

Rebecca R. Mendelsohn

Curriculum Vitae
November 2019

The Metropolitan Museum of Art - AAOA
1000 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY, 10028

Rebecca.Mendelsohn@metmuseum.org
Phone: (212) 396-5416
<http://rebeccamendelsohn.net>

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 Paleocology and
Archaeology, Panama

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

- In prep. Urn Burials and Social Differentiation on the Pacific Coast of Mexico and
Guatemala: Origin of a Tradition. In preparation for *Antiquity*.
- 2018 The Formative to Classic Period Transition at Izapa: Updates from the Izapa
Household Archaeology Project. *Ancient Mesoamerica* 29: 309-331.
- 2018 Obsidian Sourcing and Dynamic Trade Patterns at Izapa, Chiapas, Mexico: 100 BCE-
400 CE. *Journal of Archaeological Science: Reports* 20: 634-646.
- 2018 The Chronology of the Formative to Classic Period Transition at Izapa: A
Reevaluation. *Latin American Antiquity* 29: 239-259.

- 2018 The Early Izapa Kingdom: Recent Excavations, New Dating, and Middle Formative Ceramic Analyses. Fifth author with Robert M. Rosenswig, Brendan J. Culleton, Douglas J. Kennett, Rosemary Lieske, and Yahaira Núñez-Cortés. *Ancient Mesoamerica* 29: 373-393.
- 2017 Late Formative Feline Pedestal Sculptures and an Iconography of Cacao. Third author with Julia Guernsey, Michael Love, Sergio Romero, and Andrew Turner. *Mexicon* 39 (6): 151-169.
- 2016 Izapa and the Soconusco Region, Mexico, in the First Millennium A.D. Second author with Robert M. Rosenswig. *Latin American Antiquity* 27: 357-377.
- 2016 Economic Growth in Mesoamerica: Obsidian Consumption in the Coastal Lowlands. Twelfth author with Barbara L. Stark, Matthew A. Boxt, Janine Gasco, Rebecca B. González-Lauck, Jessica D. Hedgepeth-Balkin, Arthur A. Joyce, Stacie M. King, Charles L. F. Knight, Robert Kruger, Marc N. Levine, Richard G. Lesure, Marx Navarro-Castillo, Hector Neff, Michael Ohnorsorgen, Christopher Pool, L. Mark Raab, Robert Rosenswig, Marcie Venter, Barbara Voorhies, David T. Williams, and Andrew Workinger. *Journal of Anthropological Archaeology* 41: 263-282.
- 2013 Lidar mapping and surface survey of the Izapa state on the tropical piedmont of Chiapas, Mexico. Fourth author with Rosenswig, Robert M., Ricardo López-Torrijos, and Caroline E. Antonelli. *Journal of Archaeological Science* 40: 1493-1507.

Conference Proceedings

- 2019 Vida Cotidiana en Izapa durante el Periodo Clásico: Hallazgos del Proyecto de Arqueología Doméstica de Izapa. In XXXII Simposio de Investigaciones Arqueológicas en Guatemala 2018, edited by Bárbara Arroyo, Luis Méndez Salinas, and Gloria Ajú Álvarez, pp. 247-260. Ministerio de Cultura y Deportes, Instituto de Antropología e Historia, and Asociación Tikal, Guatemala City.

Chapters for Edited Volumes

- Under review Trade, Migration, and Continuity at Plumbate-Era Izapa. Chapter in preparation for the edited volume, *Interaction: Mobility, Exchange and Least Cost Routes*, edited by Eugenia Robinson and Gavin Davies, contracted for publication with Routledge.
- 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

- In prep. Proyecto de Arqueología Doméstica de Izapa 2014: Informe Técnico Parcial. Report for the Consejo de Arqueología, Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia, Mexico City.

- 2014 Proyecto de Reconocimiento Regional de Izapa 2012: Informe Técnico Parcial. Second author with Robert M. Rosenswig, Caroline Antonelli, Rosemary Lieske, and Yahaira Núñez-Cortés. Report submitted to the Consejo de Arqueología, Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia. Albany, New York and Mexico City.
- 2013 Desarrollo y Alcances del Poder Cacical Amerindio en el Caribe Central de Costa Rica: El Sitio Las Mercedes-1 (Temporada 2012). Fourth author with Ricardo Vázquez Leiva, Robert M. Rosenswig, Dennis Blanton, Geissel Vargas Madrigal, and Julio César Sánchez Herrera. Departamento de Antropología e Historia, Museo Nacional de Costa Rica and University at Albany, SUNY. San José, Costa Rica and Albany, NY.
- 2012 Proyecto de Reconocimiento Regional de Izapa: Informe Técnicos Parciales. Fourth author with Robert M. Rosenswig, Janine Gasco, Caroline Antonelli, Marx Navarro Castillo, and Cuauhtémoc Vidal-Guzman. Report submitted to the Consejo de Arqueología, Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia. Albany, New York and Mexico City.
- 2011 The 2010 Excavations at Group 4. First author with Angela H. Keller. In Actuncan Archaeological Project: Report of the third season 2010, edited by Lisa J. LeCount and Angela H. Keller, pp. 33-46. Tuscaloosa, Alabama and Belmopan, Belize.

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.
- 2015 Izapa y sus Vecinos: Formativo Medio al Clásico Temprano. Mesa Redonda Kaminaljuyú, organized by Takeshi Inomata, Barbara Arroyo, and Lucia Henderson, July 19, Antigua, Guatemala.

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.
- 2018 Vida Cotidiana en Izapa durante del Periodo Clásico: Hallazgos del Proyecto de Arqueología Doméstica de Izapa. XXXII Simposio de Investigaciones Arqueológicas en Guatemala, July 23-27, Guatemala City.
- 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.
- 2015 Obtención de Obsidiana y Patrones de Intercambio en Izapa: 750 aC-1200 dC. XXIX Simposio de Investigaciones Arqueológicas en Guatemala, July 20-24, Guatemala City.
- 2015 New Discoveries in the Izapa "Protoclassic" and Early Classic Periods. 80th Society for American Archaeology (SAA), April 15-19, San Francisco, CA.
- 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 Families and Feasts: Households and Feasting Practices at the Dawn of Ceramic Technology. First author with Robert Rosenswig. 77th Society for American Archaeology (SAA), April 18-23, Memphis, TN.
- 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

- 2018 Plant Use on the Southern Pacific Coast of Mexico: A Microbotanical Study of the Formative to Classic Period Transition at Izapa. 83rd Society for American Archaeology (SAA), April 11-15, Washington, DC.
- 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