

Reverberations of a Vacuum

Local Responses to a 14th century CE immigration event on the Georgia Coast, USA

Anthropology Colloquium Series

Friday, May 2nd, 2025

3 p.m. -5 p.m. AKST

via Zoom

(meeting ID: 81970641678)



By the end of the 14th century CE, Native peoples throughout the Midwestern and Southeastern regions of North America had withdrawn from major monumental and political centers established in prior centuries. The depopulation of the Savannah River Valley is a case of a rapid, historically contingent Mississippian emigration event. In this presentation, I discuss the results of multiscale examinations of settlement transformations on the neighboring Georgia Coast, focusing on surveys of several multicomponent archaeological sites. My results establish how a large-scale immigration event affected community spatial and political organization and demonstrate how migrants and coastal locals engaged in collective cultural construction of new identities and lifeways in response to the challenges of negotiating the use of common pool resources, such as fisheries and suitable farmland.



DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY

University of Alaska Fairbanks

GUEST SPEAKER

Dr. Brandon Ritchison is an anthropological archaeologist whose research explores the interplay of mobility, environment, and sociopolitical organization across four millennia of human history in the Southeastern US.



EVENT CONTACT INFORMATION

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