




# Kenneth Blake Vernon

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## Appointments

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Assistant Director, University of Utah Archaeological Center

2018-present

## Education

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**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  
anticipated 2022

## Publications

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### *Peer-reviewed journal articles*

- 2022 McCool Weston C., Coddling Brian F., Vernon Kenneth B., Wilson Kurt M., Yaworsky Peter M., Marwan Norbert, Kennett Douglas J. (2022). **Climate change-induced population pressure drives high rates of lethal violence in the Prehispanic central Andes.** *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 119 (17): e2117556119. DOI: 10.1073/pnas.2117556119
- 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

- 2021 Bruce M. Pavlik, Lisbeth A. Louderback, Kenneth B. Vernon, Peter M. Yaworsky, Cynthia Wilson, Arnold Clifford, Brian F. Coddling (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
- Brian F. Coddling, 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
- 2020 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
- 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
- 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

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- 2022 Cooperative Agreement, Bureau of Land Management. **Archaeological Survey of Cottonwood Wash, San Rafael Desert, Emery County, Utah**. PI: Brian F. Coddling, Jerry D. Spangler.
- 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. Coddling, 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. Coddling, 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. Coddling.
- Research Grant, University of Utah Global Change and Sustainability Center. **Human Plant Use in Red Butte Canyon**. PI: Kenneth B. Vernon.

2017 Research Grant, Friends of Red Butte. **Human Plant Use in Red Butte Canyon**. PI: Kenneth B. Vernon.

## Teaching

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**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

- 2018 Spring **Teaching Assistant**. ANTH 1030: Introduction to World Prehistory
- 2018 Fall **Instructor**. ANTH 1030: Introduction to World Prehistory
- 2019 Spring **Teaching Assistant**. ANTH 1030: Introduction to World Prehistory
- 2019 Summer **Instructor**. ANTH 1010: Culture and the Human Experience
- 2019 Fall **Instructor**. ANTH 1030: Introduction to World Prehistory
- 2021 Spring **Instructor**. ANTH 5850: Quantitative Analysis of Archaeological Data
- 2022 Spring **Instructor**. ANTH 5850: Quantitative Analysis of Archaeological Data

## Presentations

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2022 Kenneth B. Vernon, Jerry D. Spangler, Weston C. McCool, Peter M. Yaworsky, Simon C. Brewer, Brian F. Coddling (2022). **The Fremont Frontier: Living at the Margins of Maize Farming**. *Talk at the 87th Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, Chicago, IL.*

2021 Kenneth B. Vernon, David Zeanah, D. Craig Young, Robert G. Elston, Brian F. Coddling (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. Coddling (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. Coddling (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. Coddling (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. Coddling (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

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**Great Basin Anthropological Association** 2016-present

**Society for American Archaeology** 2014-present

## Service, Outreach, and Other Activities

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### *University of Utah*

- 2018 **Mentor**. **Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program**. Status: **active**.  
**Organizer**. The Archaeological Center's End-of-Semester Social, A Multi-Purpose Team Building Event. Status: **active**.  
**Organizer**. Journal Club, *Problems in Evolutionary Anthropology*. Status: **active**.
- 2017 **Mentor**. Archaeological Center High School Internship Program. Status: **complete**.

### *Outreach*

- 2018 **Contributor**. Brief Amici Curiae of Archaeological Organizations In Support of Plaintiffs. *Hopi Tribe v Donald J. Trump, Utah Diné Bikéyah v Donald J. Trump, Natural Resources Defense Council v Donald J. Trump*. 2018. **PDF Download**. Status: **complete**.  
**Presenter**. Yaworsky, Peter M., Kenneth Blake Vernon, and Brian F. Coddling (2018) **Archaeological Potential of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument**. Public poster presented at Utah Archaeology Day, Natural History Museum of Utah. Status: **complete**.  
**Volunteer**. Utah Archaeology Day, a Natural History Museum of Utah and Utah Division of State History event. Status: **complete**.

## References

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*Available upon request.*