

3/19

12:00~13:00 JST

Responsible Archaeology

Archaeology and Indigenous Peoples in a Central American Context

This talk reflects on the responsibilities archaeologists have to indigenous peoples by creating knowledge from their ancestral material traces, even where continuity has been broken or nation-states claim indigenous cultures as hegemonic patrimony. Using contemporary Honduran case studies, Professor Joyce outlines a trajectory toward a responsible position in archaeology as community-engaged scholars, requiring repudiation of our colonialist origins dominated by discourses of discovery, and calling for us to realize our potential to understand the serious impacts humans have on a planet that will survive us, and the non-human life it shelters. She builds on a concept of responsibility she presented in "The Languages of Archaeology" (2002), recognizing the inherent dialogic nature of archaeological practice. Drawing on a theoretical concept of "responsibility" or "answerability," she argued archaeologists assume responsibilities as they engage with materials created by people who can no longer contradict representations of their lives. We are answerable for our actions because they affect people today and construct ideas about the past. For Honduran Lenca people, whose ancestral sites she studies, humans have a responsibility to the earth, rivers, and other nonhuman beings on which society depends. This responsibility, traditionally expressed through ceremonies called "compostura" (meaning "repair or put in order"), is enacted today by indigenous water and land defenders in Honduras, who are among the most endangered environmental activists. Their responsibility for maintaining the world interacts with the responsibility archaeologists have, demanding we produce knowledge that supports this broader social responsibility.

GUEST SPEAKER

Professor Rosemary Joyce

Rosemary Joyce, Distinguished Professor of Anthropology at the University of California, Berkeley, received the PhD from the University of Illinois-Urbana in 1985. At Harvard University from 1985 to 1994, she moved to Berkeley in 1994, and served as Director of the Hearst Museum of Anthropology until 1999. Joyce conducted archaeological fieldwork in Honduras from 1977 to 2009. Since 2020, she has co-directed a collaborative project examining city life at Palenque, Chiapas, Mexico. Author of 11 books and editor of 10 others, her newest book is "Sites, Traces, and Materiality" (2024).



Registration

Sign up via the QR code or use the following link:
<https://forms.gle/h5GmtXtffBpj8hbF6>

HELD ONLINE ON ZOOM

This event will be held
online and in English only.

