



Kenneth Blake Vernon

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Appointments

Assistant Director, University of Utah Archaeological Center

2018-present

Education

University of Central Arkansas
B.A. in History and Philosophy

Conway, AR
2006

Northern Illinois University
M.A. in Philosophy

DeKalb, IL
2009

University of Utah
Ph.D. in Anthropology

Salt Lake City, UT
2022

Publications

Peer-reviewed journal articles

- 2021 Brian F. Coddington, Joan Brenner Coltrain, Lisbeth Louderback, Kenneth Blake Vernon, Kate E. Magargal, Peter M. Yaworsky, Erick Robinson, Simon C. Brewer, Jerry D. Spangler (2021). **Socioecological Dynamics Structuring the Spread of Farming in the North American Basin-Plateau Region**. *Environmental Archaeology* NA (NA): 1–13. DOI: 10.1080/14614103.2021.1927480
- Bruce M. Pavlik, Lisbeth A. Louderback, Kenneth B. Vernon, Peter M. Yaworsky, Cynthia Wilson, Arnold Clifford, Brian F. Coddington (2021). **Plant species richness at archaeological sites suggests ecological legacy of Indigenous subsistence on the Colorado Plateau**. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 118 (21): e2025047118. DOI: 10.1073/pnas.2025047118

- 2021 Kenneth B. Vernon, Peter M. Yaworsky, Jerry D. Spangler, Simon Brewer, Brian F. Coddling (2021). **Decomposing habitat suitability across the forager to farmer transition.** *Environmental Archaeology* NA (NA): NA. DOI: 10.1080/14614103.2020.1746880
- 2020 Peter M. Yaworsky, Kenneth B. Vernon, Jerry D. Spangler, Simon C. Brewer, Brian F. Coddling (2020). **Advancing predictive modeling in archaeology: An evaluation of regression and machine learning methods on the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument.** *PLOS ONE* 15 (10): e0239424. DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0239424
- Shane J. Macfarlan, Ryan Schacht, Caroline Foley, Sydney Cahoon, Grace Osusky, Kenneth B. Vernon, Evan Tayler, Celeste Henrickson, Eric Schniter (2020). **Marriage dynamics in old Lower California: Ecological constraints and reproductive value in an arid peninsular frontier.** *Biodemography and Social Biology* 65 (2): 156–171. DOI: 10.1080/19485565.2020.1728685
- 2017 Kate E. Magargal, Ashley K. Parker, Kenneth B. Vernon, Will Rath, Brian F. Coddling (2017). **The ecology of population dispersal: Modeling alternative basin-plateau foraging strategies to explain the Numic expansion.** *American Journal of Human Biology* 29 (4): e23000–n/a. DOI: 10.1002/ajhb.23000

Book reviews

- 2020 Kenneth B. Vernon, Brian F. Coddling (2020). **Review of Oshara Revisited: The Archaic Period in Northern New Mexico by Nicholas Chapin.** *Journal of Anthropological Research* 76 (1): 138–140. DOI: 10.1086/706946

Technical reports

- 2021 Jerry D. Spangler, Matthew Zweifel, Heidi Roberts, Kenneth B. Vernon, Isaac Hart, Brian F. Coddling, Anne Lawlor (2021). **Limited Test Excavations at Red Reef Shelter (42WS519), Red Cliffs National Conservation Area, Washington County, Utah.** Report submitted to the Bureau of Land Management, St. George, UT.
- 2019 Jerry D. Spangler, Peter M. Yaworsky, Kenneth B. Vernon, Brian F. Coddling (2019). **Hisatsinom of the High Plateaus: A Class I Overview of Prehistoric Cultural Resources in Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument.** Report submitted to the Bureau of Land Management, Salt Lake City, UT.
- 2018 Kenneth B. Vernon, Peter M. Yaworsky, Jerry D. Spangler (2018). **The Archaeology of Molen Reef, Emery County, Utah.** Report submitted to the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, Salt Lake City, UT.
- Brian F. Coddling, Kate E. Magargal, Kenneth B. Vernon, Paul E. Allgaier, Jess Valdez, Ron Goode (2018). **Preliminary Archaeological Investigations at the Jack Kirk Site, Mariposa Creek, California.** Report submitted to the North Fork Mono Tribe, Mariposa Creek, CA.

Grants, Fellowships, and Awards

- 2020 David C. Williams Memorial Graduate Fellowship, University of Utah College of Social and Behavioral Sciences. **Advancing Stewardship with Theory and Models**. PI: Kenneth B. Vernon.
- Cross-College Training Grant, University of Utah College of Social and Behavioral Sciences. **Developing a Modular Online Introduction to the R Environment**. PI: Simon Brewer, Brian F. Coddington, Kenneth B. Vernon.
- 2019 David C. Williams Memorial Graduate Fellowship, University of Utah College of Social and Behavioral Sciences. **Advancing Stewardship with Theory and Models**. PI: Kenneth B. Vernon.
- Earl and Elies Skidmore Endowed Graduate Fellowship, University of Utah College of Social and Behavioral Sciences. **Graduate Research**. PI: Kenneth B. Vernon.
- 2018 David C. Williams Memorial Graduate Fellowship, University of Utah College of Social and Behavioral Sciences. **Advancing Stewardship with Theory and Models**. PI: Kenneth B. Vernon.
- Interdisciplinary Faculty Research Seed Grant, University of Utah Global Change and Sustainability Center. **Why Were Prehistoric Agricultural Societies in Utah Unable to Adapt to the Medieval Megadroughts?**. PI: Brian F. Coddington, Simon Brewer.
- 2017 Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Cooperative Agreement, Bureau of Land Management. **Archaeological Sites as Endangered Species: Using Next Generation Models to Predict and Protect Cultural Properties on the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument**. PI: Brian F. Coddington.
- Research Grant, University of Utah Global Change and Sustainability Center. **Human Plant Use in Red Butte Canyon**. PI: Kenneth B. Vernon.
- Research Grant, Friends of Red Butte. **Human Plant Use in Red Butte Canyon**. PI: Kenneth B. Vernon.

Teaching

Teaching interests. Behavioral Ecology, Human Ecology, Human Prehistory, Hunter-Gatherers, Conservation & Sustainability, Ethnoarchaeology, GIS/Spatial Analysis, Quantitative Data Analysis, Archaeological Method & Theory, North American Prehistory

University of Utah, Department of Anthropology

- ANTH 1030: Introduction to World Prehistory
- ANTH 1010: Culture and the Human Experience
- ANTH 5850: Quantitative Analysis of Archaeological Data

Presentations

- 2021 Kenneth B. Vernon, David Zeanah, D. Craig Young, Robert G. Elston, Brian F. Coddington (2021). **Explaining Paleoindian Settlement in the Intermountain West: A Regression Adjustment Approach**. *Talk at the 86th Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, San Francisco, CA.*
- 2019 Kenneth B. Vernon, Peter M. Yaworsky, Brian F. Coddington (2019). **Decomposing habitat suitability with theory-driven machine-learning**. *Talk at the 84th Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, Albuquerque, NM.*
- 2018 Kenneth B. Vernon, Peter M. Yaworsky, Kate E. Magargal, D. Craig Young, David Zeanah, Brian F. Coddington (2018). Prearchaic Land Use in Grass Valley, Nevada: This time with Bayes. *Poster at the Bi-annual Great Basin Anthropological Conference, Salt Lake City, UT.*
- Kenneth B. Vernon, Peter M. Yaworsky, Kate E. Magargal, D. Craig Young, David Zeanah, Brian F. Coddington (2018). **Prearchaic land use in Grass Valley, Nevada: A novel statistical implementation of optimal distribution modeling**. *Poster at the 83th Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, Washington D.C..*
- 2015 Kenneth B. Vernon, Kate E. Magargal, Ashley K. Parker, Will Rath, Brian F. Coddington (2015). **Numic fires: modeling the effects of anthropogenic fire on foraging decisions in the Great Basin**. *Poster at the 80th Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, San Francisco, CA.*

Professional Affiliations

Great Basin Anthropological Association	2016-Present
Society for American Archaeology	2014-Present