

Conference Agenda

Session

SYM-006a: Post-industrial Landscapes, Communities, and Heritage

Time: Thursday, 04/Jan/2018: 9:00am - 12:00pm

Location: Galerie 2

Session Chair: Kaeleigh Herstad

Session Chair: Dan J Trepal

Discussant: April M. Beisaw

Session Abstract

Archaeologists have become adept at understanding urban and industrial sites through a study of material remains. However, such work increasingly takes place in a postindustrial context, where ongoing processes of ruination or decay, social conflict, environmental damage, and economic stagnation are seen as defining features of the physical and social landscape. What types of challenges does this environment pose for archaeologists, and what opportunities does it offer for archaeology to better serve and enrich the public? This session gathers presenters from Urban, Industrial, and Contemporary Archaeologies and Heritage Studies to demonstrate the ways in which understandings of postindustrial remains take archaeologists in new directions, and how archaeologists may play a useful role within contemporary postindustrial communities.

Presentations

9:00am - 9:15am

Discourse, Dumpsites, and New Directions in the 'Land of Trump': Archaeology and Representations at Appalachian Company Coal Mining Towns

Zada Komara

University of Kentucky, United States of America

Appalachia has been represented problematically for the past 150 years: Appalachians are the homogenous, white 'Other' in a backward land of isolated hillbillies living in opposition to the American mainstream. Such characterizations have been revitalized since the 2016 election to explain Appalachia's 'cycle of self-inflicted ills,' to justify exploitation, and to obfuscate underlying structural factors. Archaeologists in Appalachia have unique input about its materiality, identity, and economies, inexplicably linked with industrialism in complicated relationships of identity, despair, hope, and pride and impacted by the legacy of coal extraction. We must add our voice to global discussions of Appalachia's past and future. This paper: 1.) discusses archaeology's potential to challenge persistent narratives with contemporary consequences through artifacts and oral histories, and 2.) suggests economic strategies adapted from historic ones to aid Appalachia's just transition post-coal using examples from investigations of company coal-mining towns across Appalachian Kentucky.

9:15am - 9:30am

Sulphur Mining in Northern Chile (20th Century): Ghostly Landscapes, Temporal Movement, and the Rhetoric of Nostalgia

Francisco J. Rivera Amaro

Université de Montréal, Canada

This communication presents an interdisciplinary research project that is carried out in the indigenous community of Ollagüe, in northern Chile. The temporal movement of the industrial materiality associated with the sulphur mining history of the village during the 20th century allows us to ask: could industrial ruins and their materiality engender memory spaces intertwined with the local indigenous community's contemporary preoccupations? By considering different forms of time representations, we seek to understand the role of industrial materiality and the processes through which memory structures are shaped. Focusing on the peculiarities of Chile's modernization and capitalist expansion, we approach industrial materiality in terms of continuity, fragmentation, and ruptures. Patrimonial policies are used as active elements in the reconstruction of memories, of local identities, and in ethnic vindication discourses. An archaeological approach brings to light this temporal fragmentation, generating political commitments towards the recent past, its material culture and its industrial spaces.

9:45am - 10:00am

Nostalgia and Heritage in the Carousel City: Community Identity and Creative Destruction

Maria O'Donovan

Public Archaeology Facility, Editor, Northeast Historical Archaeology

The "Carousel City" label for the Binghamton area stems from market "re-branding" for heritage tourism. The carousels were a gift from George F. Johnson, a welfare capitalist whose factories dominated the landscape until they were shuttered in the 20th century. They represent a material remnant of a prosperous, idealized past in a de-industrialized landscape. Archaeological research contests this idealized vision of the past and reveals the role of capitalist processes of creative destruction in creating the urban landscape. This story tarnishes the joyous image of carousels and directly challenges contemporary community identity. However, the nostalgic trap of community identity that academics seek to avoid is also a source of strength and pride for many in their contemporary struggles with neoliberal transformations. Archaeologists need to take this nostalgia seriously, entering into real, sustained dialogue with communities, and recognizing that this dialogue leads to uncomfortable places and problematic outcomes.

10:00am - 10:15am

Interrogating Legacies of Industry: Industrial Ruins and the Creative Destruction of Capitalism

Sam R Sweitz

Michigan Technological University, United States of America

How do we interpret and reconcile meaning related to the *creative destruction* of capitalism? That is, the basic tension that exists between the *awe-inspiring power of capitalist production* and the *disdain inspiring proclivity for endless accumulation/consumption*. How can we rectify the many beneficial outcomes of global industrialization with the externalized costs (for some) that are now coming due (for all)? Archaeological methodologies and theoretical models are particularly suited to linking and interpreting social behavior past, present, and future through the lens of the site. Localized environmental change and landscape biographies/archaeologies provide insight into larger processes/perceptions, and the complex and often contradictory nature/place of industry and industrially induced change in contemporary dialogue. The archaeological site serves as the grounds for "ethnographic study" (archaeology as participant observation of the "archaeological other") and the interplay between evolving understandings of "cultural" and "natural" resources and how they serve to (re)contextualize the legacy of industry.

10:15am - 10:45am

15min presentation + 15min break

From Ugly Tracks and Trains to a World's Fair, and Today's Iconic City Park: Urban Revitalization, Archaeology, and Influencing Positive Perceptions of Industrial Heritage at Spokane's Riverfront Park

Ashley M Morton

Fort Walla Walla Museum, United States of America

Riverfront Park has come to be a symbol of environmentalism for Spokane, Washington as the site of an iconic park originating out of urban renewal efforts that culminated into the site of the 1974 World's Fair Expo. As would be expected, much of this park's history is steeped in the act of transforming urban decay into a "natural oasis." Subsequently, over the last forty years, recognition or appreciation for this location's history as Spokane's initial townsite has declined. With this in mind, various forms of public outreach were developed while conducting a CRM archaeological survey—in support of upgrades to Spokane's Riverfront Park—and aimed at influencing positive perceptions of the park's industrial heritage. This paper explores changing values of urban landscape, effects on a community's collective memory, and how archaeology can play a role in enhancing industrial heritage.

10:45am - 11:00am

Shaken Apart: Community Archaeology In A Post-Industrial Earthquake City

Katharine J. Watson, Jessie Garland

Christchurch Archaeology Project, New Zealand

This paper explores the interplay of a post-industrial setting, heritage and archaeology following a natural disaster. The setting is Christchurch, New Zealand, and the natural disaster was the devastating earthquakes that struck the city in 2010 and 2011, leading to the demolition of thousands of buildings across the city and its surrounds, followed by extensive rebuild-related earthworks. Throughout this process, numerous archaeological sites have been found and much of the built heritage has been lost. The sheer scale of the work has resulted in a host of challenges and opportunities for archaeologists, many of which are related and all of which are entwined with the impact of the earthquakes on the city and its community. Amongst these are the challenges presented by the large volumes of data collated to date and the opportunities for public engagement created by the various factors at play in the post-earthquake years.

11:00am - 11:15am

Excavating the Motor City: Structural Racism and the "Archaeological Record" in Detroit

Robert C. Chidester

The Mannik & Smith Group, Inc., United States of America

In 2012 the Detroit Housing Commission received funding from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to demolish the long-neglected public housing development known as the Douglass Homes, a collection of townhouses and mid- and high-rise apartment buildings in mid-town Detroit. The Douglass Homes had been built on top of an earlier residential neighborhood on the edge of Paradise Valley, a once-flourishing center of African American commerce and social life in the city. Pursuant to environmental compliance regulations, archaeological investigations were conducted during the demolition of the Douglass Homes in 2013-2014. These investigations uncovered several intact remnants of Paradise Valley and demonstrated that, contrary to the arguments of some archaeologists, 20th-century archaeological sites in Detroit do have the ability to yield important data. This presentation will consider the impacts of structural racism on both the archaeological record of Detroit and archaeologists' understanding of African-American heritage in the Motor City.

11:15am - 11:30am

Chicago's Gray House as Underground Railroad Station?: Narrating Resistance, 1856-present

Rebecca S. Graff

Lake Forest College, United States of America

The Gray House stands within Chicago's Old Irving Park neighborhood. Known for his anti-slavery stance, John Gray was Cook County's first Republican sheriff, and a legend arose designating his home a station on the Underground Railroad. As an archaeological project at the site commences, its environs on Chicago's northwest side feature an emerging network of clandestine routes and collective resistance, focused this time on a population at high risk of federal immigration raids. This paper introduces the site, situating it within archaeological research on the Underground Railroad (e.g., Delle 2008). It addresses the way that stories of the Underground Railroad have come to constitute the preferred narrative of moral uplift and social justice for an urban, multiracial public. The Gray House illuminates a paradox: even as those stories circulate alongside the new network of resistance, the imagined remnants for connecting the two may well outstrip the documentary and archaeological records.

11:30am - 12:00pm

15min presentation + 15min break

Community Archaeology on a Social Housing Estate in the Early 21st Century: Middlefield Lane, Gainsborough (UK)

Carenza R Lewis

University of Lincoln, UK, United Kingdom

Middlefield Lane, in the former Midlands industrial town of Gainsborough (UK), was one of many new post-war British social housing estates built to replace crowded, insanitary 19th century slums with better quality housing and open space, and modelled on the 1928 'garden city' plan of Radburn, New Jersey. Radburn is a national monument but elsewhere, time and policy-makers have left such estates deprived and unprepossessing places with high levels of social deprivation. Social critics have condemned the original planners as unrealistic utopian idealists.

In 2016 scores of current residents participated in archaeological excavations within Middlefield. This paper will assess the excavation outcomes, focussing firstly on the unusually high number of child-related finds which indicated that the open spaces were indeed used, as intended, by children for outdoor play; and secondly on feedback which showed the positive impact participation had on residents' skills and attitudes to 'their' place and its heritage.

Conference Agenda

Session

SYM-006b: Post-industrial Landscapes, Communities, and Heritage

Time: Thursday, 04/Jan/2018: 1:15pm - 3:45pm

Location: Galerie 2

Session Chair: Kaeleigh Herstad

Session Chair: Dan J Trepal

Discussant: Melissa F. Baird

Session Abstract

Archaeologists have become adept at understanding urban and industrial sites through a study of material remains. However, such work increasingly takes place in a postindustrial context, where ongoing processes of ruination or decay, social conflict, environmental damage, and economic stagnation are seen as defining features of the physical and social landscape. What types of challenges does this environment pose for archaeologists, and what opportunities does it offer for archaeology to better serve and enrich the public? This session gathers presenters from Urban, Industrial, and Contemporary Archaeologies and Heritage Studies to demonstrate the ways in which understandings of postindustrial remains take archaeologists in new directions, and how archaeologists may play a useful role within contemporary postindustrial communities.

Presentations

1:15pm - 1:30pm

Above and Below Ground: Teaching Combined Methodologies for a Holistic Understanding of the Built Environment

Kyla Cools, Katherine Boyle

University of Maryland, United States of America

During the summer of 2017, the University of Maryland's Anthracite Heritage Program held a combined historic preservation and archaeological field school at Eckley Miners' Village in Northeastern Pennsylvania. Complementing the University's dual masters in applied anthropology and historic preservation, this field school emphasized the value of utilizing historic preservation and archaeology to inform one another. This field school has provided an invaluable opportunity for students to learn the process of documenting historic structures, as well as taking the built environment into account when conducting an archaeological survey. Through this paper we aim to highlight our methodology for running a field school of this style, the challenges of running a combined program, and the benefits of combining historic preservation and historic archaeology.

1:30pm - 1:45pm

Lighting the Ruhr: Industrial heritage and photography at night

Hilary Orange¹, Trent Bates²

¹Ruhr Universität Bochum, Germany; ²Brigham Young University

This paper discusses a recent collaboration between Hilary Orange (lead on the 'Lighting the Ruhr' project, funded by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation) and photographer / visual artist Trent Bates. During July 2017, we explored the links between industrial heritage and photography in the Ruhr region of Germany, meeting with photographers and members of photo clubs who photograph industrial sites at night and during the 'blue hour' - the time around twilight when there is still some light to see. Our work with this contemporary community is being contextualised within a study of 20th century regional industrial motifs, drawn from photo archives, exhibition catalogues and marketing materials.

The 'Lighting the Ruhr' project is exploring the use of artificial light at industrial heritage sites in the Ruhrgebiet, from the use of illumination within projects that concern cultural and structural change, to the archaeological traces of redundant, historic lighting technology.

1:45pm - 2:00pm

Pullman Heritage Project: Legacies of Race and Industry in a Fresh-Water Entrepôt

Timothy Scarlett

Industrial Heritage and Archaeology, Department of Social Sciences, Michigan Technological University

The communities of Pullman live amid landscapes rich in industrial legacies. The legacies are industrial and economic, aesthetic, ecological and environmental. Since the town's founding, it has been part of global currents and flows of people, capital, products, and information. With the founding of Pullman National Monument by President Obama in 2015, the residents' long struggle to tell their stories have taken a new turn. Michigan Technological University's Industrial Heritage and Archaeology program is collaborating with the National Park Service in a study of heritage resources available for the Pullman Story. We are also examining best practices to reflect on how archaeologists and allied scholars can contribute to modern Pullman.

2:00pm - 2:30pm

15min presentation + 15min break

Divergent Heritages: Two Case of Labor Conflict

Maura A Bainbridge

Binghamton University, United States of America

Ludlow, Colorado and the Pullman neighborhood of Chicago present two contrasting examples of a postindustrial environment. Both were the sites of significant labor conflicts of the 20th century, but their preservations have taken opposite paths. Today Pullman stands as a National Monument and historic district, while Ludlow is a granite memorial in a so-called ghost town. This paper compares both the material aspects of these postindustrial environments and the publics who interact with them. Using contemporary archaeological methods, and visitor survey to the site, I will explore how contemporary archaeology can negotiate the complicated spheres of labor, conflict, development, heritage, and tourism.

2:30pm - 2:45pm

Archaeologies of Disinvestment and Displacement: Documenting Detroit's Foreclosure Crisis

Kaeleigh Herstad

Indiana University, United States of America

The City of Detroit boasts "the largest and most transparent" demolition program in the US, having demolished approximately 12,000 structures in under 3 years. While the city is best known for its decaying industrial sites, the majority of Detroit's vacant structures are residential: recently

occupied homes, schools, churches, and businesses. This presentation focuses on the production and destruction of these more ordinary 'ruins,' examining the political and historical processes that create postindustrial neighborhood blight and the 'culture of clearance' (Ammon 2016) that drives its fast-paced removal. I draw on ethnographic and archaeological research with community groups and residents who are facing or who have faced foreclosure and/or eviction to discuss how contemporary archaeologists can document postindustrial landscapes of displacement and contribute to ongoing local discussions about the legacies of racism and inequality that shape Detroit's present-day redevelopment.

2:45pm - 3:00pm

Postindustrial Archaeology in the Workshop of the World: Philadelphia Industrial Sites, 1990-Present

Lauren J. Cook

Philadelphia Archaeological Forum, United States of America

Nearly all industrial archaeology is postindustrial. Physical and spatial organization of industry has historically changed rapidly enough that we seldom find industrial sites and structures in use by the same firms, for the same purposes, or even in the same industries, for more than a century. Once known as the "Workshop of the World," Philadelphia maintained a varied industrial base after the Civil War. Physical decay, deferred maintenance, and the pressures of development all take their toll on the archaeological record. In 1990, in conjunction with the SIA meetings in the city, the Oliver Evans Chapter published a selective guidebook to Philadelphia industrial sites. An updated revision of the guidebook was published in 2007. The guidebook and revision are organized by neighborhood, enabling comparison of the fates of industrial sites in different areas. The relationship between economic forces, property values, and the erosion of the city's industrial heritage is clearly visible.

3:00pm - 3:15pm

Post-Industrial Placemaking: The Keweenaw Time Traveler and Community-Engaged Historical GIS

Sarah Fayen Scarlett, Don Lafreniere, John Arnold

Michigan Technological University, United States of America

Placemaking in post-industrial communities often becomes contested due to issues of conflicting memory, lack of economic resources, collective mistrust, and the problems of environmental degradation. A historical spatial data infrastructure known as the Keweenaw Time Traveler offers an interactive public-participatory platform to promote the health, both cultural and economic, of Michigan's remote post-industrial mining region. This online GIS-based historical atlas breaks down traditional institutional barriers to information by making freely available rich archival resources for municipalities, researchers, residents, and tourists alike. The "Explore" app, which allows users to add stories, photos, and comments to time-appropriate maps, further empowers users to question dominant narratives, investigate the changing landscape, and start conversations with new people about shared history. This paper uses the Quincy Mining Company agent's house to demonstrate the Keweenaw Time Traveler's contributions to expanding civic involvement, augmenting regional identity, and generating sustainable business models for heritage tourism.

3:15pm - 3:45pm

15min presentation + 15min break

Postindustrial Places and "Big Data": Exploiting the Potential of Historical Spatial Data Infrastructures for Archaeology

Dan Trepal, Don Lafreniere

Michigan Technological University, United States of America

This paper discusses the ways in which emerging "Big Data" approaches to historical research, in the form of GIS-based Historical Spatial Data Infrastructures (HSDIs), represent a powerful way urban and industrial archaeologists may better exploit historical source material. GIS-based research remains an underutilized asset within historical archaeology and its subfields. Drawing examples from HSDIs covering two postindustrial places (the city of London, Ontario and the Keweenaw Peninsula, in upper Michigan), we show how the use of historical "Big Data" can expand the scale of archaeological inquiry through the rapid and efficient manipulation, visualization and linkage of very large bodies of digitized, spatialized historical data at widely varying scales and across time. By helping to identify long-term processes manifesting themselves in the built and social environments of both past and present landscapes, HSDIs also represent a powerful means to generate more sophisticated, better-informed hypotheses that can be tested through fieldwork.