



AMERIND ALUMNI NEWS

APRIL 2021, VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

An open letter from Amerind Board Chair Margaret Nelson & CEO Eric J. Kaldahl

The Amerind Foundation has hosted more than 500 scholars and artists over the decades since Amerind began its seminars and resident scholar and artist programs. We are pleased that you are one of this distinguished group. We know from the few seminars in which we participated that the experiences added immeasurably to our careers. They inspired our thinking and brought us into the sphere of other scholars with whom we remain connected to this day.

In our decades of connection with Amerind, we have never heard that a scholar or artist had a bad experience. On the contrary, artists and scholars have loved the landscape, the exchange of ideas, and the people.

Amerind's Studies in Anthropology series has produced 22 books that survey the Spanish Empire, illuminate 10,000 years of social inequality, address the human cost of the US-Mexico border, examine the Aztec economy, update our community with the latest research on Chaco, Mesa Verde, Paquimé, explore the role of anthropology informing our understanding and practice of sustainability, expand our understanding of accumulated knowledge and practice, and so much more.

Currently Amerind and the University of Arizona Press are laying the foundation for a new seminar and book series—the Amerind Indigenous Studies seminar series, working with Indigenous Scholars at universities across North America.

Amerind allocates \$25,000 each year to support the advanced seminars. We are launching a campaign among the Amerind Scholars and Artists to build financial support for these seminars and the books they produce. We would appreciate your help supporting this important work in our scholarly community, which we know enhances not only our fields of study, but the ideas and careers of those involved. If you can make a contribution, please let us know when making it that you want to sponsor Amerind's research program. Another great way to support Amerind is to join our membership rolls for ongoing, sustaining annual support. More information on giving can be found at the end of the newsletter.

Sincerely,

Margaret Nelson, Chair
Amerind Foundation Board of Directors

Eric J. Kaldahl, President and CEO
Amerind Foundation





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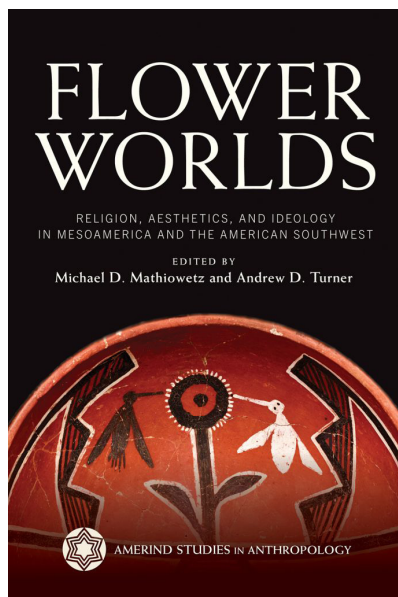
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Photo by Annie Larkin



Hot off the Press: Flower Worlds

Amerind is proud to announce the publication of *Flower Worlds: Religion, Aesthetics, and Ideology in Mesoamerica and the American Southwest*, edited by Michael D. Mathiowetz and Andrew D. Turner, published by the University of Arizona Press in Amerind's Studies in Anthropology series.



Sabbatical at Amerind

In 2021 visiting scholars have taken advantage of long stays on Amerind's scenic campus. Just this year we have welcomed Linda Brown, John Douglas, Randy McGuire, Anne Pyburn, Ruth Van Dyke, and Richard Wilk to Amerind's visiting scholar housing.

Amerind's 1,900 acre campus, just a one hour drive from Tucson, AZ, is one of the most convivial places to enjoy a protracted stay. At 4,800 feet of elevation, with eight miles of private back roads to hike, Amerind gives you many opportunities to stretch your legs and mull over your work in peace. Our 20,000 volume library is at your fingertips and Wi-Fi in the guest quarters connects you to a greater world.

Amerind offers two buildings for visiting scholars and artists. The Archaeologist House was built for the family of Amerind's first professionally trained archaeologist. A four bedroom, two bathroom home built around a small private courtyard, the home is located immediately across from our library. A comfortable kitchen, living room, and dining room provides ample room to spread out. The Scholars' Duplex apartment has a sun porch, living room, bedroom, and galley kitchen.

Both units are provided to scholars and artists for the same fee: \$600/month or \$175/week. They are booked on a first come, first served basis. How do you apply to be an Amerind visiting scholar or visiting artist? Simply write to CEO Eric Kaldahl (ekaldahl@amerind.org) explaining the project(s) you want to work on during your time at Amerind. Your work on campus does not need to involve Amerind's archive and collections, but can be any scholarly or artistic endeavor for which you need a peaceful place to work. Come join us.

Amerind Board of Directors

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Reconstructing Macaw Lives in the American Southwest

Photo by Eric Kaldahl



Doctoral candidate **Randee Fladeboe** is one of the contributors to Amerind's forthcoming book: *Birds of the Sun: Macaws, Parrots, and People in the Pre-Hispanic U.S. Southwest and Mexican Northwest*, edited by Christopher Schwartz, Stephen Plog, and Patricia A. Gilman. The remains of a scarlet macaw, recovered from the Wind Mountain archaeological site, have been in Amerind's care since Charles Di Peso's excavation there. In order to better understand the health, lives, and ages of these beautiful birds, Randee uses a nondestructive medical scanning technique in her research. More from Randee below:

"I am a doctoral candidate in Anthropology at the University of Florida. I am using computer tomography (CT) scanning and digital reconstruction to examine the life itineraries of prehistoric captive Southwestern macaws through their skeletal traces; the primary focus will be identifying and evaluating pathologies - particularly those related to health and treatments such as forcible plucking- and reassessing the birds' age at death. Other

aspects of my dissertation inform the life history study by evaluating archaeological contexts to understand the daily lives of the birds and their human co-residents. Information from the Wind Mountain bird will be added to a data set that includes over 100 macaws from across the American Southwest.

Along with signs of malnutrition and skeletal warping, the majority of captive macaws examined thus far have revealed signs of trauma to the wings that may be the direct result of a practice of live plucking, a trace that can be definitively identified and evaluated through CT scanning. CT can also be used to document age-related osteological markers. Combined with my previously collected zooarchaeological data on macaw age, sex, and distribution, in conjunction with research into avian health and pathology, this data will enable comparison of past macaw husbandry practices in different parts of the Southwest.

The result of this research will be an osteological assessment of how macaws in various parts of the Southwestern world went through their life stages at the hands of humans. This project is significant in its use of interdisciplinary research from the natural and social sciences, specifically the use of veterinary and ethological data to inform the archaeological record and investigate human-animal relationships. This is also the first study that attempts to definitively confirm the much-debated age and health status of captive Southwestern macaws."

Randee's future work will turn her attention to the macaws of Paquimé.



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Amerind's SAA After Party!

Thursday, April 15, 2021

6-7:30 pm Eastern Daylight Time
and 3-4:30 pm Pacific Daylight Time

Join your Amerind friends and colleagues for a virtual after party on the first night of this year's SAA meetings. Using a unique piece of software, guests will enter a virtual ballroom. You can move yourself around that ballroom at will, joining virtual tables to form smaller discussion groups. This way if you want to connect with friends, colleagues, collaborators, you can catch up with just the group you are looking for.

During the event, Amerind Board Chair Margaret Nelson and Amerind Board Member Christine Szuter will address the whole group. Amerind books will be given away to many of the guests that night and mailed directly to your home address. Please bring your own drinks and snacks to the party.

When registering for the event, the software will prompt you to upload a picture or an iconic image that represents you. That way your fellow guests, when surveying the virtual ballroom's map, can spot the people they want to invite to their table for a chat.

This is a free event open to Amerind's scholarly alumni. You do not need to be registered for the SAA meetings to attend. We hope to see you there!

To register, follow this link:

<http://bit.ly/AmerindSAA21>

Invest in Discovery with Amerind

Please help Amerind sustain and grow our remarkable intellectual experiences for today's community and tomorrow's scholars with your financial support. We hope that your research, career, or publishing directly benefited from the resources and inspiration found in our seminars, archives, museum collections, and beautiful campus. We hope you found professional support and inspiration through your connections at Amerind and through our community of scholars and artists.

There are many opportunities to support Amerind and the resources we share. With the difficult times we are all enduring, community support is more important than ever. Your charitable gifts and museum memberships directly benefit our mission, operations, campus environment, and the preservation of our world-class collections. How can you help?

- Contribute a charitable gift <https://www.amerind.org/donate/>
- Consider a museum membership <https://www.amerind.org/membership/>
- Learn more about other generous ways to support Amerind through a planned gift of appreciated stock, managed funds, or estate planning <https://www.amerind.org/donate/ways-to-give-planned-giving/>

Thank you to the many Amerind Scholars and Artists who generously show your dedication to our mission with your financial support. We can only grow, thrive, and facilitate discoveries with your partnership in our work together.



Photo by Anna Schneider