

Households During the Time of State Formation: New Excavations from El Mogote

Speaker: Lacey Carpenter, Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Anthropology, Museum of Anthropological Archaeology

Host Department: Museum of Anthropological Archaeology

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Time: 12:00 pm

Location: Room 2009 Ruthven Museums Building

Description:

The Valley of Oaxaca, Mexico has been the focus of extensive research on the evolution of socio-political complexity. In particular, the formation of a primary state at Monte Albán and a secondary state at Tilcajete have been documented through regional survey and the excavations of civic-ceremonial architecture. My research at the Tilcajete sites builds on this body of work through an examination of households before, during, and after the formation of a secondary state. A household prospective provides data on the effects of state formation on daily life, household organization and activities as well as the conditions and social context in which the state emerged. In this presentation, I will discuss the most recent findings from excavations of four structures from the Middle Formative (700-300 B.C.) occupation at Tilcajete. I will offer some preliminary interpretations of how house layout and construction may be related to shifts in household organization from prestate to state occupations.