

An Archaeology of Displaced Communities in Detroit

Speaker: Dr. Krysta Ryzewski of Wayne State

Host Department: Museum of Anthropology

Date: 11/06/2014

Time: 12:00 PM

Location: 2009 Ruthven Museums Building

Description:

This presentation reflects upon how archaeology contributes to a multi-scalar and diachronic understanding of displacement in Detroit. Examples from two ongoing projects – the Roosevelt Park Excavations and Unearthing Detroit – focus on the communities removed during urban improvement episodes in the Corktown and Riverfront neighborhoods over the course of the 19th and 20th centuries. In addition to illustrating the everyday lives of Detroit's undocumented communities and their struggles against removal, these case studies highlight important differences in scales of analysis, diversity of present-day stakeholder groups, and obstacles facing archaeological resource management in Detroit's urban setting. They also provide a basis for considering the ways in which contemporary and historical archaeological initiatives might productively participate in the city's revitalization efforts.