 BC-AD 300. 84th Society for American Archaeology (SAA), April 10-14, Albuquerque, NM.


2017 Izapa and Highland El Salvador: Terminal Formative and Classic Period Ties. 82nd Society for American Archaeology (SAA), March 29-April 2, Vancouver, British Columbia.

2016 Drucker’s Early Excavations at Los Toros: Solving the Chronological Quandary of Izapa’s Terminal Formative Period from the Outside In. 81st Society for American Archaeology (SAA), April 6-10, Orlando, FL.


2014 Casas y Cronología: Resultados Preliminares del Proyecto de Arqueología Doméstica de Izapa. XXVIII Simposio de Investigaciones Arqueológicas en Guatemala, July 14-18, Guatemala City.


2012 LiDAR and Surface Survey of Izapa, Mexico. Fourth author with Robert Rosenswig, Ricardo López-Torrijos, and Caroline Antonelli. 77th Society for American Archaeology (SAA), April 18-23, Memphis, TN.

2011 Colonial Commodification and the Performance of Culture: The Legacy of Humans on Display. 110th American Anthropological Association (AAA), November 15-20, Montreal, Canada.

Poster Presentations


2013 The Effectiveness of Low-Cost 3D Alternatives for Archaeology and Museums. 78th Society for American Archaeology (SAA), April 3-7, Honolulu, HI.
FIELD AND LABORATORY EXPERIENCE

2014- Present  Principal Investigator, Izapa Household Archaeology Project, Soconusco Region, Mexico

2015  Researcher (X-Ray Fluorescence), Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) Lab, New York State Museum, Albany, NY

2011-2015  Various Roles, Izapa Regional Settlement Project, Soconusco Region, Mexico
(5 seasons: 2 survey, 1 excavation, and 2 laboratory analysis)

2013  Researcher (Starch Grain Analysis), Laboratorio de Paleoetnobotánica y Paleoambiente, Institución de Investigaciones Antropológicas, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México

2010  Suboperation Director, Actuncan Archaeological Project, Belize

2009  3D Imaging Volunteer, Smithsonian Museum Conservation Institute, Suitland, MD

2008  Collections Management Intern, Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian, Cultural Resource Center, Suitland, MD

TECHNICAL SPECIALIZATIONS

X-Ray Fluorescence (XRF)
Paleoethnobotany: Starch grain analysis, phytolith analysis, macrobotanical analysis
Radiocarbon Bayesian statistical modeling (OxCal 4.2)
3D Methods: Photogrammetry, Reflectance Transformation Imaging (RTI), Laser scanning, Structured-light scanning

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

2015  Student Representative, University Council on Research Excellence, Research and Creative Activities Review Subcommittee, University at Albany, SUNY

2009-2013  Various Positions, Anthropology Graduate Student Organization, University at Albany, SUNY

Reviews for:  Journal of Archaeological Science: Reports, Remote Sensing, Annals of Anthropological Practice, National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Award

LANGUAGES

Spanish: Fluent (Speaking, Reading, and Writing)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Society for American Archaeology (Digital Data Interest Group)
American Anthropological Association (Archaeology Division, Council for Museum Anthropology)
American Alliance of Museums