

February 14, 2017

Environmental Sustainability Search Committee
College of Social Sciences
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
Honolulu, HI 96822

Dear members of the search committee:

I am applying for an Assistant Professor position in the College of Social Sciences as part of the cluster hire in environmental sustainability (position 82680-83713-83935). I am an archaeologist who specializes in computational approaches to studying human dimensions of climate change, with a particular focus on sustainable, high-elevation agricultural systems on the Tibetan Plateau in southeastern Asia and the Colorado Plateau in the southwestern United States. I completed my PhD at Washington State University (WSU) in 2014 under Tim Kohler, and was a post-doctoral researcher at WSU as part of an interdisciplinary, National Science Foundation-sponsored project to make paleoenvironmental data more widely available to researchers and the public. I am currently a research associate at the Crow Canyon Archaeological Center (CCAC) in Cortez, Colorado, and adjunct research faculty in the Department of Anthropology at WSU.

My principal research interests concern using computational analyses of landscapes and climate to help understand agricultural sustainability and cultural transformation in prehistory—please see my research statement for an overview. I have extensive expertise in GIS and computational methods, and in particular agricultural and environmental modeling, and 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, agricultural systems, 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 statement for further details.

The University of Hawai'i offers many opportunities for expanding my research collaborations, both within the Department of Anthropology and College of Social Sciences and beyond. I have for many year been inspired by the profound insights about colonization and island ecosystems of UHM archaeological research in the Hawaiian islands and on Rapa Nui; I would love to engage more deeply in that research, in particular by modeling the evolution of traditional agricultural systems in island ecosystems. The Social Science Research Institute at UHM is just the type of interdisciplinary, collaborative environment in which I thrive, and I would seek to integrate my research with the Hazards, Climate & Environment Program—in particular the themes of climate change & adaptation and sustainable community agriculture. Much of my archaeological research has focused on regional analyses of culture history, a methodological approach shared by Dr. Christian Peterson in his comparative studies of Neolithic societies; I'd very much enjoy joining him in his effort to bring “big data” in archaeology to bear on fundamental questions of human social organization. Finally, I intend to continue my most productive current research collaborations: with Tim Kohler at WSU and Jade d'Alpoim Guedes at WSU and the University of California, San Diego (focusing on the Neolithic on the Colorado and Tibetan plateaus, respectively), and with my colleagues at CCAC (documenting and modeling selection processes leading to contemporary maize diversity and agricultural sustainability in the southwestern United States). Beyond my academic pursuits, I've sought to advance inclusion and

diversity in the field by helping organize the Queer Archaeology Interest Group in the Society for American Archaeology.

For references, please contact:

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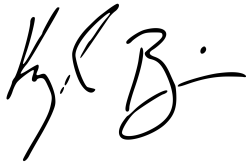
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Thank you for considering my application, and please contact me if I can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,



R. Kyle Bocinsky, PhD

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—and—

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