

CHELSEA FISHER

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Environmental anthropological archaeology; food and agriculture; environmental justice; historical and political ecology; traditional ecological knowledge; Maya of Yucatán

EDUCATION

- 2019 Ph.D., Anthropology, University of Michigan
Dissertation: *Maya Farming Communities and the Long View of Sustainability at Tzacauil*
- 2014 M.A., Anthropology, University of Michigan
- 2011 B.A., Archaeology, The College of Wooster

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

- 2019- Assistant Professor, Environmental Studies Program, Washington and Lee University, Lexington, VA

PUBLICATIONS

- 2019 **Fisher, C.** Archaeology for sustainable agriculture. *Journal of Archaeological Research*.
- 2018 **Fisher, C.** Towards a dialogue of sustainable agriculture and end-times theology in the United States: Insights from the historical ecology of nineteenth century millennial communes. *Agriculture and Human Values* 35: 791-807.
- 2014 **Fisher, C.** The role of infield agriculture in Maya cities. *Journal of Anthropological Archaeology* 36: 196-210.
- 2013 Fauvelle, M., **C.R. Fisher**, and G.E. Braswell. Return to the Kingdom of the Eagle: Archaeological investigations at Nim li Punit, Belize. *Research Reports in Belizean Archaeology* 10: 241-251.

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

External support

- 2016 National Science Foundation, Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Award, BCS-1659924, *Households and Community Arrangement in a Traditional Society*.

- 2016 The Wenner-Gren Foundation, Dissertation Fieldwork Grant, *Early Maya Land-Use Practices and the Creation of Community at Tzacauil, Yucatan, Mexico*.
- 2016 U.S. Department of Education Fulbright-Hays Program, Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship, No. P022A160004, *Households and Land-Use Practices of the Maya*.
- 2011-15 National Science Foundation, Graduate Research Fellowship.

Internal support

- 2019 Rackham Dissertation Fellowship, University of Michigan.
- 2018 Richard I. Ford Award for Anthropological Research on Humans and the Environment, University of Michigan Museum of Anthropological Archaeology.
- 2018 Titiev Fellowship, Department of Anthropology, University of Michigan.
- 2016 Rackham Graduate Student Research Grant, University of Michigan.
- 2015 Rackham International Research Award, University of Michigan.
- 2015 James B. Griffin Scholarship, University of Michigan Museum of Anthropological Archaeology.
- 2014 Rackham Graduate Student Research Grant, University of Michigan.
- 2013 Tinker Foundation Field Research Grant, University of Michigan Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies.
- 2013 Summer Research Grant, Department of Anthropology, University of Michigan.
- 2011 Rackham Merit Fellowship, University of Michigan.
- 2011 Copeland Funding for Independent Study, College of Wooster.
- 2009 Kendall-Rives Latin American Research Grant, College of Wooster.

AWARDS AND HONORS

- 2017 Rackham Graduate School Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award.
- 2016 University of Michigan Department of Anthropology Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award, *Aztec, Maya, Inca Civilizations*.
- 2015 University of Michigan Department of Anthropology Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award, *Aztec, Maya, Inca Civilizations*.
- 2013 University of Michigan Department of Anthropology Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award, *Aztec, Maya, Inca Civilizations*.
- 2011 The College of Wooster Campus Council Leadership Award.
- 2010 Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society.
- 2010 Lambda Alpha Anthropology Honor Society.

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

Organized symposia

- 2019 *Advancing Public Perceptions of Sustainability Through Archaeology*. Chair and organizer. Electronic symposium at the 84th Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, Albuquerque, New Mexico.
- 2018 *#MeToo in Archaeology*. Co-chair and co-organizer with Jason De León. Late-breaking roundtable session at the Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, San Jose, California.
- 2017 *Integrating and Disintegrating in Central Yucatán: Archaeological Approaches to Social Change at Multiple Scales*. Co-chair and co-organizer with Ryan Collins. Session at the 82nd Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, Vancouver, British Columbia.

Conference presentations (*invited)

- 2019 Celebrity chefs and the long view of sustainable agriculture in Yaxunah, Yucatán. Paper presented in the session *Advancing Public Perceptions of Sustainability Through Archaeology* at the 84th Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, Albuquerque, New Mexico.
- 2019* Discussant in the forum *#MeToo in Archaeology* presented at the 84th Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, Albuquerque, New Mexico.
- 2018 Two millennia of Maya agrarian change: Archaeological, ethnographic, and historical approaches to landscape at Tzacuil, Yucatán, Mexico. Paper presented in the session *Time and Power in Agrarian Environments* at the Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, San Jose, California.
- 2018* Three walks through Tzacuil: Engaging the rural landscape of central Yucatán 2000 years ago, 1000 years ago, and today. Paper presented in the session *Reconceptualizing Rurality: Current Research in the Ancient Maya Hinterlands* at the 83rd Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, Washington, DC.
- 2018 Vegetative agency and social memory in houselots of ancient Cobá. Paper presented in the session *Things with a Mind of Their Own: Agentive Approaches to Non-Human Agency* at the 83rd Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, Washington, D.C. (H. Dine, T. Ardren, and **C. Fisher**).
- 2017 Integrating generations on the Formative Maya landscape: Households and communities at Tzacuil. Paper presented in the session *Integrating and Disintegrating in Central Yucatán: Archaeological Approaches to Social Change at Multiple Scales* at the 82nd Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.
- 2016 Sacbes, cenotes, and the permanence of movement in Tzacuil, Yucatán. Paper presented at the University of Michigan Collaborative Archaeology Workgroup Conference, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

- 2016 Landscape and Formative households at Tzacauil and Yaxuná, Yucatán. Paper presented at the 81st Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, Orlando, Florida.
- 2015 Water management and city founding at Yaxuná, Yucatán. Poster presented at the 80th Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, San Francisco, California.
- 2014 “The poorness of the soil takes away hope”: Resolving ethnohistoric and archaeological evidence for food security in the northern Maya lowlands. Paper presented at the 79th Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, Austin, Texas.
- 2012 Return to the Kingdom of the Eagle: Archaeological investigations at Nim li Punit, Belize. Paper presented at the Belize Archaeology & Anthropology Symposium: Time and the Maya, San Ignacio Cayo, Belize (M. Fauvelle, **C. Fisher**, and G.E. Braswell).
- 2012 Discordance as data: Calling the bluff on Mesoamerican texts. Paper presented at the University of Michigan Collaborative Archaeology Workgroup Conference, Ann Arbor, Michigan (**C. Fisher** and L. Carpenter).
- 2011 Landscapes of ambition: Understanding Classic Maya ceremonial centers as political history. Poster presented at the 76th Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, Sacramento, California.
- 2010* Resorting to the resort: A museum’s relationship with the archaeology of Roatán Island, Honduras. Poster presented in the session *The Use, Abuse, and Lack of Archaeology in Heritage Tourism and Development in the Bay Islands of Honduras* at the 75th Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, Saint Louis, Missouri.

CAMPUS LECTURES AND PRESENTATIONS

- 2018 Beyond the classroom: Transforming frustration into civic engagement. Presentation at the Engaged Pedagogy Initiative Symposium, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor (**C. Fisher**, J. Worl, A. Orrick).
- 2015 Water and the Formative homesteaders of Yucatán. Brown Bag Lecture Series, University of Michigan Museum of Anthropological Archaeology.
- 2013 Garden cities of the northern Maya lowlands. Four Field Graduate Talks, Department of Anthropology, University of Michigan.
- 2013 The Formative Maya downtown: Excavations at Yaxuná, Yucatán. Brown Bag Lecture Series, University of Michigan Museum of Anthropology.
- 2013 “Unruining” ruins: Consolidation of archaeological sites. Four Field Graduate Talks, Department of Anthropology, University of Michigan.
- 2012 Ancestor worship at Nim li Punit, Belize. Brown Bag Lecture Series, University of Michigan Museum of Anthropology.

- 2011 Portrait stelae and competition at two Classic Maya sites. Brown Bag Lecture Series, University of Michigan Museum of Anthropology.
- 2011 A survey of regional studies of Classic Maya sites in the Toledo District, Belize. Impacts of Research in a Diverse Society Research Symposium, Rackham Graduate School, University of Michigan.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Courses taught

- 2018 Instructor of Record. *Cities Growing Food: The Archaeology of Urban Agriculture and Sustainability*. University of Michigan Department of Anthropology.
- 2016 Graduate Student Instructor. *Aztec, Maya, and Inca Civilizations*. University of Michigan Department of Anthropology.
- 2015 Graduate Student Instructor. *Aztec, Maya, and Inca Civilizations*. University of Michigan Department of Anthropology.
- 2014 Graduate Student Instructor. *Aztec, Maya, and Inca Civilizations*. University of Michigan Department of Anthropology.
- 2013 Graduate Student Instructor. *Aztec, Maya, and Inca Civilizations*. University of Michigan Department of Anthropology.

Pedagogical development

- 2018 Engaged Pedagogy Initiative Fellow, University of Michigan.
- 2018 Implementing Inclusive Teaching Principles in Courses. Workshop at the Center for Research on Learning and Teaching, University of Michigan.
- 2018 Leading Discussions in the Social Sciences and Humanities. Workshop at the Center for Research on Learning and Teaching, University of Michigan.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2015-17 Field director, Doctoral fieldwork at Tzacauil, Yucatán, Mexico.
- 2015 Field archaeologist, Proyecto de Interacción Política del Centro de Yucatán, Yaxuná, Yucatán, Mexico.
- 2014 Field archaeologist, University of Michigan Project at El Mogote, Oaxaca.
- 2014 Field archaeologist, University of Michigan Pecica Santul Mare Project, Romania.
- 2014 Field archaeologist, Proyecto de Interacción Política del Centro de Yucatán, Yaxuná, Yucatán, Mexico.
- 2013 Field archaeologist, Proyecto de Interacción Política del Centro de Yucatán, Yaxuná, Yucatán, Mexico.
- 2013 Field archaeologist, Investigations at the Gault Site, Central Texas.

- 2012 Field archaeologist, Toledo Regional Interaction Project, Nim li Punit, Belize.
- 2012 Laboratory assistant, American Museum of Natural History San Martín Tilcajete Project, Oaxaca, Mexico.
- 2011 Field archaeologist, American Museum of Natural History San Martín Tilcajete Project, Oaxaca, Mexico.
- 2010 Field archaeologist, Vermilion Cliffs National Monument Archaeological Field School, Arizona.
- 2009 Field school student, Project Roatán Mesoamerican Archaeology Field School, Roatán Island, Honduras.
- 2009-11 Research assistant, College of Wooster Archaeology Laboratory.
- 2008 Research assistant, Arch2 Cultural Resource Management and The Thomas Edison Center at Menlo Park, Metuchen, New Jersey.
- 2008 Research assistant, College of Wooster English Department.

TECHNICAL REPORTS

- 2017 Investigaciones sobre vida doméstica y comunidad durante el Formativo en Tzacauil. *Proyecto de Interacción Política del Centro de Yucatán (PIPCY): Informe Técnico de la Octava Temporada (2016)*. Prepared for the Consejo de Arqueología del Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia, Mexico.
- 2016 Arqueología doméstica en Tzacauil y Yaxuná. *Proyecto de Interacción Política del Centro de Yucatán (PIPCY): Informe Técnico de la Séptima Temporada (2015)*. Prepared for the Consejo de Arqueología del Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia, Mexico. Edited by Dr. Travis Stanton, University of California – Riverside.
- 2014 Capítulo 2: Mapeo y recolección de superficie en Yaxuná. In *Proyecto de Interacción Política del Centro de Yucatán (PIPCY): Informe Técnico de la Sexta Temporada (2014)*. Prepared for the Consejo de Arqueología del Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia, Mexico, pp. 7-29. Edited by Dr. Travis Stanton, University of California – Riverside and Dr. Aline Magnoni, Tulane University.
- 2012 Excavations of Structure 7, South Group, Nim li Punit. In *Toledo Regional Interaction Project Annual Report, University of California – San Diego Mesoamerican Archaeology Laboratory Occasional Paper No. 6*. Prepared for the Institute of Archaeology, National Institute of Culture and History, Belize, pp. 13-64. Edited by Dr. Geoffrey Braswell, University of California – San Diego.

SELECTED DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

- 2018-19 Student representative, University of Michigan Museum of Anthropological Archaeology Curator of Asian Archaeology search committee (successful search).
- 2018 Reviewer for *Agriculture and Human Values*.

- 2015-2016 Reviewer for *Journal of Anthropological Archaeology*.
- 2013-2014 Assistant Chair, University of Michigan Collaborative Archaeology Workgroup.
- 2012-2014 Co-Organizer, University of Michigan Museum of Anthropology Brown Bag Series.
- 2010-2011 President, College of Wooster Archaeology Student Colloquium.

SELECTED PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP AND ENGAGEMENT

- 2016 Urban Growers Boot Camp, Truly Living Well Center for Natural Urban Agriculture, Atlanta, Georgia.
- 2016 Science Communication Fellow, University of Michigan Museum of Natural History.
- 2016 Public outreach (“What happened in ancient backyards?”) at *Time* Discovery Day, University of Michigan Museum of Natural History.
- 2016 Science Communications Fellows Workshop (“Prototyping Activities”), University of Michigan Museum of Natural History.
- 2016 Science Communications Fellows Workshop (“How People Learn”), University of Michigan Museum of Natural History.
- 2015 Volunteer, University of Michigan Museum of Natural History World History Through Archaeology Day.
- 2015 Investigación de las Viviendas Antiguas en Yaxuná. Public talk given in Yaxunah, Yucatán.
- 2014 The Relative Importance of Infield vs. Outfield Agriculture in Ancient Maya Cities. Meeting of the Michigan Archaeology Society, Huron Valley Chapter.
- 2013 Volunteer, University of Michigan Museum of Natural History World History Through Archaeology Day.

LANGUAGES

English – native

Spanish – excellent (speaking, reading, writing)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Society for American Archaeology

American Anthropological Association

Agriculture, Food, and Human Values Society