"Attentive to Praxis: American Archaeology's Next Generation" - William A. White, III

Lecture Hall (4206-139)
Friday, October 29, 14:00-16:00

Abstract

Archaeology in the United States is currently undergoing a paradigmatic shift. While we cannot know which direction the profession will take, ethical, demographic, and economic forces are moving American archaeology into a space it has not previously occupied. Decades of activism from indigenous communities have coalesced with the #blacklivesmatter movement to push archaeologists towards accountability for their (in)actions. More than any time in the past 20 years, American archaeology is being forced to change its practices. Archaeologists need to become more attentive to the profession, its potential positive impacts as well as its historical shortcomings, to stay relevant during this time of rapid change.

Biography

William A. White, III is an Assistant Professor of Anthropology at the University of California, Berkeley where he specializes in historical archaeology of the African Diaspora, historic preservation, and community-based research. He completed his Bachelor’s in anthropology at Boise State University in 2001 and earned an anthropology Master’s at the University of Idaho in 2005. From 2002—2014, Bill worked for several cultural resource management companies across the American West. He worked for the Bureau of Applied Research in Anthropology (BARA) at the University of Arizona as an anthropological archaeologist from 2014—2017 when he completed his PhD. As a founding member of the Society of Black Archaeologists, Bill’s work seeks to increase diversity in archaeology and help train the next generation of professional archaeologists. Bill has been blogger and co-host of the CRM Archaeology Podcast since 2012, which allows him to keep a pulse on the contract archaeology community.