

October 31, 2016

Archaeology Search Committee
Department of Anthropology
University of Oregon
Eugene, OR 97403-1218

Dear members of the search committee:

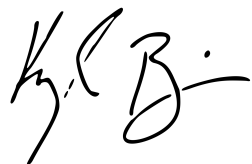
I am applying for the Assistant Professorship in Archaeology position in the Department of Anthropology. I am an archaeologist who specializes in computational approaches to studying human-environment interactions, with a particular focus on the Neolithic in the American Southwest. I completed my PhD at Washington State University in 2014 under Tim Kohler, and was a post-doctoral researcher at WSU as part of an interdisciplinary, NSF-sponsored project to make paleoenvironmental data more widely available to researchers and the public. I am currently a researcher and sponsored projects director at the Crow Canyon Archaeological Center in Cortez, Colorado.

My principal research interests concern using computational analyses of landscapes and climate to help understand cultural transitions in prehistory—please see my research statement for an overview. I have extensive expertise in GIS and computational methods, and in particular reproducible approaches to analyzing “big data” in archaeology. My experiences in collaborative research projects—first as lead programmer for the Village Ecodynamics Project, and more recently as a Co-PI on the SKOPE project and various initiatives at Crow Canyon—have prepared me to work well in diverse, interdisciplinary communities. I would enthusiastically teach courses in social science statistics and computational methods in archaeology, with a strong emphasis on open source tools, reproducibility of analyses, and accessibility of data products not only for researchers, but also for descendent communities and the broader public. Please see my teaching philosophy statement for further details.

The University of Oregon offers many opportunities for expanding my research collaborations, both within the Department of Anthropology and beyond. My research on multi-scale human responses to environmental challenges aligns most strongly with Drs. Erlandson, Fitzpatrick, and Hunt; I would particularly enjoy collaborating on ecologically-engaged agent-based modeling, and would benefit from access to the ACISS high performance computing cluster. I would also seek to join the Environmental Change Research Group in the Department of Geography at Oregon. I’ve also recently been working with a group of Southwest US zooarchaeologists on large-data integrations using data from the Digital Archaeological Record (tDAR); I’d greatly look forward to discussing that work with with Dr. Moss, with a particular eye toward its applicability on the Northwest Coast. Finally, I intend to continue my most productive current research collaborations: with Tim Kohler and Jade d’Alpoim Guedes at Washington State University (focusing on the Neolithic on the Colorado and Tibetan plateaus, respectively), and with my colleagues at Crow Canyon (documenting and modeling selection processes leading to contemporary maize diversity in the Southwest).

Again, thank you for considering my application, and please contact me if I can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Kyle Bocinsky'.

R. Kyle Bocinsky, PhD

Adjunct Research Faculty
Department of Anthropology
Washington State University
Pullman, WA 99164-4910

—and—

Director of Sponsored Projects
The Research Institute
Crow Canyon Archaeological Center
Cortez, CO 81321

phone 770.362.6659

email kbocinsky@crowcanyon.org