

CURRICULUM VITAE

Michelle M Pigott, PhD

EDUCATION

PhD Anthropology, Tulane University (2024)

Dissertation: "The Place Called Joara": A Native History of the Upper Catawba River valley.

Dissertation Committee: Christopher B. Rodning (Chair), Jason Nesbitt, Marcello Canuto

M.A. Anthropology, Tulane University (2019)

M.A. Historical Archaeology, University of West Florida (2015)

Thesis: The Apalachee after San Luis: Exploring Cultural Hybridization through Ceramic Practice.

Thesis Committee: John E. Worth (Chair), Ramie Gougeon, Jennifer Melcher

B.A. Anthropology, Cum Laude, University of Central Florida (2010)

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

University of Georgia, Laboratory of Archaeology, Postdoctoral Research Associate (Current)

With advisors Amanda Roberts Thompson and Victor Thompson and in consultation with Tribal Nations, develop a new Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan, create new interpretive history panels, processing of safety copies, and review historic building documentation for U.S. Army Fort Benning and The Maneuver Center of Excellence. Also with advisors and colleagues, developed the Indigenous Archaeology exhibit at the new Georgia Museum of Natural History.

Upper Catawba Archaeological Project, Co-Director (Current)

Primary investigator with colleagues David Moore, Christopher Rodning, Robin Beck, and Rachel Briggs of ongoing research at the Berry site and surrounding landscape in Burke County, NC.

University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Anthropology Department Lecturer (Spring 2025 - Fall 2025)

Professor of courses: ANTH 362 Principles of Archaeology, ANTH 369 Lithic and Ceramic Technology, ANTH 369/ANTH 522 Environmental Archaeology (undergraduate and graduate sections), ANTH 466 Archaeology of the Southeastern United States, ANTH 369 Archaeology of Indigenous North America, and ANTH 369/ANTH 522/ANTH 660 Archaeology of Gender (undergraduate and graduate sections). Served on the Anthropology Department Honors Curriculum committee.

University of New Orleans Anthropology and Sociology Department Adjunct Instructor (Fall 2024)

Professor of course: ANTH 3215 Archaeology of North America (undergraduate sections).

Berry Site (Joara & Fort San Juan) Field School, Archaeological Supervisor (2017-2024)

Teacher to undergraduate students and volunteers in archaeological excavations and lab work, primary Total Station operator, and social media coordinator in month-long field school Morganton, NC.

Tulane University Anthropology Department, Adjunct Instructor (2020-2021)

Professor of courses: ANTH 1050 Native America and ANTH 3560 Environmental Archaeology (undergraduate sections).

R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc., Archaeologist and Lab Analyst (2020-2021)

Lithic and historical materials analyst, report editor, logistics manager of company rentals and

equipment, and organized utility location for projects in Louisiana, Texas, Mississippi, and Alabama.

Tulane University Middle American Research Institute, ArcGIS Assistant (2020-2021)

Analyzed raw Lidar data in ArcGIS, locating Mayan buildings, causeways, reservoirs, and other anomalies from Lidar data of Campeche, Mexico.

Tulane University Anthropology Department, Graduate Research Assistant (2016-2020)

Assisted Anthropology Department faculty in teaching and research activities, including class lectures.

University of West Florida Archaeology Institute, Primary Investigator and Archaeologist (2015-2016)

Field Director of Phase I and II excavations at the 16th-century Spanish Tristan de Luna Settlement, conducted other related lab work, field work, and construction monitoring in Pensacola, FL.

OTHER ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXPERIENCE

Keowee Crossing USFS Project (Summer 2026)

With UGA Professor Victor Thompson and USFS archaeologist James Wettstaed, supervised UGA student and volunteer excavations and remote sensing of a Middle and Early Archaic site in Rabun County, GA.

Catawba Meadows Maintenance Building Replacement Project (June 2026)

With David Moore, Christopher Rodning, and Rachel Briggs, managed a FEMA Phase I compliance project for the City of Morganton, involving drone imagery and mapping, shovel testing, and trench excavations.

Oak Hill Cemetery Project (Summer and Fall 2023)

With Rachel Briggs of UNC Chapel Hill and field school student volunteers recorded the historically Black cemetery with outreach to the Jonesboro Historic district community in Morganton, NC.

Catawba Meadows Village Project (Spring 2023)

Led team of Exploring Joara Foundation volunteers and Warren Wilson College students in an archaeological survey of an ancestral Catawba village in Morganton, NC.

Carson House Kitchen Project (Spring 2022, 2023)

With David Moore, Warren Wilson College students, and the Carson House Society excavated and documented a 19th-century demolished kitchen related to the second oldest house in Marion, NC.

Natural Bridge Battlefield Metal Detecting Survey (Fall 2015 and Winter 2015-2016)

With UWF, the Florida Public Archaeology Network (FPAN), and volunteers, surveyed the Civil War Battlefield at Natural Bridge State Park, FL.

UWF Archaeology Institute and FPAN Pensacola Cemetery Survey (Fall 2014)

With UWF, FPAN, and community volunteers, recorded historically Black cemeteries in Pensacola, FL.

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Tulane School of Liberal Arts Dissertation Completion Fellowship, 2023 (\$25,000)

Tulane School of Liberal Arts Summer Research Award, 2023 (\$5,000)

Connolly Alexander Institute for Data Science Summer Graduate Award, 2023 (\$2,000)

Tulane Anthropology Graduate Student Fund, 2023 (\$900)

Charles Hudson Award, Southeastern Archaeological Conference, 2021 (\$900)

Stone Center for Latin American Studies Research Award, P.I. Christopher B. Rodning, 2021 (\$1,800)

Tulane Anthropology Graduate Student Fund, 2019-2021 (\$2,171)

University of West Florida Scholarly and Creative Activities Committee Award, 2015 (\$350)

PUBLICATIONS

In Preparation

Landscapes of Encounter; Applying Deep-time Town Histories in Contact Narratives of the US Southeast. **Michelle M. Pigott**, Jennifer Birch, Victor D. Thompson, Christopher B. Rodning, Jacob Holland-Lulewicz, Stefan Brannan, Stephen Kowalewski, David Hally, Mark Williams, and James Brooks. Preparing for submission to *American Antiquity* by Winter 2026.

Considering Indigenous Time, Place, and History in the Archaeology of Contact Narratives; a View from Western North Carolina. Under revision for the journal *Southeastern Archaeology* as part of a special issue titled "The State of Theory in Southeastern Archaeology."

Peer Reviewed

[Accepted, *In Press for Spring 2027*] **Michelle M. Pigott**, Emily Clark, and Christopher B. Rodning "Time and Indigenous Engagements with European Colonialism in Southeastern North America." Chapter in the volume *Retelling Time in Indigenous-Colonial Interactions across North America*, Katherine Brown and Lee Panich (editors), University of Arizona Press.

[Accepted, *In Press for Fall 2026*] Dating the Expansion of the Late Mississippian Chiefdom of Joara; Bayesian Modeling of AMS Radiocarbon data from Western North Carolina. *Radiocarbon*.

[Accepted, *In Press for Fall 2026*] 'The Two Cacicas': Leadership in the Late Mississippian Chiefdom of Guatari. In the Forum "Women and the Pardo Expeditions." *Native South, Volume 18*.

Luke Auld-Thomas, Marcello Canuto, Adriana Velazquez Morlet, Francisco Estrada-Belli, David Chatelain, Diego Matadamas, Alex Juado, **Michelle M. Pigott**, and Juan Carlos Fernandez Diaz

2024 "Running out of empty space: environmental lidar and the crowded ancient landscape of Campeche, Mexico." *American Antiquity*. DOI: 10.15184/aqy.2024.148

2022 The Materiality of the Apalachee Diaspora: an Indigenous History of Contact and Colonialism in the Gulf South. *Southeastern Archaeology* 41(1):53-73. DOI: 10.1080/0734578X.2022.2030891.

Christopher B. Rodning, **Michelle M. Pigott**, and Hannah Hoover

2020 "Native American Responses to Spanish Contact and Colonialism in the American South," in *The Global Spanish Empire: Five Hundred Years of Place Making and Pluralism*, edited by Christine Beaulieu and John G. Douglass (eds) pp. 83-104, University of Arizona Press, Tucson. DOI:10.1353/book.74213.

Not Peer Reviewed- Reviews, Interviews, Reports

David G. Moore, Christopher B. Rodning, **Michelle M. Pigott**, and Rachel V. Briggs

2026 Catawba Meadows Maintenance Building Replacement Project: Phase I Archaeological Investigations in Burke County, North Carolina. Compliance Report Submitted to FEMA and the City of Morganton.

2022 How Far Have We Come? Interviews with Our Role Models: Judith Bense. *Horizon & Tradition: The Newsletter of the Southeastern Archaeological Conference* 64(2):9-23.

2019 Archaeogaming: An Introduction to Archaeology in and of Video Games (Book Review). *American Antiquity* 84(4):777-778. DOI: 10.1017/aaq.2019.70

John E. Worth, **Michelle M. Pigott**, Jennifer Melcher, and Danielle Dadiago

2015 Archaeological Investigations at Mission San Joseph de Escambe 2009-2012, Report of Investigations No. 196, Archaeology Institute, The University of West Florida, Pensacola.

2014 2014 UWF Pensacola Colonial Frontiers Field School. *The Florida Anthropologist* 67(4):203-205.

SELECTED ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS AND ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS

"Landscapes of Encounter: Refined Chronology-Building, Indigenous Histories, and Spanish Entradas in the Southeast" invited participant of the Mini-Conference and Roundtable Symposium, University of Georgia, Athens, February 2026

"The Upper Creek Petroglyph: Memory and Landscape at the Berry Site" paper presented in the organized symposium "Materializing Memory: Archaeological Approaches in the Southeast" at the Southeastern Archaeological Conference, Baton Rouge, LA, November 2025 with coauthor Christopher B. Rodning

"Expanding the Chronology of a North Carolina Chiefly Landscape using AMS Radiocarbon Data" paper presented in the organized symposium "Building a better chronology for 15th-18th century eastern North America through radiocarbon dating and collaborative research agendas" at the Society for American Archaeology, Denver, CO, April 2025

"Time and Indigenous Engagements with European Colonialism in Southeastern North America" paper presented in the organized symposium "Retelling Time in Indigenous-Colonial Interactions across North America" at the Society for American Archaeology, Denver, CO, April 2025 with coauthors Emily Clark and Christopher B. Rodning (*Winner of the 2025 SAA Amerind Seminar competition*)

"Joara and the History of a Late Mississippian Chiefly Landscape in Western North Carolina" paper presented at the Southeastern Archaeological Conference, Williamsburg, VA, November 2024
"Reconsidering the impacts of Late Mississippian Chiefdoms on early Spanish entradas: a view from Western North Carolina" paper presented in the organized symposium "The State of Theory in Southeastern Archaeology" at the Society for American Archaeology, New Orleans, LA, April 2024

"A Chronology fit for a Chiefdom: AMS radiocarbon dating of 2 Burke Phase settlements" poster presented at the Southeastern Archaeological Conference, Chattanooga, TN, October 2023

“Connecting Colonial Studies and Advocacy for Indigenous Rights” invited roundtable discussant at the Renaissance Society of America, San Juan, PR, April 2023

“Archaeology of Time and Space; the case of the Province of Joara” paper presented in the organized symposium “Beyond Buildings: Reenvisioning Landscapes in the American Southeast” at the Southeastern Archaeology Conference, Little Rock, AR, November 2022

“Dating Cherokee Townhouses and the Townhouse Sequence at the Coweeta Creek Site” poster presented at the Southeastern Archaeology Conference, Durham, NC, October 2021 with coauthors Christopher B. Rodning and Jason Nesbitt

“Keeping a Clean House: Lithic Debitage Distribution and Analysis from a Late Mississippian House at Catawba Meadows (31BK18)” poster presented at the Southeastern Archaeology Conference, Jackson, MS, November 2019

“Archaeology of Ritual in Cherokee Towns of the Southern Appalachians” paper presented in organized symposium “Silenced Rituals in Indigenous North American Archaeology” at the Society of American Archaeology Conference, Albuquerque, NM, April 2019 with coauthor Christopher B. Rodning

“Native American Responses to Spanish Contact and Colonialism in the American South” paper presented in the organized symposium “Spanish Colonialism in the Global Realm: Archaeological and Ethnohistoric Approaches to Cultural Ethnogenesis and Persistence” at the Society of American Archaeology Conference, Washington D.C., April 2018 with coauthor Christopher B. Rodning (*Winner of the 2018 SAA Amerind Seminar competition*)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Society for American Archaeology
Southeastern Archaeological Conference
Society for Historical Archaeology
North Carolina Archaeological Society
Colonial Encounters Research Consortium

MEDIA COVERAGE

2025 *Science* “[Redated artifacts rewrite how Indigenous people responded to European contact](#)”
2016 *USA Today* “[UWF team unearths more than just Luna artifacts](#)”