

Old Pueblo Archaeology Center's "Third Thursday Food for Thought" Series



In Search of a Borderland: Archaeological Patterns of Northwest Mexico and Neighbors

Free Zoom Presentation by Archaeologist Matthew C. Pailles, PhD



Drone photo of archaeologists excavating a rock-foundation structure in Chihuahua, Mexico



Formative period archaeological cultures of the US Southwest and Northwest Mexico

The Mexican Northwest frequently has been invoked as a *tierra incognita* in grand schemas of continental history. Was it the origin point for major social movements? The source or destination of populations known from the US Southwest? Or even more basically, is there continuity in traditions from the US Southwest to Mesoamerica? Thanks to decades of work by Mexican and international archaeologists we can now begin to place Northwest Mexico in its rightful place in continental scale narratives.

In this presentation archaeologist Matthew Pailles will present a review of recent research in Northwest Mexico. The review will span the region's traditions, focusing primarily on the Sierra Madre Occidental. New data suggest this region presents a unique story of persistent occupation for millennia, avoiding the boom and bust political cycles of many neighbors. Though rooted in widespread and long-held traditions shared across the Northwest and the US Southwest, this part of what is now Mexico resisted incorporation into the religious and political tumult that characterized much of the 1200s to 1400s in the US Southwest. Are these two observations related, and if so, how do we understand the large scale political history of the combined US Southwest and Northwest Mexico?

Continued on next page.

Thursday March 21, 2024



7 pm Mountain Standard Time*

* Same as Pacific Daylight Time

To register for the Zoom program go to

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_hLrnZPIESWmns2V-0qk67g

For more information contact Old Pueblo at 520-798-1201 or info@oldpueblo.org.

In Search of a Borderland . . .

This month's Third Thursday presenter is archaeologist **Matthew C. Pailes, PhD**. Dr. Pailes received his BA in anthropology from the University of Oklahoma in 2005, and his Master's and PhD from the University of Arizona in 2008 and 2015, respectively. Since 2016 he has been an Assistant or Associate Professor at the University of Oklahoma.

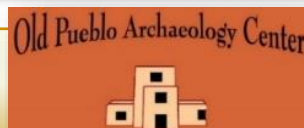
Matt has worked in a variety of locations including the Southwest, Southeast, and Plains of the US as well as overseas in Morocco. However, his principal research endeavors are in Northwest Mexico, where he has focused on the political economy of the 12th to 16th centuries. For the past six years he has collaborated with colleagues John Carpenter and Guadalupe Sanchez investigating the variable histories of different valleys throughout Mexico's Sierra Madre Occidental through a project funded by the National Science Foundation and the Consejo Nacional de Humanidades, Ciencias y Tecnologías.



*Matt Pailes
at work in the field*



Photos and map courtesy of Dr. Pailes



Flyer version of March 8, 2024