Gościnne wykłady

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Abstract Book

Burials, bodies, and beyond: Variation in mortuary practices in Andean South America

Wykład w ramach zajęć Outline of Archaeology of the Americas, poniedziałek, 27 maja 2019, godzina 9:45, Instytut Archeologii UW, sala 2.11

Archaeological investigations in the Andean region of South America have generated significant discoveries due to favorable preservation conditions, where tombs contain exceptional details of the individual buried as well as the grave goods. Some spectacular finds with elaborate features suggest many ancient peoples invested heavily in commemorating the dead. Yet, in others, simple graves and large commingled tombs suggest that beliefs in the afterlife were variable. Later 15th century Inca burial practices are often used as a template for interpreting earlier cultures, but careful mortuary archaeological practice reveals unique features in the treatment of dead bodies. Using the approach of "ethnothanotology", I will describe and discuss two examples from Peru where detailed excavation and osteological analysis demonstrate significant details about these burial contexts and the people who created them.

Buried above! Vertical archaeology and tombs in the Mountains of Northern Peru

Wykład w ramach Seminarium Archeologia Ameryki i Oceanii, poniedziałek, 27 maja 2019, godzina 16:45, Instytut Archeologii UW, sala 1.09

Traditional archaeological practice involves mapping and excavating ancient settlements and cemeteries, but bioarchaeological research of the cliff tombs in the Chachapoyas region of northeastern Peru is stymied by natural and technological challenges. Exploring these cemeteries requires the innovation of "vertical archaeology" using rappelling and rope technology and also the incorporation of 3-D photogrammetry and aerial drone photography. This presentation discusses how and why the ancient Chachapoya people created and placed their ancestors in these spectacular landscapes between A.D. 900 and 1535. Osteological analysis helps identify tomb occupants. Yet, while these sites suffer from the ravages of both looting and natural destruction, it becomes vital to use archaeological knowledge in meaningful and accessible ways for both local and scientific communities to better understand the importance of how and why the Chachapoya constructed these elaborate cliff tombs.

Woven in their Bones: Muskuloskeletal Stress Markers (MSM) among a Precolumbian coastal peoples in Peru

Wykład w ramach Seminar in Bioarchaeology, MA in English - wtorek, 28 maja 2019, godz. 11:30, Instytut Archeologii UW, sala 1.09

How can we understand the physical activities in the daily lives of past populations? Archaeological artifacts and burial offerings associated with individuals are often used to hypothesize about occupations or activities of individuals. However, biological anthropologists are often called upon to examine the osteological remains to understand how cultural activities affected the biology of an individual. In addition to trauma, wear patterns, and joint degeneration as indicators of occupational or habitual activity stresses, muskuloskeletal attachment sites (MSM) can be examined to understand which muscles and areas of the body were under the greatest physiological-related stress. Describing this methodology, I examined two case studies from the sites of Túcume and Punta Lobos. Using patterns in MSM, we can test hypotheses about possible occupational identities of these individuals, and explore gendered interpretations of the division of labor during later PreColumbian times.

Times of great sacrifice: Life and Death in the Ancient Andes of Peru

Wykład w ramach bloku Archeologia Ameryki i Oceanii, czwartek, 30 maja 2019, godzina 13:15, Instytut Archeologii UW, sala 1.09

Human lives and bodies become transformed into sacred offerings during sacrificial rites. We can recognize these transformative actions in the archaeological record based on the location of human burials – often in association with sacred spaces – and the evidence of peri-mortem manipulation of the bodies. This presentation will describe and discuss the different ways in which human bodies have been manipulated in ancient Andean rites of human sacrifice as specific death rituals, outside of traditional or normative mortuary practices. I introduce the concept of the "body sacrificed" as a means through which to identify particular ritual significance in the treatment of these special sacred offerings. I use an example of human sacrifice from Túcume on the Northern Coast of Peru, South America as well as comparison with other documented sacrifice traditions across the Andean region. Using a bioarchaeological approach can help elucidate sacrifice rituals and practices with the focus on identifying and interpreting the physical manipulation of the body via evidence left on the skeleton. Furthermore, with comparative ethnographic data, I argue that the treatment of the body reflects specific symbolic gestures as part of the ritual process and that the death of the individual is only part of a more complex ideology. Thus, we can elucidate possible meanings behind these transformative sacrificial rites in pre-Hispanic times.