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PCAS Newsletter

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May PCAS Speaker

Dr. Metin I. Eren

*Did the Clovis Culture Cause
the Extinction of Elephants in
Ice Age North America?*

**Free Zoom Meeting
May 12, 7:30 pm**

The idea that Ice Age people using Clovis technology wiped out North American megafauna—including mammoths and mastodons—has been around for decades. However, there is good reason to question this hypothesis. Dr. Eren will review the evidence for this Stone Age murder mystery, including the latest research coming from the Kent State University Experimental Archaeology Laboratory that was just published in the *Journal of Archaeological Science: Reports* in the past few months.



Dr. Metin I. Eren is an Associate Professor of Anthropology at Kent State University and a Research Associate at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History in Cleveland, Ohio. He has degrees in Anthropology from Harvard (AB) and Southern Methodist University (MA, PhD). He also has a degree in experimental archaeology from the University of Exeter, England (MA) and a Certificate in Ceramics from Canterbury College, England. He has conducted research in Canada, China, Denmark, France, India, Ireland, Japan, Norway, Tanzania, Turkey, Republic of Georgia, U.K., and across the United States. He has published over 150 peer-reviewed scientific papers, and his research has been featured in international media, including PBS NOVA, the History Channel, the BBC, the Discovery Channel, NPR, among many others. After all this travel and research, he was delighted to return home to northeast Ohio in 2016 to found the Kent State University Experimental Archaeology Laboratory, which he now co-directs. A master flintknapper, having formally studied under Robert J. Patten and Bruce A. Bradley, Dr. Eren knaps, breaks, shoots, tramples, and otherwise destroys stone technologies from across the Stone Age to figure out how they work.

PCAS Zoom Meeting

- Email a registration request by **noon on Thursday, May 12**, to membership@pcas.org.
- You will receive an email with a link to the Zoom meeting.
- Guests (non-PCAS members) are welcome with registration.
- When the presentation starts, please **mute your microphone and turn off your webcam**.

PCAS host **Steve Dwyer** will open the Zoom meeting at 7 pm to allow time to resolve any technical problems prior to the beginning of the PCAS General Meeting and lecture at 7:30 pm.

April Speaker Notes

Tracking the First Americans

By Megan Galway

Dr. Vance Holliday began his presentation with an overview of the Paleoindian period, known primarily for a variety of stone tools of high quality materials and workmanship. This period has long been defined as beginning with the Clovis culture, dating from 13,500 to 13,000 years ago nationwide and earlier in the plains. The Folsom period followed from 13,000 to 12,000 years ago and the Late Paleo from 12,000 to 10,000 years ago. Each of these cultures created large, finely worked fluted points. Overlapping these periods from 13,500 to 7,000 years ago was a separate Western Stemmed tradition in the Great Basin.

The Clovis type site is Blackwater Draw where Clovis points were first found in association with mammoth bones. Folsom points were also found there, but stratigraphically above and thus later than Clovis. At the Naco site, southeast of Tucson, nine Clovis points were found in association with mammoth bones. No evidence of butchering was found, leading to speculation that this was an animal that had been wounded and later died. The Murray Springs site, on the other hand, has evidence of being both a mammoth and bison kill site with a nearby campsite. Matching pieces of broken points were found both at the kill site and the camp.

Dr. Holliday then introduced the White Sands area. The Tularosa Basin, east of the Rio Grande, was a paleolake created during the Late Pleistocene. The White Sand dunes were formed by gypsum deposits blown from the dry lake bed. The northern half of the dunes are now the White Sands Missile Range, and the south is national park land. The Lone Butte site is in this southern part and has been studied and collected for many years. The Smithsonian Museum has about 6,000 artifacts from the Folsom period. No Clovis points have been identified in the area.

Previously the wind-eroded surfaces have revealed the tracks of megafauna, including mammoth and giant sloth, but only recently have human footprints been observed. The idea that these might be from a later period was ruled out because in some cases they were under the animal tracks. In one area human tracks on the surface seemed to disappear under the eroded sand deposits. A trench was dug following the tracks and revealed many other layers also containing footprints. Eight horizons with tracks were identified as of fall 2021, and work continues. Seeds of *Ruppia cirrhosa* (ditch grass) were radiocarbon dated with the oldest dated to 22,500 years ago, and some tracks were on even



PCAS April speaker, Dr. Vance Holiday.

lower older horizons. The overall range is estimated to be at least 23,000 to 21,000 years ago, and other dating methods are currently being used to verify these dates. Other animal tracks in the area include camel and dire wolf, and Dr. Holliday noted that the area appeared very popular with both animals and humans. This was likely because it was an area of stream deposits where fresh water flowed from Lost Draw into the lake creating a delta now covered by the dunes.

The debate on how and when humans entered the Americas will continue. Did they, in fact, follow the “Kelp Highway” down the Pacific coast, or did they arrive overland in the preglacial period, some 26,000 years ago?



DIG THIS ...



Lectures

The Treaty of Temecula: A Story of Invasion, Deceit, Stolen Land, and the Persistence of Power, by Dr. Sean Milanovich. Dorothy Ramon Learning Center's Gathering Hall, 127 N. San Geronio Ave., Banning, May 2, reception 5 pm, lecture 6 pm. Donation: \$10. Information: dorothyramon-learningcenter.substack.com/p/youre-invited.

Toward an Engaged Science of Human-Environment Interactions, by Kristina Douglass (Rock Ethics Institute and Assistant Professor of Anthropology and African Studies, Penn State University). A Cotsen Institute, UCLA, Zoom lecture, May 5, 6 pm. Free. Information and registration: www.ioa.ucla.edu/events/upcoming.

Riverside County's Early Desert Denizens, by Steve Lech. A Coachella Valley Archaeological Society lecture, Portola Community Center, 45-480 Portola Ave, Palm Desert, May 13, 6:30 pm. Free. Information: www.evarch.org.

ARCE Online or In-Person: Human Remains from the First Dynasty Subsidiary Burials at Abydos, by Dr. Roselyn A. Campbell (Getty Research Institute). An ARCE/Bowers Museum lecture, May 14, 1:30 pm. Recorded lecture available for 24 hours. Fee: \$13 in-person, \$10 online; Bowers and ARCE members free. Information: www.bowers.org.

Stone Tools at Nelson Bay Cave South Africa, by Sara Watson (PhD candidate UC Davis). Sacramento Archeological Society online lecture, May 14, 2 pm. Free. Information and registration: sacarcheology.org/announcements.

Invisible Women, Cave Men, and M&Ms: Finding the Hidden Half in Rock Art, by Linea Sundstrom. An American Rock Art Research Association (ARARA) virtual lecture, May 14, 5:30 pm. Free. Registration: <https://arara.wildapricot.org/Lectures>. Previous ARARA lectures can be viewed on the ARARA YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/channel/UCPCI2NQ3RN3J5TiCuxF3cA.

Puvungna—Past, Present, Future, with Rebecca Robles and Pat Martz, will present an update on Puvungna. A California Cultural Resources Preservation Alliance (CCRPA) Zoom presentation, May 19, 7 pm. Meeting !D: 885 8889 7272; passcode: puvungna.

Lectures (continued)

Ancient Andean Identities and Migration Histories at Tiwanaku, by Arianna Garvin (PhD candidate UC San Diego). A Zoom lecture of the AIA, Orange County Chapter, May 22, 2 pm. To request registration, fill-out contact form at www.aia-oc.org.

The Ruiz-Alvarado Adobe, the History and Archaeological Research of El Cuervo, by Elizabeth (Betsy) Pain (Palomar College). A lecture of the San Diego County Archaeological Society, 12122 Canyonside Park Driveway, San Diego, May 24, 7:30 pm. Information: sdcas.org.

Classes, Meetings, and Events

Traditional Agave Roast at the La Posta Indian Reservation will be held May 6, 10 am–1 pm for preparation of agave and roasting pit; May 7, 1–5 pm for tasting with other Native foods and Bird Songs. Members only through San Diego Archaeological Center. Free. Information and required registration: <https://sandiegoarchaeology.org>.

Malki Kéwet Celebration, the annual celebration honoring Native American veterans, will have food, entertainment (Cahuilla Bird Singers), and Native American vendors. Malki Museum, 11795 Malki Road, Morongo Reservation, Banning. May 29, 10 am–4 pm. Lunch is \$10 per plate. Information: www.malkimuseum.org.

Visit www.pcas.org for all the latest news.

Editor's Note: Please confirm time and place of listing prior to the event. Submit items for Dig This to newsletter@pcas.org.



PCAS CODE OF ETHICS

The Pacific Coast Archaeological Society (PCAS) is a nonprofit group of professional and avocational people dedicated to proper management of our cultural resources, public education, and the protection and preservation of archaeological materials and collections.

The following principles have been adopted by the PCAS:

1. Professional methods and forms will be used on all archaeological field surveys, excavations, and laboratory sessions.
2. A complete record of field and laboratory work will be filed with the PCAS Curator and stored at a facility approved by the Society's Board of Directors.
3. No archaeological materials will be removed without proper permits, landowner permission, and a field research design.
4. Unless otherwise legally stipulated before activity commences, all materials collected will be deposited for further research with the Curator at a facility approved by the Society's Board of Directors.
5. All generated reports will be the property of the Society and distributed as deemed appropriate.
6. All Society field activities will be performed only under the direction of a qualified field archaeologist (Principal Investigator) and the supervision of field or site directors.
7. The above principles will be observed on both Society approved projects and projects performed under the direction of an authorized institution or organization.
8. The Society and its members will strive to educate the public of the importance and proper management of our non-renewable cultural resources and to discourage the collection and commercial exploitation of archaeological materials.
9. PCAS members shall not benefit from the acquisition, purchase, sale, or trade of archaeological artifacts, materials, or specimens.
10. All members shall adhere to City, County, State, and Federal antiquities laws.



Join us for a live PCAS Zoom lecture with Dr. Metin I. Eren speaking on “Did the Clovis Culture Cause the Extinction of Elephants in Ice Age North America?”

Thursday, May 12, 2022, 7:30 pm

PCAS Speaker Calendar

June 9, 2022

Dr. Paul G. Chace

Patriotic Footprints: José Antonio Ortega, Frontier Diplomat, with Maria Antonia Ortega de Carrillo, Frontier Presidio First Lady

No meetings in July and August

2022 PCAS Board Members and Committee Contacts

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PACIFIC COAST ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

2022 Calendar Year Membership and Subscription Form

Name(s): _____

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Phone: _____ Email: _____

Newsletters will be sent by email unless a mailed copy is requested.

I have read and agree to abide by the PCAS Code of Ethics _____

Signature

Membership (Includes Quarterly/Newsletter)

- Active Member – \$45
- Family Membership – \$50
- Supporting Member* – \$55
- Donor Member* – \$75
- Lifetime Member* – \$1000

* May be individual or family membership

Subscription Only

- Quarterly* – \$40
- Newsletter* – \$20

Scholarship Fund

- Donation \$ _____

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www.pcas.org/membrs.html

Or return with payment to:

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