Courtney

Singleton

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# *Teaching/Research Focus*

My research incorporates methods and social theory from multiple disciplines to form a contemporary archaeology project that addresses issues related to poverty and economic disparities in the United States. This project has primarily focused on homelessness in the urban environments of the Eastern Coast of the United States. I ground social theory in applied contexts, incorporating archaeological, ethnographic, historical, and geographic methods. My teaching style is interdisciplinary and applied, grounding social theory in contemporary real world contexts.

# *Education*

## PhD Anthropology/2019

## Columbia University

Contemporary Archaeology of Homelessness in Pelham Bay Park, Bronx, NYC. Broadly, my dissertation looks at the interplay between boundaries and vagueness with relation to homelessness in the United States. I draw upon affect theory and semiotics as it relates to vague phenomenon and the politics of boundary creation. Areas of Concentration: Ephemerality, Plastics/Plasticity, Semiotics, Affect/Politics of Care, Politics of Recognition, Modern Material Culture, Contemporary Archaeology Methods, Homelessness, Poverty, US urban archaeology.

## Masters of Applied Anthropology/2012

***University of Maryland, College Park***

My Master’s project was a contemporary archaeology of homelessness project that focused on the Davidson Street Encampment in Indianapolis, Indiana. I worked with various non-profit organizations while conducting this research including National Coalition of Homeless in Washington, DC.

## B.A. Anthropology and Geography/2010

## Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI)

I participated in multiple research projects and internships listed below while pursuing a double major in Anthropology and Geography. Areas of Concentration: Urban Historical Archaeology, Modern Material Culture, Urban Anthropology, Human Urban Geography, Soils, Labor History, Activism and Social Movements.

# *Teaching Experience*

## Independent Study Advisor

### **Columbia University/2017**

I supervised two Independent Studies with undergraduates interested in aspects of my dissertation research. One looked at 1980s crack vials, contextualizing it within the war on drugs and “crack epidemic” in New York City. One examined plastics, primarily Styrofoam, and incorporated contemporary artifacts in a senior Fine Arts sculpture project.

## Teaching Assistant/Lab Director

### **Columbia University/2014-2018**

I have served as a teaching assistant for three years with Human Origins and Rise of Western Civilization. I was also assigned as the teaching assistant of 21st Century Archaeology for one term. As a teacher’s assistant, I taught my own sections of approximately 30+ students, and designed assignments, exams, and lectures. In all courses I was the primary grader and I took the lead teaching assistant position for a section of 200+ students for Rise of Western Civilization in 2015. I have also ran the archaeology laboratory at Columbia for three semesters, teaching archaeological laboratory methods and material analysis of archaeological assemblages.

* Rise of Western Civilization (3 terms)
* Human Origins (3 terms)
* 21st Century Archaeology (1 term)
* Laboratory Methods and Contemporary Material Analysis (3 terms)

## Substitute Teacher for K-12

### **Cornwall School District, NY/2016-2018**

I work as a substitute teacher for Cornwall, NY School District and have substituted in classes ranging from kindergarten to high school.

## Instructor of Gems208-Special Topics in Leadership and Team Development

### **University of Maryland/2011-2012**

I worked on course design, graded, lectured, and led teambuilding workshops for an undergraduate introductory interdisciplinary research design course. I also supervised and advised undergraduate research teams working on a broad range of project that spanned social and physical sciences.

* Special Topics in Leadership and Team Development
* Special Topics in Interdisciplinary Research Design

## Teaching Assistant-Intro to Cultural Anthropology

### **University of Maryland/2010-2011**

I taught weekly sections, designed exams and assignments, and graded for Introduction to Cultural Anthropology and Introduction to Sociocultural Linguistics courses.

* Introduction to Cultural Anthropology
* Introduction to Sociocultural Linguistics

## Archaeology Field School Assistant-Boxley Cabin

### **IUPUI/2008**

I collaborated on course structure/design, lectured on field and lab techniques and ceramics, as well as directed and taught archaeology fieldwork methods to undergraduate students.

* Archaeological Field Methods

# *Publications*

## Encountering Home: A Contemporary Archaeology of Homelessness

2017

By Courtney Singleton

Chapter in *Contemporary Archaeology and the City: Creativity, Ruination, and Political Action*. Edited by Laura McAtackney and Krysta Ryzewski. Oxford University Press. Pp 229-243.

## Digging the Present Past: Archaeologies of Contemporary Inequality in Indianapolis

2011

By Paul Mullins and Courtney Singleton

## Activism and Creating a Translational Archaeology of Homelessness

2010

By Larry Zimmerman, Courtney Singleton, and Jessica Welch

*Archaeologies: The Journal of the World Archaeological Congress* 42(3): 443 - 454

## Eastside Story: Portrait of a Neighborhood on the Suburban Frontier

2009

By members of 2009 “Field Work in Ethnography” class

# *Research/Field Experience*

## Director of Contemporary Archaeology of Homelessness Project, Pelham Bay Park, Bronx, NYC

### **Columbia University/2015-2018**

I have organized and run a volunteer based (approx. 40 individuals) contemporary archaeology research project for three years. I secured permits and worked with the NYC Parks Department, Department of Environmental Conservation, Delaware Nation Tribes, NY State Parks/Historic Preservation Department, and NY Landmarks Preservation Commission. Research included: IRB approved interviewing, multiple rounds of mapping, drone imaging, surface survey, surface collection, and excavation.

## War of 1812 Archaeology at Bladensburg, MD

### **MD State Highway Administration/2012**

Surface survey and archaeological excavations. Also found a large number of prehistoric lithics.

## Irish Tenement Housing Archaeology, Baltimore, MD

### **University of Maryland/2011-2012**

Archaeological Fieldwork: Excavation

## Contemporary Archaeology of Homelessness, Indianapolis, Indiana and Washington DC

### **University of Maryland/2010-2012**

### IUPUI/2008-2010

I developed Contemporary Archaeology field methods, trained students, conducted interviews with homeless residence at encampments, conducted participant observation, mapping, developed events that incorporated homeless and non-homeless community members at institutions all over the city. Held sessions with medical professionals and homeless advocacy groups. Surveyed homeless landscape in Washington DC. Worked with National Coalition for the Homeless and DC Kitchens.

## Research Assistant

### **University of Maryland/2011**

Grant writing, archiving, database creation and maintenance, interview coding, historic research

## Research Assistant-Dr. Larry Zimmerman

### **IUPUI/2009-2010**

I conducted historic research on homelessness in Indianapolis, research design, data collection and analysis.

## Boxley Cabin Archaeology, Indianapolis, IN.

### **IUPUI/2008**

Pioneer site located in Northern Indiana. I directed and ran field school, participated in excavations, and lab processing.

## Field School-Monticello, Virginia

### **University of Virginia/2007**

Excavations of slave quarters on Thomas Jefferson’s plantation.

## Ransom Place Archaeology, Indianapolis, IN.

### **IUPUI/2005-2008**

Excavations, lab processing/analysis, report writing, developed bottle study collection. Worked with Dr. Paul Mullins for three years on his site in Indianapolis, historic African American neighborhood displaced due to racialized urban renewal projects, fueled by the expansion of IUPUI campus.

# *Related Experience*

## Chair of World Archaeological Congress Student Committee (WACSC)

***International Organization/2016-2020***

I was elected and voted in as the interim Chair of WACSC by my peers. I produce reports, surveys, and organize and head five different subcommittees. I work with and organize student representatives from all over the world who serve on the committee. I also served as chair of the Student Writing Competition and Student Ethics Bowl Competition subcommittees.

## Columbia University Fellowship in Academic Administration

***Department of Lifelong Learning/2015***

Grant writing, program assessment research design, survey design, completed numerous reports assessing the strengths and weakness of the program.

## World Archaeological Congress Student Committee (WACSC), North American Student Representative

***International Organization/2012-2020***

I primarily served and organized the International Ethics Debate and Student Paper Prize subcommittee.

## Columbia University Anthropology Graduate Student Association Representative

***Columbia University/2014-2016***

Was elected as one of 3-5 student representatives. We organized and held informational sessions, workshops, funded student groups, orientations, and student orientated department events.

## Search Committee for Gemstone’s Assistant Director for Student Services

### **University of Maryland/2011**

Gemstone is an interdisciplinary research honors program at UMD. I participated in assessing applications, interviewing, and hiring process.

## Graduate Assistant for Gemstone Honors Program

### **University of Maryland/2011**

Student Development Coordinator, Advisor to the Gemstone Activities Committee, Advisor to Gemstone Ellicott Service Committee.

## Volunteer: DC Kitchens

### **Washington DC/2011**

Street outreach volunteer, Soup Kitchen volunteer

## IUPUI Technology Center Consulting

### **IUPUI/2008-2009**

Supervisor of computer consulting campus-wide. Conducted employee training and development, webpage editing, software training, hardware management, customer service.

## Internship: Organizer and Researcher with Service Employee International Union

### **Local 3, Indianapolis IN/2007-2009**

Worked on campaign to organize janitors in Indianapolis and surrounding area, collaborated on campaign strategy, designed press releases, power structure analysis, strategy and tactic development

## Volunteer: Turtle Conservation Project, Associacion ANAI

### **Costa Rica/2007**

Measuring and tagging sea turtles and hatchlings, relocation of turtle nests, hatchery work, poacher patrol, collaboration with local community.

## Conference Papers

## Ephemeral Urban Structures and the Archaeology of Homelessness

### 2018 Society for Historical Archaeology Annual Meeting, St. Charles MO

By Courtney Singleton

## A Sympathetic Connection: The role of sympathy in an archaeology of contemporary homelessness

### 2017 Society for Historical Archaeology Annual Meeting, Austin TX

By Courtney Singleton

## A Vague Knowing: The logic of vagueness and the contemporary archaeology of “Home-less-ness” at Pelham Bay Park, New York City, USA

### 2016 World Archaeological Congress (WAC-8), Kyoto, Japan

By Courtney Singleton

## Visual Domains: Archaeology of visibility on New York City’s Hart Island.

### 2014 Theoretically Archaeology Group Annual Meeting, Normal IL

By Valarie Bondura and Courtney Singleton

## Presencing Absence: A contemporary archaeology of homeless home

### 2014 American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Chicago IL

By Courtney Singleton

## Reflections from the Street: Current practices of collaboration and co-authorship in the contemporary archaeology of homelessness project

### 2013 Society for Historical Archaeology Annual Meeting Leicester, England

By Courtney Singleton and Milford Weeks

## Home is Where the Heart Is: The contemporary archaeology of homelessness

### 2012 World Archaeological Congress (WAC-7), The Dead Sea, Jordan

By Courtney Singleton

## Moving Objects: Change at Contemporary Homeless Sites

### 2012 Society for Historical Archaeology Annual Meeting Baltimore, MD

By Courtney Singleton

## Thinking Outside the Excavation Unit: An Activist Archaeology of Contemporary Homelessness

### 2011 Society for American Archaeology Annual Conference, Sacramento CA

By Courtney Singleton and Larry Zimmerman

## Moving Objects: Documenting Change at Contemporary Homeless Sites

### 2011 Contemporary Historic Archaeology Theory Conference, Boston MA

By Courtney Singleton

## Publicly Concealed-Publicly Revealed: Archaeology of Contemporary Homelessness

### 2010 Society for Historical Archaeology Annual Conference, Austin TX

By Courtney Singleton and Larry Zimmerman

## “No Rules for Radicals”: Can archaeology really be activist?

### 2008 World Archaeological Congress (WAC-6) Dublin, Ireland

By Courtney Singleton

## Speaking Engagements

## The Contemporary Archaeology of Homelessness at Pelham Bay Park

### 2015 Museum of the City of New York, Professional Archaeologists of New York City Annual Speaker’s Meeting

By Courtney Singleton

## Contemporary Archaeology of Homelessness: Wenner Gren Workshop

### 2014 Archaeologies of the Present: Critical Engagements with Post-industrial Urban Transformations, Wenner Gren Workshop, Detroit MI

By Courtney Singleton

## Indianapolis Public Library: Public Forum

### 2011 Archaeology of Homelessness: A Public Forum

## Delaware Society of Historic Archaeology

### 2010 Applied Anthropology and the Archaeology of Homelessness

By Courtney Singleton

# *Awards and Acknowledgements*

## SUNTA Graduate Student Panel Award/2013

## Society for Historical Archaeology Student Paper Prize/2012

## Masarachia Scholarship Program/2007-2010

Four year scholarship program centered on Social Justice, Community Organizing, and Inequality

## Geography Outstanding Senior Award/2010

## IUPUI Top 100 Students/2010

## Outstanding Female Leader Award/2009

## Anthropology Department Outstanding Student Scholarship/2009

## Loretta Lunsford Scholarship/2008

Summer Field School at Boxley Cabin Teacher’s Assistant

## IUPUI Liberal Arts Dean’s List/2004-2010

## Mary Crisler Scholarship/2008

“Monticello, VA: Plantation Archaeology”

## Zora Neale Hurston-Mari Evans Scholarship/2007-2008

## Loretta Lunsford Scholarship/2007

“Archaeology Study Collection of Ransom Place: Bottles and Glass”

## Thomas Jefferson Scholarship/2007