

THE DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY INVITES YOU TO A COLLOQUIUM

TECHNOLOGICAL LEGACIES AND INNOVATIONS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE LATE PLEISTOCENE PEOPLING OF THE AMERICAS

PRESENTED BY: DR. MATTHEW DES LAURIERS

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY,
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, NORTHRIDGE



UNTIL THE LAST 20 YEARS, THE CONSENSUS HELD BY THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMMUNITY WAS THAT THE PRINCIPAL ECOLOGICAL ROLE OCCUPIED BY THE EARLIEST HUMAN MIGRANTS TO THE AMERICAS WAS THAT OF TERRESTRIALLY FOCUSED BIG-GAME HUNTERS. DISCOVERIES ACROSS BOTH NORTH AND SOUTH AMERICA IN THE LAST TWO DECADES HAVE STEADILY ACCUMULATED TO THE POINT THAT THOSE ASSUMPTIONS HAVE BEEN SHATTERED. DEBATE STILL CONTINUES AS TO THE ROUTES OF TRAVEL, ECOLOGICAL ADAPTATIONS, AND TIMING OF THE INITIAL ENTRY, BUT WE FIND OURSELVES IN A PERIOD OF AN ADAPTIVE RADIATION OF PERSPECTIVES. IT NOW APPEARS THAT MIGRATIONS ALONG THE PACIFIC RIM WERE MOST LIKELY RESPONSIBLE FOR INITIAL HUMAN ARRIVAL ON THE AMERICAN CONTINENTS. THESE MIGRATIONS WOULD LIKELY HAVE INCLUDED PEOPLE WITH A RANGE OF CULTURAL, LINGUISTIC, AND TECHNOLOGICAL TRADITIONS. THESE TECHNOLOGICAL LEGACIES SHOULD BE ACKNOWLEDGED AND TRACED TO THEIR MOST LIKELY POINTS OF ORIGIN IN ORDER TO MORE FULLY INTEGRATE THE STORY OF THE PEOPLING OF THE NEW WORLD WITH THE LARGER PICTURE OF THE MODERN HUMAN DIASPORAS. THE SITES CONTAINING SOME OF THE EARLIEST EVIDENCE FOR HUMAN OCCUPATION ALONG THE PACIFIC COAST INCLUDE WELL-DESIGNED SHELL FISHHOOKS THAT MAY TIE THE FIRST OCCUPANTS OF THE BAJA CALIFORNIA PENINSULA TO POPULATIONS WHOSE ORIGINAL HOMELANDS WERE TO BE FOUND AMONG THE ARCHIPELAGOES OF THE WESTERN PACIFIC, RATHER THAN THE TUNDRA OF EASTERN SIBERIA.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2019
3:10 PM – 4:30 PM
WATKINS HALL 1350