

Material Culture and Historical Archaeology

Ph.D. Research Field

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I welcome the opportunity to develop a reading list (35-40 books and articles) and practicum experiences with graduate students interested in incorporating material culture and archaeology as primary sources within their historical inquiries. Such a list would address material culture theory, case studies of material cultural studies (including architecture and folklore), the historical evolution of historical archaeology as a discipline/anthropology sub-discipline, and major pioneering historical archaeology works on artifact interpretation, field excavation practices, digital technologies and analysis, and important site case studies. Historical Archaeology as practiced today investigates sites related to Europe's (and capitalism's) global expansion from the fifteenth century through the present and is by nature transnational and multicultural in approach.

Students undertaking this field will be expected to participate in my annual Smiths Island (Bermuda) archaeology field school as supporting staff in late May and June at the end of their first Ph.D. year. This immersive, intensive training in field recording and excavation techniques and material culture identification and analysis will make field readings more relevant and demonstrate the strengths and limitations of material culture and archaeology as historic evidence while also serving to model the scientific, deductive practices of archaeologists during a site investigation.