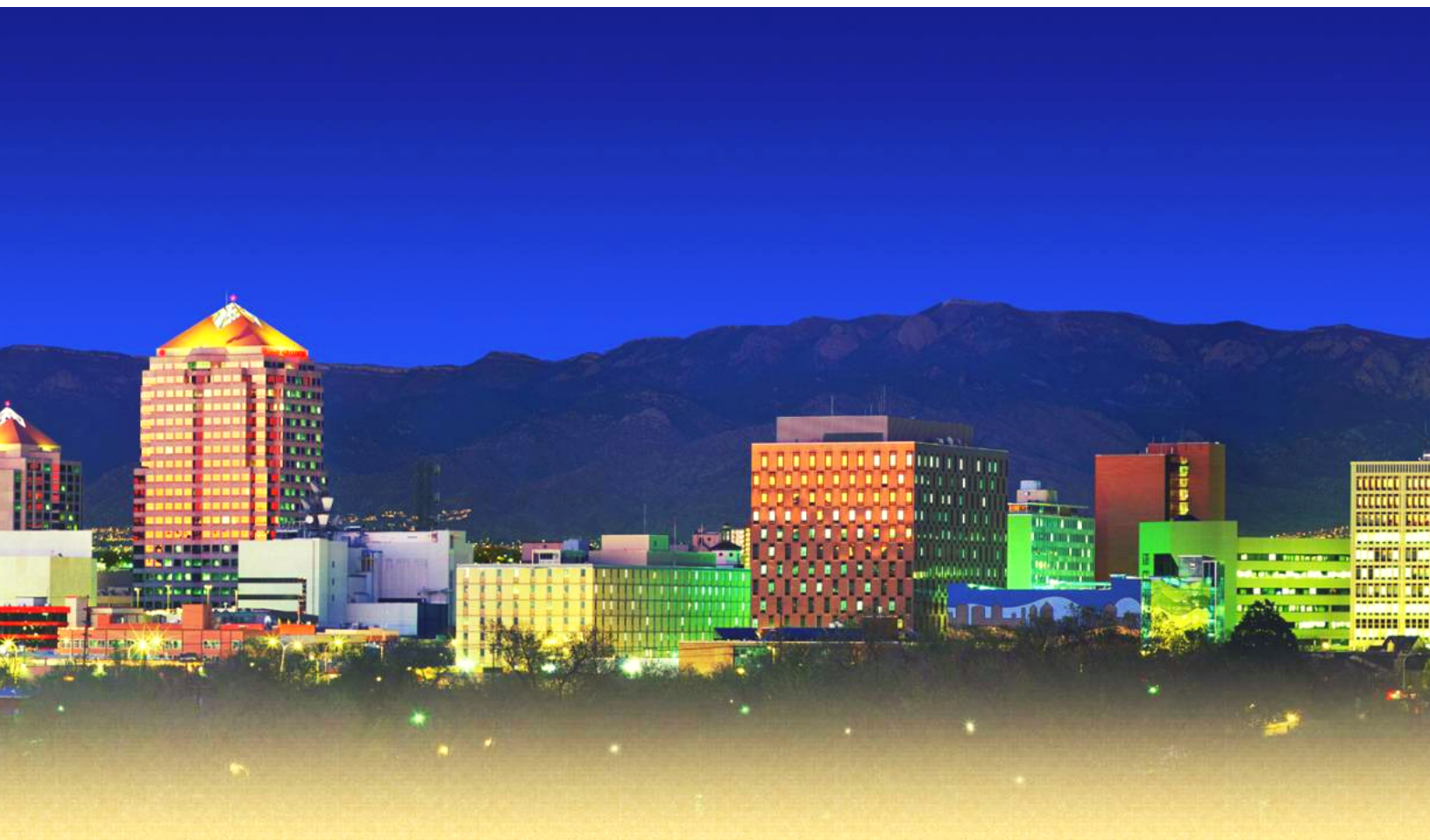


*84th Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology
Albuquerque, NM*

CASE STUDIES IN ARCHAEOLOGICAL ETHICS

*for the Fifteenth Annual Intercollegiate
Ethics Bowl Competition
April 11, 2019*



PREPARED BY

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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

THURSDAY, APRIL 11



FIRST ROUND

7:45-9:00 AM

First Round A

Enchantment A/B (Hyatt)

University of Kentucky vs. University of Arizona

First Round B

Enchantment C/D, Foyer (Hyatt)

Indiana University of Pennsylvania vs. University of Alabama

9:15-10:30 AM

First Round C

Enchantment A/B (Hyatt)

University of Georgia vs. Central Michigan University

First Round D

Enchantment C/D, Foyer (Hyatt)

Kenyon College vs. Florida State University



SEMI-FINAL (10:45 AM-12:00 PM)

Semi-Final A

Enchantment A/B (Hyatt)

Winner of First Round A vs. Winner of First Round B

Semi-Final B

Enchantment C/D, Foyer (Hyatt)

Winner of First Round C vs. Winner of First Round D



FINAL (1:00-3:00 PM)

110 Galisteo (Albuquerque Convention Center)

Winner of Semi-Final A vs. Winner of Semi-Final B

CASE ONE



Katie Hawk is a new assistant professor in the Department of Anthropology at Ravenna State University. For Katie, it's a dream job. The department has a doctorate program and new fully equipped archaeology laboratories, classrooms, and offices. The senior archaeology faculty includes pioneers in the discipline and a world-renowned bioarchaeologist. Katie is met with a warm reception from the faculty and students. Over the fall semester, Katie is invited by the senior archaeology faculty to a weekly Friday afternoon "beer-thirty" at a local bar. Each week, she listens to the senior faculty talk about their past adventures and exploits in the field.

One Friday afternoon, Katie hears the senior archaeology faculty bragging about the summer archaeological field school they ran back in the 1970s in a small rural town. They boast about how quickly they were able to excavate more than 1,000 17th-century Algonquian burial features in a single summer semester. Katie knows that the anthropometric statistics and paleopathology data were used in a seminal paper in the journal *Science* by the department's star bioarchaeologist. The more the men drink, the more profane the stories become. Professor Bill Trinker, the most senior and founding member of the department brags about how they were able to get free drinks at the local bar by trading silver grave goods for beer. Katie asks sheepishly, "There were silver artifacts with the burials?" Bill replies, "Lots of them—silver beads, broaches, ball and cone earrings, and tinkling cones. The women were covered in silver tinkling cones."

Katie has thus far concealed the fact that she is Haudenosaunee, Mohawk and that she and her family were heavily involved in the Oka protest in 1990. She did not want her family heritage or politics to influence her career in any way. Katie tries to hold back the tears as she remembers the jingle dress her grandmother had made for her as a child. Somehow, Katie works up the courage to ask, "What about NAGPRA?" There was a large outburst of laughter in the bar. Professor Trinker puts his arm around Katie and says, "It's lost property." He goes on to explain how the department avoided NAGPRA by claiming the human remains as his personal property. Trinker tells Katie and that he sold the collection to the university for a dollar and therefore it did not fall under NAGPRA.

Katie has wanted to be an archaeologist since she was five years old, seeing archaeology as a way to learn more about her family heritage. Katie is also the first person in her family to go to college. She left her home and tenure-track position at State College to advance her career at Ravenna State University. It was her dream job. She sold everything she owned to make the move. Now Katie is faced with a life- and career-changing moral dilemma.

If Katie raises the NAGPRA legal obligations of the department to the senior faculty, she will not be recommended for reappointment regardless of her meritorious research, teaching, and service. Katie will lose everything she worked for and finding another academic position will be extremely difficult—perhaps impossible. Others will look at her as a failure. On the other hand, if she does not point out the department's NAGPRA responsibilities, Katie will dishonor her ancestors, her family, and herself.

CASE TWO



Charlene Chambers recently received her Ph.D. from Harrington University and is excited to run her next field project at the Deer Run site in the Midwest. Not only is the site well positioned to shed light on ancient village organization and emergent sociopolitical complexity, it was also previously undiscovered until a local collector, William Wiggins, came across it last year. Eager to share the site's discovery, William told Charlene's colleague Frank Fitzgerald, an employee of the state museum, about Deer Run. Knowing Charlene's interest and expertise in the region, Frank proposed a collaborative excavation with Charlene as a co-principal investigator.

With modest funding from their respective institutions, Charlene and Frank decide to run a pilot excavation project with a volunteer crew of graduate students. William Wiggins is instrumental in helping them set up the project, securing lodging for Charlene, Frank, and the students in an inexpensive rental near the site and offering the use of his truck for supply and equipment runs. William also has a good knowledge of archaeological sites in the area. Over the years, he has amassed a modest collection of projectile points that he picked up from field edges and streams, each labeled with at least the county in which it was collected, if not the specific farmer's field. He is keen to learn more about archaeology and asks to volunteer on the project. Charlene and Frank, grateful for William's help thus far, accept his invitation to volunteer.

Within the first few days of the project, William is eagerly participating by screening artifacts and learning basic excavation techniques. He mentions that a good friend of his and fellow collector, Chester Collins, is eager to learn about archaeology and would love to help out on the project. Since William has been so generous, Charlene and Frank welcome Chester as an additional volunteer. Like William, Chester works hard at screening and learning to excavate. He even brings the crew extra supplies ranging from spare washing tubs to flagging tape.

Three weeks into the project, Chester invites Charlene and Frank and the graduate student field assistants to have dinner at his house in town. He wants to thank them for letting him volunteer on the project, and he also wants to show them his collection. Charlene and Frank are happy to accept his offer and drive the students over to Chester's house one evening.

Once they step inside, Charlene's jaw drops. In comparison to William's modest collection of labeled projectile points, Chester has floor-to-ceiling shelves displaying artifacts in nearly every room of the house. The artifacts include not only projectile points, but also whole pots and ceremonial objects that have only ever been documented in Native American burial contexts. Chester eagerly shows off his collection, positive that Charlene and Frank will be interested in his spectacular array of artifacts.

Charlene is fairly certain that the bulk of Chester's collection has been purchased or traded from auctions or other collectors and instantly becomes uneasy. She is now uncomfortable with Chester volunteering on their excavation, but she isn't sure if she can ask him to stop coming by the site to volunteer halfway through the project.

CASE THREE



Mike Adams participated in a survey project in Qurac, a war-torn Middle Eastern country, as a first-year graduate student in 1970 before pursuing other projects. John Lakeman, the principal investigator of the project, is still alive but very elderly and no longer actively working. John never published the results of the fieldwork. Now, decades later, Mike has volunteered to bring this legacy project to completion.

In leafing through the volumes of field notes and photographs, Mike finds a large section related to the collection of a U.S. foreign aid consultant named Oren England who agreed to show the team his artifact collection in exchange for a promise to keep it confidential. The consultant had hired a couple of local residents to loot a major Greek temple in the project area. His collection contained ornate sculptures, figurines, architectural fragments, and other artifacts. John Lakeman and Caroline Carter, the team photographer, took numerous photos and wrote descriptive notes on many of the 5,000 objects in the collection which were later removed from the country through a diplomatic pouch. Visiting the site later, the team found a few related artifacts that suggested that this was the likely source of his collection. Unfortunately, there wasn't much left after the looters had completed their work.

The collector is long dead, but Mike finds his son Dominic England living in the Midwest through social media. Mike urges him to return the collection to Qurac. The son says that his father "gave away" all 5,000 pieces to friends and others. Because of the size of the collection, the likelihood that it was all disposed of is highly improbable; more likely, the son doesn't want to confirm to an archaeologist that he is still in possession of all these objects.

Mike receives a letter from Jay Marleau, a very senior European archaeologist and old friend of John Lakeman, who knows that Mike has the notes on Oren England's collection and wants them for writing a major synthesis of the period in this region. Rightly, he points out that this is the only large collection of Hellenistic artifacts from the entire southern half of the country and is only one of three collections from this time period from anywhere in the country. To do his job right, Jay claims, he needs access to John's photographs and notes.

Mike is torn. Should he turn over the project notes and photos to Jay Marleau? Jay is trained in a different tradition than Mike and doesn't have a problem with the nature of the collection because of the artifacts' archaeological significance. Mike, however, has some ethical concerns and knows that many professional organizations are against the publication of looted objects.

On the other hand, if he says no, what will he do with those notes? If they go to some repository, someone will have access to them someday—so why not now? If they get destroyed, no one ever gets to see this material. Since the objects themselves are either in Dominic England's private collection or "given away" and scattered in private collections around the world, all that is left to document the site is in the notes and photographs. Furthermore, given the political situation in Qurac, it's not likely that anyone is going back to study the site or conduct excavations at similar sites nearby anytime soon.

CASE FOUR



Stephan Barnes is a state archaeologist who has been asked to conduct a comprehensive Phase 1 archaeological survey of a well-known park. Ethnohistoric records suggest that a historic Miami village is located somewhere within the park boundaries. His survey includes an opportunistic survey of all naturally exposed surfaces in the park as well as shovel testing at 10-meter intervals. Stephan's survey is productive and typologically distinctive prehistoric flaked-stone artifacts spanning the past 13,000 years are recovered from more than 78 archaeological sites in the park. Not a single historic Native American artifact, however, is found, which suggests that the ethnohistoric records wrongly place the village within the park boundaries. This is an important finding because a paved bike trail is planned through the area, which was originally suspected to be the location of the historic Miami village.

On his last day in the field, Stephan is sitting at a picnic table eating lunch when his cousin, Bill Barnes, walks up and says, "Well, what do you think about that Miami village site? Pretty spectacular don't you think?" Stephan replies with a smirk, "We didn't find any evidence of a historic village site." His cousin chuckles and says, "You're kidding right?" Stephan retorts, "No, I'm serious, there is no historic Miami village site in this park. We shovel tested at 10-meter intervals. If there was a village, we would have found it." His cousin turns and walks away.

Ten minutes later, Bill returns with a large stack of Riker mounts, which he spreads across the picnic table in front of Stephan. They are filled with glass beads, kaolin pipe fragments, bits of gunflints, engraved bone, and copper and silver jewelry. Stephan asks his cousin Bill, "Where in the world did you get these artifacts?" Bill replies, "I found them in the woods next to the river using a metal detector. Stephan immediately realizes that this area included part of the route of proposed bike path. He also realizes that all of the artifacts that his cousin had collected would have passed through the ¼ inch screens he used for shovel testing.

Stephan asks Bill to show him the exact find-spot of the historic artifacts. Afterwards, Stephan decides to redo his shovel tests in this area, but this time, he lines the screens with nylon mosquito netting and washes the dirt through the screens with water. Remarkably, every shovel test is positive and the screens are filled with glass seed beads and cut pieces of silver. Bill had indeed located the historic site. This discovery, however, creates a real dilemma for Stephan.

If it were not for Bill, Stephan's Phase 1 archaeological survey would not have revealed the location of the historic Miami village. On the other hand, his cousin admitted to illegally using a metal detector, digging, and removing artifacts from a state park. If he reports Bill to his boss, Conservation Officers will arrest his cousin, and Stephan will have to testify in court against a member of his own family. Stephan's family would never forgive him.

CASE FIVE



The Museum of Western and Native American Art has one of the largest collections of Native American archaeological and ethnographic material in the country. It also has a significant collection of Western art from artists such as Thomas Moran, Frederick Remington, and Charles Marion Russell. The museum's board of trustees is an avid group of collectors with varying interests. Some collect Native American items, with a particular focus on traditional regalia from the Southwest and Great Plains. Others collect Western art and have developed impressive personal collections of paintings and sculptures. The board of trustees has heavy influence on new acquisitions, deaccessions, and upcoming exhibition content.

The museum has a rotating exhibit gallery and is currently preparing an exhibit which is scheduled to open in a few months. The chief curator Allison Sawyer is taking the lead on the project. Allison has a Ph.D. in Art History and has been working at the museum for over ten years. She is being supported by curatorial assistant Jane Smith who recently graduated with a bachelor's degree in Anthropology and a minor in Museum Studies. Jane's primary responsibilities are to maintain object checklists, edit labels that Allison has written, and take notes during meetings.

The theme of the new exhibit is "Desert Landscapes." The object list primarily consists of paintings depicting desert scenes by a variety of Western artists. Trustee James Byron has taken a particular interest in this exhibition, as he has a home outside of Santa Fe and loves spending time in the desert. He suggests to Allison that she should include petroglyph fragments from the museum's archaeology collections to complement the paintings. As a curator with an art background, Allison readily agrees, excited about the visual juxtaposition of pairing petroglyphs with the paintings. She does some searching in the museum's database and finds petroglyph fragments in the collection that she adds to the object list. The petroglyph fragments were originally removed from a sacred site that a federally non-recognized Native American tribe has been trying to restrict access to.

Trustee James Byron is also working closely with Allison on the exhibit opening night event because it serves as one of the museum's primary fundraising tools. The exhibit opening night is a particular favorite of James, as he is not only a collector but also a dealer of Western art. In addition to being on display in the exhibition, the paintings by Western artists are for sale. The opening night reception promises to be a lively event, where attendees will have the opportunity to bid on the paintings on display through a silent auction. As has been the case with previous opening night fundraisers, trustees often invite their friends and fellow collectors to attend. James Byron always buys several artworks during these events. Pieces that are sold on opening night are marked by a red dot. Throughout the remainder of the exhibition, paintings that have not sold yet are still available for purchase. If interested, visitors can visit the Visitors Services desk to inquire about purchasing any artworks without a red dot on the label.

CASE SIX



Edgar Binford is an associate professor at Marshall College in the Northern Joint Federations working on the origins of the Angmar culture—the Tolfalas Ocean’s first settlers. Edgar is eager to start the first field season of a multi-million-dollar project in the island nation of Val Verde. With the support of the local chief, Alfonso Garcia, work commences at the Nublar-Sorna II Rock Shelter where there are deep sedimentary deposits and early examples of pottery and rock art. In the course of these initial excavations, Edgar’s team uncovers not only pottery, but also obsidian tools and large and unusually undisturbed cache of human bones. The site is soon identified as the oldest and largest prehistoric burial site ever found in the Tolfalas region.

The people of Val Verde are excited about the discovery. Many believe that the Val Verdians are the descendants of the ancient seafaring Angmar voyagers. Within a matter of weeks, commemorative Angmar cultural heritage coins, flags, and shirts become available for purchase at local markets, demonstrating the widespread influence of Edgar’s work on Val Verde’s national self-image.

Upon returning to Marshall College, Edgar receives a surprise call from Chad Rivedi, a pioneering paleogenomicist who works on the isolation and analysis of DNA from ancient bones. He and several colleagues are preparing a paper on Isengard origins with a focus on the Tolfalas region and wants to know if Edgar is willing to provide them with access to the Nublar-Sorna human remains. Professor Binford agrees and by the end of the year, Dr. Rivedi and his team are ready to present a radical new story about the Tolfalas region’s first peoples.

The paper, with Chad and Edgar as lead authors, is published in the prestigious journal *Natural World* and entitled “Genomic Breakthroughs into the Peopling of the Northwest Tolfalas.” In the article, the authors state that the analysis of three 4,500-year-old jaw bones from the Nublar-Sorna II Rock Shelter provides a definitive answer to the question of Angmar origins. They write that the first Tolfalas people were not a heterogeneous group as oral histories and years of archaeological work have suggested. Moreover, the authors argue that the Val Verdians’ ancestors are not Angmarian. Instead, they descend from a final wave of migration to the Tolfalas archipelago which was originally settled thousands of years earlier by a population of unmixed descent.

Edgar is subsequently banned by Val Verde from conducting any future excavations. In an effort to rectify the situation, he works tirelessly to challenge the aDNA findings. His reappraisal of the *Natural World* article determines that (1) the three jaw bones in the study did not fit any of the 200+ individuals from the site, suggesting a complex set of burial practices that call into question the age and origin of the sample relative to the rest of the bones from the site, (2) the sample size is small, and (3) the three jaw bones were interred in unusual ways—one was placed inside a ceramic jar while the other two were worn as finely crafted crowns upon two other skeleton’s heads—indicating that the individuals are not representative of the population. In a reply to Edgar’s response to the *Natural World* article, Chad writes “Unfortunately, the truth is, there is simply nothing definitive about archaeological interpretations. That is, however, exactly what this technology allows me to do—get to the truth. I just wish other sciences, particularly the social sciences, would get on with answering questions that really matter to human history.”

CASE SEVEN



Tim Roberts, a third-year doctoral student at the top-ranked Pennbrook University, is planning to defend his dissertation prospectus at the end of the semester. Encouraged by the positive feedback he has received from his committee on the prospectus draft, Tim schedules an appointment with his advisor and committee chair, Professor Lois Hall, to discuss the recommended edits. During the meeting, Lois encourages Tim to modify his prospectus into a National Prestigious Research Grant (NPRG) proposal. Knowing the esteem and financial assistance an NPRG grant would afford, Tim is determined to secure an award by following Lois's advice.

Pennbrook University's anthropology department is very large and is notoriously cutthroat. As Tim continues to work on his dissertation research, he remains secretive about his activities to prevent academic sabotage. Although he has never personally experienced it, Tim knows that people are competitive and has even heard of a few instances of graduate students stealing research ideas. To prevent this from happening, Tim asks Lois to keep his prospectus strictly confidential until his defense. She assures Tim that she will help protect his research ideas.

As the semester goes on, Tim corresponds with Lois through email and regularly meets with her in her office to update her on his progress. Over the course of several meetings, however, Tim begins to notice a change in Lois' language and behavior. He observes that Lois sometimes closes her office door and, at times, injects previously unused phrases such as "dearest Timothy" and "can't stop thinking about you" into their email conversations.

Tim is uncomfortable and postpones his in-person meetings for the next month. After a month passes, Tim decides to meet with Lois and privately confront her about the phrases that made him feel uncomfortable. After stoically listening to Tim's concerns, Lois gets up and moves behind him and begins to massage his shoulders. She leans over and whispers "Listen, Tim, we don't have to make this an issue. And if you do decide to say anything to anyone else, you can bet I will leak your research to other students and not sign off on your prospectus. Don't test me."

Stunned by his meeting with Lois, Tim privately relays his concerns to Professor Samantha Cohen, the department chair, regarding their encounter as well as the inappropriate phrases from Lois' recent emails. His grievance, however, is immediately called into question. Samantha, a close friend and long-time colleague of Lois, accuses Tim of seeking attention at the expense of his advisor.

Outraged at Tim's perceived insolence, Samantha dismisses his claim of physical impropriety, calling it "defamatory" and "implausible." Moreover, she contends that the questionable phrases in Lois' emails are simply forms of endearment that Lois has always used towards students and colleagues, including herself! Growing irate, Samantha demands that Tim not speak of these baseless accusations unless he wishes to be dismissed from the program and have his reputation tarnished throughout the discipline by the anthropology faculty.

Shaken by the threat, Tim is despondent. Seeing his support in the department slip away and worried that he has jeopardized his future, Tim can't help but feel terrified.

CASE EIGHT



Sam Gardner is an archaeological consultant whose company Northwest Archaeological Services has been engaged by Highland Energy, a major power supplier in the county of Norcoast, to conduct an archaeological evaluation. He is investigating an upland landscape within the town limits of Linden where Highland Energy is hoping to construct a wind farm with 30 turbines.

Linden's geographic location has all the attributes necessary for a successful and profitable wind farm including optimal wind conditions, access to electrical transmission, and ease of physical access. Furthermore, the environmental impact is relatively minor as wind power consumes no fuel and emits no air pollution. Moreover, while the wind farm will cover a large area of land, construction is limited to small areas where turbine foundations and infrastructure will be built.

In addition to managing the first stage of the survey, Sam is tasked with facilitating a public meeting in the Linden Town Hall to explain the archaeological potential of the landscape and to demonstrate the relatively minor impact of the proposed wind farm on the area's cultural heritage.

On Sam's first day of work on the Highland Energy job, Mollie Dean, a local resident walking her dog, approaches him and exclaims "Oh, thank goodness, you're finally here to stop those godawful turbines!" After conversing with Mollie as well as other locals Sam meets later that night in The Kings Arms, Linden's local watering hole, it quickly becomes clear that the proposal is not popular with Linden's populace. Many of the people living in Linden are wealthy seniors enjoying their retirement in Linden's idyllic and quiet country landscape.

As the night goes on, Sam begins to notice that in all of his interactions with Linden-ers, the townsfolk always immediately assume that he is working to bolster their case against the wind farm. This becomes even more clear when Seamus Bean, offering to buy Sam a pint, enthusiastically shouts, "Archaeologists are good! They don't want to see ugly turbines being built in this beautiful and historical landscape, right?" The next day, he receives a call from Selina Lightfoot, the president of the Linden Historical Society, who wants to walk the hills with Sam to make sure nothing is missed in his assessment.

Sam's job, however, is not to advise the Linden locals. His primary responsibility is to provide a technical report to the client Highland Energy which can then be used to support a planning application. To accomplish this, he will need to work with private landowners in the hills on the outskirts of Linden, who, in contrast with most of the local people living in the more central part of town, are desperately keen to see the wind turbines built on a portion of their land. These landowners consider the proposed wind farm a crucial source of revenue for their impoverished farms. As Sam continues work on the project, more than one landowner has been intimidating in his or her behaviour while Sam is on his or her land. Clearly, they want to make sure that, as one of the landowners named Will Brandybuck menacingly stated, "archaeology won't stop this wind farm from happening."

Sam feels demoralized and is unsure how to ethically proceed.

CASE NINE



Savannah Blackwell, an assistant professor in anthropology at Westgate University, specializes in the archaeology of the Duhara culture—the first cultural group to inhabit the Greshland Islands around the second-millennium BCE. Expanding upon her dissertation research on the Duhara culture as a newly-hired tenure-track assistant professor, Savannah has been pioneering the use of drone and 3-D modelling technologies over the course of her excavations and data collection efforts during summer field seasons facilitated by a prestigious, multi-year research grant. Savannah is among one of the first archaeologists specializing in the Duhara culture to implement a comprehensive digital technology program and trains both undergraduate and graduate students in field methods as well as in the application of drone and 3-D modelling technologies.

Although Savannah independently developed her digital technology methods as a doctoral student, she is desperate to find help on this new project, which she finds by collaborating with a departmental colleague. Sheryl Stanton, a tenured professor and the senior-ranking archaeologist in the department, is an established scholar who also specializes in the archaeology of the Greshland Islands. Overwhelmed by the need to build her academic, teaching, and service record in order to secure tenure in five years—as well as looking to achieve a positive standing in the department—Savannah eagerly accepts Sheryl's offer to assist. Working as co-directors on this well-funded project, Savannah and Sheryl agree to partition directing responsibilities. Savannah will lead excavation efforts and Sheryl will organize and structure publications related to the project. Both professors verbally agree that they will serve as co-directors/co-authors on all field and publishing activities.

Although Savannah sees growing academic and public interest in her work with Sheryl, the other anthropology faculty appear to be unaware of the advancements made in the digital-technological component of the project. Upon approaching her fourth year in the department, with one year remaining until she goes up for tenure consideration by the faculty, Savannah suddenly realizes that while a few peer-reviewed, co-published articles were either already published or submitted to scientific journals, none of these articles presented or discussed the innovative methods she developed. Curious about the absence of these digital technology-related articles in the publishing pipeline, Savannah learns through the grapevine that Sheryl recently submitted these articles while on sabbatical abroad to prestigious scientific journals under her own name—excluding Savannah from the publications—presumably in an effort get nominated to the National Academy of Arts and Sciences for both her work on the archaeology of the Greshland Islands and her supposed contribution to the advancement of digital technologies in archaeology. Panicking, Savannah contacts Sheryl multiple times over the course of several weeks seeking an explanation for these rumors but finds Sheryl unresponsive to her numerous emails.

If the rumors are true, Savannah knows she risks not making tenure at Westgate University without the inclusion of her name on these articles. As a newly-hired assistant professor, however, Savannah is unsure how to proceed without coming off as presumptive and accusatory of her senior colleague without any direct evidence of problematic and unethical behavior.

CASE TEN



Aubrey Turner, a doctoral student at Galebrook University in the United States, is spending an academic year abroad analyzing archaeological collections as part of her dissertation research in the country of Haresh. Over the last three years, Turner has developed strong connections with the Haresh archaeological community by participating in several excavation projects. She even volunteered with the Haresh Antiquities Commission (HAC), the national archaeological antiquities department, which helped her develop a collegial relationship with HAC Deputy Director Jerome Khan. Jerome was instrumental in helping Aubrey access the HAC artifact repositories. These collections have historically been inaccessible to researchers and consequently, have remained unpublished within the archaeological literature.

Towards the end of her stay in Haresh, Aubrey realizes that she does not have enough time to analyze the remaining portion of the collection before her visa expires. She brings this up with Jerome who agrees to help her by giving her 60 days to analyze the artifacts at Galebrook University. Thanks to Jerome's assistance, HAC will arrange for a temporary research loan of the artifacts that will permit Aubrey to export a selection of the artifacts with the condition that she return the material back to Haresh before the end of the loan period. Although Aubrey is concerned about the unprecedented arrangement, she warily agrees to traveling with the artifacts. The accompanying paperwork itemizes the loaned artifacts in her possession and is written in the Haresh language which Aubrey cannot read.

Upon her arrival at Haresh International Airport, Aubrey's concerns are abated when she is cleared to travel with the artifacts by the Haresh airport officials. When her flight lands at the first port of entry in the United States, U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents, although unable to translate the itemized list and export permit, allow the entry of the artifacts due to the presence of official documentation for loaned antiquities from the government of Haresh.

Once at Galebrook University, Aubrey resumes her analysis on the artifacts borrowed from HAC. Several days after her return, Professor Jane Evans, Aubrey's advisor, enters the lab while Aubrey is working. Jane, a senior archaeologist in the department and a specialist in the archaeology of the region outside of Haresh, informs Turner that she is in possession of long-missing, looted artifacts with provenances tied to several countries bordering Haresh. These artifacts were stolen during a year-long regional war fought between Haresh and its neighbors. Stunned by this assertion, Aubrey immediately challenges the claim by referring Jane to the itemized documentation generated by HAC. Upon reviewing the artifact listing, Jane—being fluent in the Haresh language—confirms her initial position by noting that none of the artifacts listed on the associated paperwork match the artifacts in Aubrey's possession.

Bewildered by the revelation, Aubrey is uncertain as to how she should proceed. She is afraid of the potential fallout stemming from her actions that will impact the viability of her dissertation research and future work in Haresh, her department's ties with the Haresh archaeological community, and more broadly speaking, U.S.-Haresh diplomatic relations as well as Haresh's fragile relationships with its neighboring countries.