

Anthropology Panel – April 30, 2020

"Trapped and Romanticized in a National Forest of Mexico's Costa Chica Region: Overlooking Sustainable Practices"

Grecia Perez

This paper discusses the development strategies available to different communities in Oaxaca's Costa Chica region. I explore the implications of climate change and development and assess the opportunities available for sustainable practices. Based on ethnographic research, I propose there is a strong connection between an African descendant community and a Mestizo community living near the riparian ecology: the Rio Verde. I interrogate the difference between self-defined and state-mandated sustainable practices in order to explore the politics of development and sustainability for Black communities in Mexico.

"Brevity and Ethnographic Prose of Kurt Vonnegut"

Frank Ramos

This paper discusses the work of Kurt Vonnegut and the contributions made to the ethnographic process found in science fiction over the last century. Author of many novels including classics such as *Cat's Cradle* (1963), *Slaughterhouse-Five* (1969), *Slapstick* (1976), and *Galapagos* (1985), Vonnegut's name has become synonymous with the futuristic fantasy genre less from the technological standpoint, and more from the influx of time, space, and character. Yet the distinction in his writings has been the tackling of subjects reflecting the current social conflicts. In many cases, attempts to draw attention to issues such as poverty, kinship, wealth distribution and climate change, drive the plot of any number of his publications. From his first publication, *Player Piano* (1952), a satirical commentary on McCarthyism, to the previously mentioned popular pieces detailing the prevalence of Social Darwinism and biopolitics, the presence of striking political commentary has become a subtle literary hallmark. Still, above all else, has been the cleverness associated with the descriptive language, or lack of, by Vonnegut to create such detail about the relationship of humanity with itself in the future. The precision to create a streamlined narrative within the fantasy genre, has garnered such a legendary status as being able to design a world beyond superfluous characteristics in comparison to other twentieth century fantasy authors. Instead, focusing on the agency found within science fiction figures, immersing readers deeper into a culture yet to be determined, but still present within the narrative landscape of Vonnegut's stories.

"Exploring Stress and Diet: A Bioarchaeological Understanding of the Chimú at Huaca de la Luna" Genesis

Torres-Morales (Anthropology)

The Chimú (AD 900-1470) were the second largest Andean empire. Emerging in the Moche Valley of Peru, the Chimú extended their reach from the northern border of Ecuador, south to the Chillón valley of Peru. They built their capital Chan Chan on an empty beach near modern day Trujillo, however, the Chimú also interacted with the previously abandoned capital of the Southern Moche State- the Huacas de Moche. The Chimú remodeled and the religious center of the site, and interred their dead in pre-existing platforms at Huaca de la Luna, and scattered throughout the urban sector. This research presents preliminary findings of 32 burials excavated from Huaca de la Luna or the urban center. The objective of this presentation is to begin a conversation about the Chimú from a bioarchaeology perspective. We analyzed cribra orbitalia, porotic hyperostosis, periosteal, and linear enamel hypoplasia to chart stress. Caries, abscess, antemortem tooth loss, wear, and periodontal disease was analyzed in order to reconstruct diet.