

ARCH-BIO LUNCH TALK ARCH-BIO LUNCH TALK ARCH-BIO LUNCH TALK

Judith Habicht-Mauche

This talk summarizes the results of a recent collaborative project that utilized isotopic and chemical characterization analyses to reconstruct the diversity of glaze paint pigmenting strategies used on late precontact polychrome pottery from the Upper Little Colorado and Western Zuni regions in the Western Pueblo area of the American Southwest. In contrast to the strongly coherent cultural traditions and enduring social history of its Zuni neighbors, the late precontact Upper Little Colorado region, which was completely depopulated by the beginning of the fifteenth century, appears to have been a cultural cross-roads consisting of smaller and less stable villages whose inhabitants maintained complex networks of shared practice, trade, and interaction with diverse communities throughout the Western Pueblo area and beyond. Potters in the Upper Little Colorado produced a variety of regional styles of polychrome pottery. Examination of the resource acquisition patterns and recipes used to produce glaze-paints reflect the emergence of a highly eclectic set of technological strategies. In most cases, Upper Little Colorado potters seem to have been part of several cross-regional communities of practice, sharing intimate understandings of the techniques and resources employed by potters in neighboring Western Pueblo regions. However, in other cases some Upper Little Colorado potters appear to have lacked direct access to these shared sources of raw materials, technological knowledge, and practice. The implications of these patterns for understanding the movement of people, materials, and ideas throughout the late precontact Pueblo World is discussed.



Western Pueblo Glaze Paint Pigmenting Strategies: What I did on my Sabbatical



Professor Judith Habicht-Mauche's research interests include the organization of production and exchange, ethnicity and gender, and the nature of power and social organization in middle range societies in the American Southwest and Southern Plains. Her background includes training in pre-contact and post-contact period archaeology in the Americas, ethnohistory and museum studies. She earned her B.A. in Anthropology, with a focus in historic archaeology, from the College of William and Mary, and her Ph.D. in Anthropology from Harvard University. She also completed an intensive training course in ceramic materials analysis at the Center for Materials Research in Archaeology and Ethnography (CMRAE) at MIT. She has done archaeological fieldwork on historical sites in Virginia and pre-contact and early contact period sites in New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas.

Social Sciences 1, Room 261
January 22, 2020 ••• 12–1 pm

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