



BROWN

CALL FOR PAPERS:

State of the Field 2018: Archaeology and Social Justice

**Friday, March 2 - Saturday, March 3, 2018
Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island**

Brown University's [Joukowsky Institute for Archaeology and the Ancient World](#) will host a workshop called *State of the Field 2018: Archaeology and Social Justice* on March 2-3, 2018. The workshop will be the culmination of two years of discussion on this theme, and is also intended to raise new issues, ask new questions, and encourage ongoing dialogue. Our gathering builds on a tradition of "[State of the Field](#)" workshops hosted by the Joukowsky Institute to reflect upon trends in archaeological work, each year focusing our discussion on issues impacting an area of particular interest to our faculty and students. While previous versions have dealt with a country or region of archaeological significance, this year's event will focus on archaeology's relationship to ongoing movements for social justice.

Within the context of archaeology, we conceive of social justice as pertaining to issues of privilege and opportunity that affect the makeup of scholars in the field, efforts among archaeologists to engage with the public and with broader social and political discussions, and the degree to which archaeological scholarship and pedagogy intersect with or impact these issues. It also refers to the asymmetries of power and structural inequalities in society at large. This choice of topic has been inspired by recent global social and political concerns, responses from universities and academia that seek to address issues of representation and access, and, most importantly, grassroots movements for social justice.

This workshop thus seeks to engage primarily with the role of archaeology in contemporary social justice movements, while insisting that discussions of diversity in the past can inform experience in the present. We welcome papers that explore the relationship between archaeology and the present political climate, with the intention of addressing the challenges currently facing the field of archaeology and the academy more broadly. We also seek to engage in conversations about the biases and structural problems that make archaeology more accessible to some than to others, in order to help the discipline reach a broader and more inclusive public.

The workshop will include four sessions, each addressing issues of the relationship of archaeology to ongoing struggles for social justice and/or the role of archaeology in those struggles. Rather than predefining the content of these sessions, we intend to shape them with contributions from this call for papers; we wish to offer an open space for discussion of the following, and other, relevant issues:

- The materiality and temporality of current social issues
- Disciplinary decolonization
- Archaeology's role in discussions of "diversity and inclusion"
- Identity and inequality in the past and present
- Structural and practical access to archaeology and the academy
- Activism and engagement within archaeology
- Archaeology in/of social justice movements
- Archaeology's relationship to white nationalism
- Archaeology in moments of crisis

To submit a proposal for a paper of approximately 20 minutes, please send an abstract of 350 words or less to Joukowsky_Institute@brown.edu by **October 1, 2017**.

For questions about this CFP, or about the conference, please see our conference website, www.brown.edu/go/sof2018 or email Joukowsky_Institute@brown.edu.