

The Acadiana Chapter of the
Louisiana Archaeological Society Presents:
May 6th, 2021, at 6:00 pm via zoom



Vibrant Ruins and the "Ancestralization" of Andean Landscapes: Insights from Nepeña, Peru

Presented by David Chicoine, Ph.D.

On the coast of north-central Peru, archaeologists have been puzzled by the presence of Casma phase objects (~800-1400 CE) at archaeological sites with earlier cultural components. This has led to significant cultural historical and chronological confusion including the classification of several Early Horizon sites (800-200 BCE) as Casma Phase centers. Field research and excavations in the last two decades help disentangle those components and document the extensive reuse of abandoned buildings, fortifications, and other ruins by late prehispanic groups. Yet, little attention has actually been given to the motivations, meanings, and broader structuring impact of those material engagements. This paper examines the vibrancy of the built environment in the lower Nepeña Valley as seen through its reuse by groups producing Casma style things. I am particularly interested in exploring mortuary practices, in particular the placement of Casma phase dead bodies, and how those helped in the social construction of "ancestralized" landscapes. I detail a model that integrates the material vibrancy of things, monuments, and landscapes in shaping the aesthetic attentiveness of Casma makers, especially potters, architects, and sculptors. Results are discussed in light of the sociohistorical conditions surrounding the emergence of Casma style cultural manifestations.

About the presenter:

David Chicoine (Associate Professor, LSU) is an archaeological anthropologist studying the complex societies that developed in the ancient Andean region of South America. His publications have explored the design and use of architectural spaces, material culture, political strategies, foodways, feasting, funerary practices, visual arts, religious symbolism, marine exploitation, and early urbanism. Since 2003, he directs excavations in the Nepeña Valley of the north-central coast of Peru.



When: May 6th, 2021

Time: 6:00 pm (CT)

Where: Join Zoom Meeting: <https://lsu.zoom.us/j/8380801156>

Meeting ID: 838 080 1156

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