

2/5

12:00~13:00 JST

Four projects, four approaches to "community archaeology" in Oceania

Professor James Flexner's approach to community collaboration has evolved considerably since he began working in Oceania in 2006. This evolution is partly due to his career trajectory: as his experiences in the region expanded, so did his understanding of how to work with Islanders. It also stems from changing conversations within archaeology, where the well-established tropes of community consultation and partnership are increasingly challenged in critical discussions about power relationships. This presentation reflects on nearly two decades of community archaeology, starting with his earliest forays into public archaeology as a postgraduate student in the Hawaiian Islands. Vanuatu provided transformational experiences that changed his understanding of community archaeology. The Vanuatu Kaljoral Senta (Cultural Centre or VKS) filwokas network offers a unique model for Islander-led collaborative research. Research with Australian South Sea Islanders in Queensland required a different approach, with the community directing a slower research pace that challenged his notions of archaeology's boundaries. Finally, his ongoing work in the Mangareva Islands of French Polynesia necessitates yet another approach due to francophone understandings of research. Overall, these experiences demonstrate that there is no singular approach to community archaeology. Each context requires its own set of negotiations, establishment and maintenance of interpersonal relationships, and understanding of priorities within and between an ever-evolving and sometimes difficult-to-identify "community."



GUEST SPEAKER

Professor James Flexner

James Flexner is Associate Professor of Historical Archaeology and Heritage at the University of Sydney and an Australian Research Council Future Fellow. A leading scholar in Oceania's historical archaeology, his research focuses on French Catholic missions in the Mangareva Islands of French Polynesia. He previously studied Presbyterian missions in Vanuatu, the cultural heritage of Australian South Sea Islanders in Queensland, and the 19th-century leprosarium in Hawai'i. He has led projects in Tasmania and New South Wales, and also studies long-term landscape change in Oceania, community collaboration, and the socio-politics of archaeology.

Registration

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