

ELENA SESMA

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University of California Riverside
Department of Anthropology
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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Historical and contemporary archaeology; Community based and public archaeology; African Diaspora archaeology; Black Feminist Theory; critical heritage studies; memory studies; Caribbean archaeology; feminist anthropology; Black feminist archaeology, intersectionality of race, class, gender; literary perspectives in anthropology

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- 2025-present Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology. University of California Riverside.
- 2020-2025 Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology. University of Kentucky. Affiliate Faculty, African American and Africana Studies.
- 2019-2020 University of California President's Postdoctoral Fellow, Anthropology Department, University of California, Berkeley

EDUCATION

- 2019 Ph.D. University of Massachusetts Amherst, Anthropology. PhD, "The Political Work of Memory in Collaborative Caribbean Archaeology."
- 2014 M.A. University of Massachusetts Amherst, Anthropology. M.A., "Creating Mindful Heritage Narratives: Black Women in Slavery and Freedom"
- 2011 B.A. University of Maryland, College Park, *Cum Laude* in Anthropology and Women's Studies. Honors Humanities, University Honors.

EXTERNAL RESEARCH GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

- 2024 *Submitted, under review.* "NRT: Training the Next Generation of Heritage Scientists." National Science Foundation. Co-Investigators: Hugo Reyes-Centeno, Sean Bailey, John Balk, Brent Seales, Yuha Jung, James Griffioen, Zachary Bray, Michael Sama, **Elena Sesma** (\$2,995,200)
- 2022 *Letter of Intent submitted, denied.* "Documenting and Preserving the Old Georgetown African American Cemetery, Scott County, Kentucky." African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund Grants, National Trust for Historic Preservation. Primary Investigator: George Crothers; Co-PIs: **Elena Sesma**, Phillip Mink (\$109,030)
- 2022 "Documenting Historic African American Cemeteries with New Heritage Sciences Methods." Wenner-Gren Post-PhD Research Grant, The Wenner-Gren Foundation. Primary Investigator: **Elena Sesma**; Co-Investigator, George Crothers. (\$11,244).
- 2021 *Senior Personnel.* Mid-Scale RI-1 (MI:IP): EduceLab: Infrastructure for Next Generation Heritage Science. National Science Foundation (NSF 2131940). Primary Investigator, Brent Seales; Co-Investigators, Suzanne Smith, Thomas Balk, Corey Bakery, Hugo Reyes-Centeno. (\$14,000,000)

- 2018b “Living Memory and Changing Landscapes in Eleuthera, Bahamas: Developing a Community-Based Archive.” Wenner-Gren Engaged Anthropology Grant, The Wenner-Gren Foundation (\$4,675). PI: **Elena Sesma**
- 2018 “Archival & museum-based research on transatlantic slavery in British colonies.” Culture and Heritage in European Societies & Spaces (CHESS) Program, National Science Foundation (NSF IIA-1261172), University of Massachusetts Department of Anthropology. (\$5,000)
- 2015 “The Political Work of Memory in Collaborative Caribbean Archaeology.” Wenner-Gren Dissertation Fieldwork Grant, The Wenner-Gren Foundation (\$19,850 for budgeted fieldwork expenses). Grant No. 9024. PI: **Elena Sesma**
- 2013 Graduate Research Fellowship (\$32,000/year, 3 years). National Science Foundation. Grant No. 1451512.

INTERNAL GRANTS

- 2018 Dissertation Writing Fellowship. Department of Anthropology, University of Massachusetts Amherst. (\$10,000)
- 2016 Graduate School Dissertation Research Grant, University of Massachusetts Amherst. (\$1000 for budgeted research expenses)
- 2015 Pre-dissertation Research Grant, Department of Anthropology, University of Massachusetts Amherst. (\$3,000 for budgeted research expenses)

GRANTS/FELLOWSHIPS RECEIVED BY STUDENTS

- 2024 Brittany Thompson. UNITE Predoctoral Fellowship, University of Kentucky. 2024-2025.

Publications

PEER-REVIEWED BOOK MONOGRAPHS

- In prep* **Sesma, Elena.** *Material Memories: Archaeological Ethnography of Land and Belonging in the Bahamas*

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

*denotes graduate student co-author; †denotes undergraduate student co-author

- In prep* **Sesma, Elena** and Gary Chandler*. “Buttons, Bullets, and Bottles: Homeplace and Freedom in rural Kentucky at the turn of the 20th century.” *Journal of African Diaspora Archaeology and Heritage*.
- 2023 Kingsolver, Ann, **Elena Sesma**, Christian Keeve*, Madeline Imler†, Alexis Farmer†, and Aimee Stamm†. “Standing Together Against Silencing: Anthropology as Inclusive Public History in the Anti-CRT Legislative Era.” *Southern Anthropologist*, Special Issue, “*The Public South: Engaging History, Abolition, Pedagogy, and Practice*.”
https://egrove.olemiss.edu/southern_anthropologist/vol38/iss1/3/
- 2022 **Sesma, Elena.** “Materializing Memory and Building Community: Contemporary Landscape Archaeology of a Nineteenth Century Bahamian Plantation.” Edited by Elena Sesma and Evan Taylor. *Contemporary Archaeologies in Old Places: Material Politics between Past and Future. Archaeological Papers of the American*

- Anthropological Association* 33: 24–41.
<https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1111/apaa.12155>.
- 2022 Taylor, Evan, and **Elena Sesma**. 2022. “Exploring the Contemporary in Old Places.” *Archaeological Papers of the American Anthropological Association* 33 (1): 5–23.
<https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1111/apaa.12154>.
- 2021 **Sesma, Elena**. Photo elicitation as a tool for expanded participation in community archaeology. *Journal of Community Archaeology & Heritage*, 8(1):43-57.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/20518196.2020.1793074>
- 2016 **Sesma, Elena**. Creating Mindful Heritage Narratives: Black Women in Slavery and Freedom. *Journal of African Diaspora Archaeology and Heritage* 5(1):38-61.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/21619441.2016.1138759>
- 2015 **Sesma, Elena**. 'A Web of Community': Uncovering African American Historic Sites in Deerfield, MA. *Journal of Community Archaeology and Heritage* 2(2): 121-136.
<https://doi.org/10.1179/2051819615Z.000000000033>

PEER-REVIEWED BOOK CHAPTERS

- 2022 **Sesma, Elena**. Balancing expectations and obligations: Finding your way in community-based archaeology. In *The Community-Based PhD: Complexities, Triumphs, Missteps, and Joys of Community-based & Participatory Action Research as Graduate Students*, edited by Sonya Atalay and Alexandra McCleary, 314-326. Tuscon, AZ: University of Arizona Press.
- 2022b Harper, Krista, Sarah C. Hutton, Vanesa Giraldo Gartner, **Elena Sesma**, Castriela Hernández-Reyes, and Caitlin Homrich-Knieling. “Creating Inclusive Public Space: Participatory Design Ethnography in a University Library.” *Cool Anthropology: How to Engage the Public with Academic Research*, eds. Kristina Baines and Victoria Costa, 143-156. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.

PEER-REVIEWED EDITED VOLUMES

- 2022 Contemporary Archaeologies in Old Places: Material Politics Between Past and Future. *Archaeological Papers of the American Anthropological Association*. Eds, **Elena Sesma** and Evan Taylor. Vol 33.

NON-PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS – BOOK CHAPTERS

- Submitted*. **Sesma, Elena**, Maureen Carroll, Camille Louis, Cameron Monroe, and Paul Mullins. “Manumission.” In *The Oxford Handbook of Comparative Archaeology of Slavery*, eds. Mark Leone and Jane Webster. Anticipated 2024 publication.

NON-PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS - BLOGS

- 2019 Sesma, Elena. Engaged Anthropology Grant: Elena Sesma. The Wenner-Gren Blog. July 8, 2019. <http://blog.wennergren.org/2019/07/eag_esesma/>
- 2018 Sesma, Elena and Evan Taylor. Community Archaeology, Outreach, and the Old City. Tel Akko Field School Expert Blog. July 27, 2018.
<<http://www.telakko.com/2018/07/27/community-archaeology-outreach-old-city/>>

BOOK REVIEWS

- 2021 Review of *Archaeology of Domestic Landscapes of the Enslaved in the Caribbean* by James A. Delle and Elizabeth C. Clay, eds. *Winterthur Portfolio* 55(1):67-68.
- 2021 Review of *Spiritual Citizenship: Transnational Pathways from Black Power to Ifá in Trinidad*, by N. Fadeke Castor. *Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology*, published online.

CURRENT RESEARCH PROJECTS

- 2023 **Documenting Historic African American Cemeteries with New Heritage Sciences Methods.** (Wennner-Gren Funded) Documenting cemeteries in Scott and Fayette County with known unmarked graves. Uses geophysical survey (GPR, magnetometry, LIDAR) and recording of standing headstones. Community-driven project with local partners in Georgetown, KY.
- Begun 2022-present **University of Kentucky Campus Archaeology Project** – Archaeological investigations of the rear yard of the Bingham-Davis House (218 E Maxwell), currently home to the Ganes Center for the Humanities. Research questions focused on the transformation of the landscape on the periphery of campus as the university's footprint expanded into the city of Lexington in the mid-late twentieth century. Excavations focused especially of locating possible foundations of wood-framed outbuildings at the back of the 218 E Maxwell lot. The project was run as a summer archaeological field school in 2022 and analysis is ongoing.
- Begun 2021-present **Reanalysis of the Neal-Rice site (15NI44), Nicholas County, KY** – Updating the catalogue for the collection excavated from this site in the mid 1990s by the Kentucky Archaeology Survey. Additional archival research on the Rice family, and African-American family that owned and lived on this property in the late nineteenth and very early twentieth centuries. Made contact with a descendant (currently residing in New Mexico) in October 2022 and plan to continue outreach to family members as the research continues, in addition to collaborating with the North Central 4-H camp, where the Rice family homestead is located. My initial analysis of the sites' materials and archival data through an intersectional lens instead identifies evidence of creative economic involvement by women at the site, who were likely taking in laundry and mending to provide additional household income and security.
- Begun 2021-present **KY Horse Park Cemetery – identification and reburial.** This is a collaborative attempt to identify human remains uncovered during salvage excavation of a nineteenth century cemetery on the grounds of the Kentucky Horse Park and begin the process of reburial. Facilitating this work between Anthropology and African American and Africana Studies colleagues, in addition to representatives of the Horse Park. It is likely that a number of the individuals were enslaved by the Graves family, who owned a portion of this land in the early-mid 19th century.

Presentations and Talks

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

*denotes graduate student co-author; †denotes undergraduate student co-author

- 2024 **Sesma, Elena.** “Composting the past for the future in the Bahamas: a case study of contemporary reuse and transformation of historic spaces.” Organized session, Reinvent,

- reclaim, redefine: Considerations of "Reuse" in Archaeological Contexts (organized by Corrine Watts, Sara Breiter). Society for American Archaeology, April 2024.
- 2024 **Sesma, Elena.** "In the university's shadow: reflection of the first seasons of campus archaeology at the University of Kentucky." Organized session, At Stake in the Quad: Archaeologies on/of Campus (Organized by Christopher Lowman, Ian Straughn). Society for Historical Archaeology. January 2024.
- 2023 **Sesma, Elena.** "Buttons, Bullets, and Bottles: Homeplace and Freedom in rural Kentucky at the turn of the 20th century." Organized session, Archaeologies of Persistence at the Turn of the Twentieth Century (organized by Elena Sesma). American Anthropological Association. November 2023.
- 2023 **Sesma, Elena,** Laura McDonald†, and Emilyn Williams†. "Sidewalks, postholes, and glass bottles: Digging beneath the University of Kentucky's campus." Poster. Kentucky Academy of Sciences, November 2023.
- 2023 **Sesma, Elena** and James Keppeler*. "Digging Close to Home: An Archaeological Field School in the University's Back Yard." Society for Historical Archaeology Annual Meeting, Lisbon, Portugal. January 2023. Poster.
- 2020 *Submitted, cancelled due to COVID-19.* **Sesma, Elena.** "Community heritage, tourism, and land rights: Reorienting the archaeologist in collaborative research." Organized session, Collaborative Responsibilities: Broadening the definition of expertise (organized by Kasey Diserens Morgan and Tiffany C. Cain). Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association.
- 2020 **Sesma, Elena.** "Contemporary Landscape Archaeology and Memory in the Bahamas." University of California President's and Chancellor's Postdoctoral Fellowship Programs Virtual Academic Retreat. April 2020, virtual due to COVID-19.
- 2019 **Sesma, Elena.** "Mapping place and materializing memory: Contemporary, collaborative archaeology in the Bahamas." Society for American Archaeology Annual Conference, Albuquerque, NM. Poster.
- 2018b **Sesma, Elena.** "Materializing Memory and Building Community: A Contemporary Archaeology of the Bahamas." In organized session, "Contemporary Archaeologies of Old Places: Material Politics Between Past and Future," organized by Evan Taylor and Elena Sesma. 115th Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, San Jose, CA.
- 2018 **Sesma, Elena.** "Community-Based Archaeology in the Bahamas: Linking Landscape and Memory." In organized session, "Memory in Community Based Archaeology", organized by Marc Lorenc and Elena Sesma. Society for Historical Archaeology Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA. January 2018.
- 2017 **Sesma, Elena.** "'This place is home, this place is everything': Community-based archaeology and memory in the Bahamas." In organized session, "Collaborative, Public, and Political: Archaeology in 2017 and Beyond", organized by Elena Sesma. 114th Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Minneapolis, MN. December 2017.

- 2016c **Sesma, Elena.** "Discovering Home in the Bahamas: Community-Based, Participatory Approaches to Memory." In organized session, "Accidents and Discoveries in CBPR: Perspectives from early career anthropologists", organized by Elena Sesma and Marc Lorenc. 113th Annual Meeting American Anthropological Association, Minneapolis, MN. November 2016.
- 2016b Sarah Hutton, Carol Will, Vanesa Giraldo, **Elena Sesma.** "Safety and Belonging in the Academic Library: Leveraging Interdepartmental Partnerships and Using Ethnographic Research to Discuss Racism, Exclusion and Student Identity." Association of College and Research Libraries, New England Annual Conference, Manchester, NH. May 2016.
- 2016a Whitney Battle-Baptiste, Elizabeth Chilton and **Elena Sesma.** "Back to the Soil": Community Archaeology and Heritage Tourism in Eleuthera, Bahamas. Poster. Society for American Archaeology Annual Conference, Orlando, FL. April 2016.
- 2015 **Sesma, Elena.** "African American Heritage on the Deerfield Landscape." In organized session, "Navigating the Cultural Landscape: Interpretive Trails as Heritage Practice," organized by Erica Kowsz. Cultural Landscapes and Heritage Values Conference, University of Massachusetts Amherst Center for Heritage and Society, Amherst, MA. May 2015.
- 2014f Battle-Baptiste, Honora Sullivan-Chin, and **Elena Sesma.** "Putting Millars Back on the Map: Community Memory on a Fading Landscape in the Bahamas." In organized session, "New Perspectives on Afro-Caribbean Heritage," organized by Zachary Beier, Steve Lenik. 111th Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Washington, DC. December 2014.
- 2014e **Sesma, Elena.** "Mindful Narratives of Slavery and Freedom in New England." In, "Producing Western Massachusetts: African American Life Along Western Massachusetts' Color Line," organized by Linda Ziegenbein, Robert Paynter. 111th Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Washington, DC. December 2014.
- 2014d **Sesma, Elena.** "Black Women in Slavery and Freedom: Mindful Narratives of Emancipation in New England." New England American Studies Association, Bristol, RI. October 2014.
- 2014c **Sesma, Elena.** "Heritage Tourism in the Bahamas: A Case Study of Economic Well-being." Heritage & Healthy Societies Conference, University of Massachusetts Amherst Center for Heritage and Society, Amherst, MA. May 2014.
- 2014b **Sesma, Elena.** "Complicating the Captive African History of Western New England." Presented at The Graduate History Association's 10th Annual Conference. Amherst, MA. March 2014.
- 2014a **Sesma, Elena.** "The Search for Lucy: Uncovering the Captive African History of Western New England." Presented at the 47th Annual Conference on Historical and Underwater Archaeology, Quebec City, Canada. January 2014.
- 2013b Honora X. Sullivan-Chin and **Elena Sesma.** "Contested Heritage in Western Massachusetts: A Case Study At The W.E.B. Du Bois Homesite and Historic Deerfield.

Presented at the 112th Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Chicago, IL. November 2013.

- 2013a Whitney Battle-Baptiste, Robert Paynter, Christopher Douyard, **Elena Sesma**, Anthony Martin, Honora Sullivan-Chin. "Radical Heritage Archaeology: A Case Study from the W.E.B. Du Bois Homesite in Great Barrington, Massachusetts". Presented at the 46th Annual Conference on Historical and Underwater Archaeology, University of Leicester, Leicester, UK. January 2013.

ORGANIZED CONFERENCE SESSIONS

- 2024 "Transforming Archaeology in Florida." Organizer, **Elena Sesma**. Sponsored by the Archaeology Division. American Anthropological Association, Tampa, FL. November 2024.
- 2023 "Archaeologies of Persistence at the Turn of the Twentieth Century." Organizer, **Elena Sesma**. American Anthropological Association, Toronto, Canada. November 2023.
- 2023 "Excavating the Lives of Black Women." Annual Black Women's Conference, hosted by UK African American and Africana Studies Program and Commonwealth Institute for Black Studies. March 2023. Co-organized, **Elena Sesma** and Regina Hamilton.
- 2018 "Contemporary Archaeologies of Old Places: Material Politics Between Past and Future." Co-organizers Evan Taylor and **Elena Sesma**. American Anthropological Association, San Jose, CA. November 2018.
- 2018 "Memory in Community Based Archaeology." Co-organizers, Marc Lorenc and **Elena Sesma**. Society for Historical Archaeology, New Orleans, LA. January 2018.
- 2017 "Collaborative, Public, and Political: Archaeology in 2017 and Beyond." Organizer, **Elena Sesma**. American Anthropological Association, Washington, DC. December 2017.
- 2016 "Accidents and Discoveries in CBPR: Perspectives from early career anthropologists." Co-organizers, **Elena Sesma** and Marc Lorenc. American Anthropological Association, Minneapolis, MN. November 2016.

DISCUSSANT OR MODERATOR, CONFERENCES

- 2023 "Black Feminist Archaeology," Panel moderator. Panelists, Whitney Battle-Baptiste and Ayana Omilade Flewellen. 28th Annual Black Women's Conference, University of Kentucky. March 24, 2023
- 2023 Moderator, Keynote Address by Afua Cooper (Dalhousie University). 28th Annual Black Women's Conference, University of Kentucky. March 24, 2023

PANELIST, CONFERENCE SESSIONS & ROUNDTABLES

- 2023 "Identity in the Workspace: Discussions on Inclusivity and Diversity within Archaeology and Other Social Sciences." Roundtable discussion at the Bluegrass Annual Discussions on Anthropology and Social Sciences. October 2023.
- 2022 "Cultural Heritage from the Diverse Perspectives of U.K. Anthropologists". Roundtable discussion at the Bluegrass Annual Discussions on Anthropology & Social Sciences. October 2022.

INVITED AND OTHER TALKS

- 2024 “Archaeological Ethnography of Land and Belonging in the Bahamas.” Works-in-progress workshop, Latin American, Caribbean, and Latino Studies Program. University of Kentucky. January 22, 2024.
- 2024 “Digging Close to Home: Reflections on the first two seasons of UK Campus Archaeology.” Department of Anthropology Brown Bag Series, University of Kentucky. January 19, 2024.
- 2023 Invited, “New Faculty Research Showcase,” organized by the UK Cooperative for the Humanities and Social Sciences. February 6, 2023. University of Kentucky.
- 2021 Invited speaker, International Education PhD Mutual Mentoring Group. Discussing forthcoming publication of “The Community-Based PhD: Complexities, Triumphs, Missteps, and Joys of Conducting Community-based & Participatory Action Research as Graduate Students” edited by Alexandra McCleary and Sonya Atalay. University of Massachusetts Amherst. April 30, 2021.
- 2021 Invited speaker. “Material Memoryscapes of Slavery and Freedom in the Bahamas.” African Diasporas in Latin America and the Caribbean, An Emerging Scholars Symposium in the Historical Archaeology of the African Diaspora in the Americas. Boston University. April 21, 2021.
- 2021 Invited speaker. “Contemporary Landscape Archaeology and Memory in the Bahamas.” University of California Santa Cruz, Department of Anthropology, Archaeological and Biological Anthropology Lunch Talks. January 20, 2021.
- 2020 Invited speaker. “Material Memoryscapes of Slavery and Freedom in the Bahamas.” University of California Merced, Department of Anthropology, March 4, 2020.
- 2020 Invited speaker. “Contemporary Landscape Archaeology in the Bahamas.” University of California Berkeley, Archaeological Research Facility, February 5, 2020.
- 2019 Invited speaker. “Materializing Memory: Contemporary Landscape Archaeology of a 19th Century Bahamian Plantation.” University of California Los Angeles, Cotsen Institute of Archaeology, October 23, 2019.
- 2018 “Community Archaeology,” with Evan Taylor. Lecture for the Tel Akko Total Archaeology Field School (Acre, Israel), July 2018.
- 2017 “Community Archaeology,” with Evan Taylor. Lecture for the Tel Akko Total Archaeology Field School (Acre, Israel), July 2017.

AWARDS & HONORS

- 2023 Outstanding Teaching Award, College of Arts & Sciences, University of Kentucky. 2022-2023 Academic Year.
- 2018 Graduate Student Travel Award, Department of Anthropology, University of Massachusetts Amherst. To attend the Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, San Jose, CA.
- 2018 Nathalie F.S. Woodbury Distinguished Service Award, Department of Anthropology, University of Massachusetts Amherst.
- 2017 Student Membership Award, Archaeology Division of the American Anthropological Association

- 2017 Graduate Student Travel Award, Department of Anthropology, University of Massachusetts Amherst. To attend the Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Washington, DC.
- 2016 Graduate Student Travel Award, Department of Anthropology, University of Massachusetts Amherst. To attend the Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Minneapolis, MN.
- 2014 Woodbury Award, Department of Anthropology, University of Massachusetts Amherst. For presenting "The Search for Lucy: Uncovering the Captive African History of Western New England" at the 47th Annual Conference on Historical and Underwater Archaeology, Quebec City, Canada.
- 2013 Harriet Tubman Student Travel Award. Gender Minority Affairs Committee, Society for Historical Archaeology.
- 2007 Bancker/Key Full Scholarship. University of Maryland, College Park, Honors College.

ARCHAEOLOGY EXPERIENCE

- 2023 Faculty Instructor. University of Kentucky Campus Archaeology Project (UKCAP). Taught as archaeological field methods course, Fall 2023. Lexington, KY.
- 2023 PI, "Documenting Historic African American Cemeteries with New Heritage Sciences Methods". Geophysical survey, headstone transcription, and photographic documentation of cemeteries in Central KY. May-July, 2023. Supervised 3 graduate RAs & undergrad volunteers on fieldwork and data processing.
- 2022 Faculty Instructor. University of Kentucky Campus Archaeology Project (UKCAP), Summer Field School. May-July 2022. Lexington, KY.
- 2021 Faculty Advisor, NACME (National Action Council for Minorities in Engineering)-Google Applied Machine Learning Institute, University of Kentucky. Student project focused on developing model that uses Kentucky from Above data (LiDAR and satellite imagery) to predict the location of historic cemeteries.
- 2018 Community Archaeology Specialist and Co-Leader of Youth Outreach Program. Tel Akko Total Archaeology Project. Acre, Israel. July 2018
- 2017 Community Archaeology Specialist and Co-Leader of Youth Outreach Program. Tel Akko Total Archaeology Project. Acre, Israel. July-August 2017
- 2015 Project Archaeologist, Digging Northampton's History: A Community Archaeology Project. Historic Northampton. Northampton, MA.
- 2014 Fort Charles Archaeology Project. Project run through Monmouth University, Dr. Edward Gonzalez-Tenant. St. Kitts and Nevis.
- 2013 Research Assistant, University of Massachusetts Amherst, Dr. Whitney Battle-Baptiste, Faculty Research Grant. "Back to the Soil": Memory Mapping at Millars Plantation on the Island of Eleuthera, Bahamas.
- 2012 Teaching Assistant, Summer Field School in Heritage Archaeology, University of Massachusetts Amherst. Great Barrington, MA; Deerfield, MA.
- 2011 Field Technician. Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, Edgewater, MD.
- 2010 Laboratory Volunteer. Archaeology in Annapolis Lab, University of Maryland.
- 2010 Laboratory Technician. Maryland State Highways Administration, Archaeology Lab.
- 2010 Field Technician. Archaeology in Annapolis. Wye House, Easton, MD.
- 2010 Field School Student. Archaeology in Annapolis Field School, University of Maryland.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE (non-archaeology)

- 2015 Researcher, Library Ethnography in the W.E.B. Du Bois Library, under the direction of Dr. Krista Harper. Amherst, MA.
- 2013 Consultant, Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association, with funding from the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Partnership in Scholarship Grant. Deerfield, MA.
- 2010 Research Intern, Feminist Majority Foundation, Educational Equity Program. Arlington, VA.

REPORTS

- 2013c "The potential of a Center for the Study of African Americans in Rural New England." Report submitted to the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association, Deerfield, MA. Funded by Partnership in Scholarship Grant, The National Trust for Historic Preservation
- 2013b "Searching for the Princes: The Location of the Prince Family Home." Report to the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association, Deerfield, MA.
- 2013a 2012 Summer Field School in Heritage Archaeology Final Report. Report to the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association, Deerfield, MA.
- 2011 Klein, S., & Sesma, E. "What are we learning from the 2006–7 Office for Civil Rights survey question about public schools with single-sex academic classes? An Exploratory Study." Feminist Majority Foundation, Arlington, VA.

COMMUNITY REPORTS

- 2018b **Elena Sesma**. "Memory and History in South Eleuthera." Report prepared for community partners and research participants, Eleuthera, Bahamas. Submitted to University of Massachusetts Amherst Scholarworks, September 2018. <
<https://doi.org/10.7275/z08z-1g12>>
- 2018a "Getting to Know the Old City and Tel Akko." Collaborative storymap compiled by Evan Taylor and **Elena Sesma**. Tel Akko Community Archaeology Program, July 2018.
<https://earth.google.com/earth/d/13-VllsghKmioKSSsYORSI7s6OG5M3hMM?usp=sharing>

COLLECTIONS EXPERIENCE

- 2017-2018 Archaeology Lab Coordinator, UMass Department of Anthropology
- 2017 Certificate, Archaeological Curation and Collections Management Webinar. Society for American Archaeology.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Kentucky

Public Archaeology	Fall 2020
Introduction to Archaeology	Spring&Fall 2021, Fall 2022, Fall 2023, Spring 2025
Historical Archaeology	Spring 2021, Spring 2022, Spring 2025

African Diaspora Archaeology	Fall 2021
Community Archaeology	Fall 2022
Seminar in the Humanities (Gaines Center for the Humanities, mini-course)	Fall 2022
Field Laboratory in Archaeological Methods	Summer 2022, Fall 2023
Decolonizing Archaeology	Spring 2023
Humanities in Action (Gaines Center Humanities Laboratory)	Spring 2025

University of Massachusetts Amherst, Department of Anthropology

Primary Instructor

Human Nature, Online Instructor.	Winter 2016, Summer 2017, Summer 2018, Spring 2019
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Teaching Assistant

University of Massachusetts Amherst. Department of Anthropology.

Gender in Hip Hop Culture (ANTH224)	Fall 2017
Problems in Anthropology/Junior Year Writing (ANTH364)	Spring 2017
Ancient Civilizations (ANTH150)	Fall 2016
Culture Through Film (ANTH106)	Spring 2013
Human Nature (ANTH100)	Fall 2012
Archaeology and Prehistory (ANTH102)	Fall 2011, Spring 2012
Summer Field School in Heritage Archaeology	Summer 2012

Administrative Experience

2018	Department Assistant, Curriculum assessment and general education proposals
2018	Department Assistant, Academic Quality Assessment and Development Self-Study

SERVICE

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION/DISCIPLINE

2025	Archaeology Division (AAA), Willey Prize Committee (appointed)
2022-2024	Archaeology Division, American Anthropological Association. Member at Large. Term runs 2022-2024

Invited Peer Reviewer

2024	Cultural Anthropology (declined)
2024	Journal of Anthropological Archaeology (declined)
2024	Historical Archaeology
2023	BAR Publishing, University Press of Florida (both invitations declined)
2023	International Journal of Historical Archaeology
2020	Encyclopedia of Global Archaeology
2018, 2025	Journal of Eastern Mediterranean Archaeology and Heritage Studies
2016	Journal of Community Archaeology and Heritage

Editorial Board

2023-2024	Archaeological Papers of the American Anthropological Association.
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SERVICE TO THE INSTITUTION

College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences, University of California Riverside
2025 Undergraduate Studies Committee.

College of Arts & Sciences, University of Kentucky

2021 A&S Diversity and Inclusivity Committee, *Nominated, not elected.*

Department of Anthropology, University of Kentucky

2023-2025 Graduate Studies Committee

2021-2022 Coordinator, Department Colloquium Series

2020-2025 Anthropology Museum Advisory Committee/Archaeology Development Committee

2020-2023 Diversity Committee

Department of African American and African Studies, University of Kentucky

2022-2023 Organizer, 28th Annual Black Women's Conference, *Excavating the Lives of Black Women*. March 24-25, 2023

Department of Anthropology, University of Massachusetts Amherst

2017 Organizer, Archaeology Brown Bag Association

2017 Collections Committee

2014-2015 Organizer, Engaged Anthropology Brown Bag Series, Transformative Anthropology Lab

2014-2015 Woodbury Committee

2014-2016 Communications Coordinator, Graduate Student Caucus

2014 Hiring Committee

2013-2014 Communications Committee, Graduate Student Caucus

2012-2013 Vice-chair, Graduate Student Caucus.

University of Massachusetts Amherst

2019 Workshop facilitator, Graduate Student CV workshop, Broader Impacts Resource Fair, Office of Professional Development

2017 Organizer, Outreach and Public Engagement Summit through the Graduate School and the Office of Professional Development

SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

Community Service

2023 Organizer, Community cemetery cleanup at Lexington's African Cemetery No.2, 28th Annual Black Women's Conference. March 25, 2023.

2016-2019 Troop Leader, Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Anthropological Association

Archaeology Division of AAA

Society for Historical Archaeology

Society for American Archaeology

GRADUATE STUDENT ADVISING

Kylie Holmes (primary advisor, PhD student, archaeology)

Brittany Thompson (primary advisor, PhD student, archaeology)

Pasama Cole-Kweli (committee member, PhD candidate, cultural anthropology)

James Keppeler (committee member, PhD candidate, archaeology/biological anthropology)

Graduated: Amanda Hearn (committee member, MA 2024, cultural anthropology), Marcus Rodriguez (committee member, MA 2023, archaeology/biological anthropology), Elaine Gollihue (committee member, MA 2022, archaeology)

UNDERGRADUATE MENTORING

2023, One undergraduate REU student; data processing for cemetery documentation project, and additional historical archaeological research. Funded by EduceLab NSF-REU supplement.

2023, An undergraduate student (independent study) assisting with artifact cataloging; led to a research poster presented at UK's UNITE Research Showcase

2022-2023, Supervising two undergraduate students assisting with field school data analysis. Funded by EduceLab NSF-REU supplement.

RESEARCH SKILLS

- Archaeological skills including standard excavation methods, artifact processing and analysis, Total Station, pedestrian survey, archaeological photography.
- Ethnographic skills in semi-structured and unstructured interviews, oral history, focus group facilitation, participant observation; archaeological ethnography.
- Skills in public and engaged archaeology include youth outreach activities, event planning, public speaking, and writing for the public.
- Archival research and analysis of British and American colonial-era and antebellum records.
- Software proficiency in MAXQDA, NVivo, Microsoft Office Suite, Photos, Google Tourbuilder, Google Earth.

LANGUAGES

English (Fluent)

Spanish (Intermediate written/spoken)

French (Beginner written/spoken)