

# ARCH/BIOANTH LUNCH TALK

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 2019, 12:00PM  
SOC SCI 1, 261

## DR. TODD BRAJE

IRVINE CHAIR OF ANTHROPOLOGY  
CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

### *ARCHAEOLOGY AND CONSERVATION IN THE AGE OF THE ANTHROPOCENE*

Earth's ecosystems are rapidly changing, driven largely by human activities such as the overexploitation of wildlife, habitat degradation, and anthropogenic climate change. The human footprint is so substantial that many scientists argue that we now live in the Anthropocene, a new geologic epoch of our own making. To help understand the modern world and confront our environmental challenges, researchers need new theoretical, methodological, and interdisciplinary approaches in the sciences. Archaeology and historical ecology can offer critical perspectives by providing deep historical information on the relative abundances of flora and fauna, changes in biogeography, alterations in food webs, and much more.

Recent research on California's Channel Islands, in particular, offers new insights on human-environmental ecodynamics in marine and terrestrial ecosystems and demonstrates that perspectives from deep history will be key in helping us better understand the modern world and confront the challenges of our Anthropocene future.

