

Michigan Tech

Michigan Tech Social Science

Colloquium

Friday, October 10, 2014

4-5 pm 201 AOB

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Integrating Science and Social Theory in Historical Archaeology and Heritage Studies

In the last several decades of historical archaeology and related fields, practitioners have struggled with artificial divisions between STEM and humanist frameworks. We feel driven to identify ourselves as methods-people versus theory-people, processualists versus post-processualists, empiricists versus post-modernists, and positivists versus relativists. However, historical archaeology's reliance on varied theory and forms of data encourages frameworks that bridge these perceived gaps. This presentation offers a number of heritage projects that integrate science and social theory: GIS and the study of panoptic surveillance at the company town of Fayette, Michigan; geochemical analyses and 19th century medicine, bodily discipline, symbolic violence, and environmental discrimination (at Fayette and a hospital site in Nevada); database management and heritage consultation, public outreach, and social capital with American Indian tribes (heritage stewardship program in AZ); and federally funded science programs and federal/tribal heritage relations (Stewart Indian School collaborative archaeology project). These projects show that despite the rhetoric of division, historical archaeologists can bridge these gaps regularly and with innovative, forward-thinking results.

Sponsored by the Visiting Women & Minority Lecture Series (VWMLS)

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If you have any questions
regarding our events,
please contact:

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**Location: Academic
Office Bldg. Room 201**

