

Curriculum Vitae

Erin Marie Benson

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Education

- 2020 PhD in Anthropology, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, IL
(Dissertation Title: Community as Assemblage in the Late Cahokian Hinterlands)
- 2017 MA in Anthropology, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, IL
- 2009 BA in Anthropology and Women's and Gender Studies, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, OH

Employment

- 2020-present Senior Research Archaeologist, Illinois State Archaeological Survey, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- 2018-present Cartographer (consultant), Edwardsville, Illinois
- 2013-15, 17-20 Archaeological Assistant, Illinois State Archaeological Survey, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- 2013-15, 17, 19 Teaching Assistant, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- Anthropology in a Changing World (online course), Introduction to Anthropology, Biology of Human Behavior (online course), Introduction to Archaeology, Historical Archaeology of the Americas
- 2018 Instructor of Record, World Archaeology, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- 2018 Research Assistant for Virginia Dominguez, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- 2015-18 Research Assistant for Timothy Pauketat, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- 2017 Instructor, Field School in Midwestern Archaeology (11S2086), Belleville, Illinois. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- 2016 Field Supervisor, Valley of Peace Archaeological Project, Cayo, Belize. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Field School
- 2015-16 Field Archaeologist, Lowland Cultural Resources, LLC, Toledo, Ohio
- 2012-13 Research Assistant, Illinois State Archaeological Survey, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- 2009-12 East St. Louis Mound Center (11S706), Mississippi River Bridge Project, Illinois State Archaeological Survey, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- 2011-2012: Assistant Research Archaeologist
 - 2010-2011: Senior Crew Chief
 - 2010: Crew Chief
 - 2009 – 2010: Field crew member

Additional Field Experience

- 2020 Field Assistant, The Crable Site (11F249), Browning, Illinois. University of California at Santa-Barbara Field Project
- 2018, 19 Field Assistant, The Fandel Site (11WD4), Metamora, Illinois. University of California at Santa-Barbara Field Project
- 2018 Assistant Supervisor, Santos (8MR03986), Ocala, Florida. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Field Project
- 2013, 16 Assistant Supervisor, The Collins Complex (11V82, 11V15), Danville, Illinois. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Field School (2013), Parkland College Summer Field School (2016)
- 2014 Field Assistant, Valley of Peace Archaeological Project, Cayo, Belize. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- 2013 Assistant Supervisor, The Stephan-Steinkamp Site (12PO33), Posey County, Indiana. Indiana University
- 2012 Assistant Supervisor, Emerald Mound (11S1), Lebanon, Illinois. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign/Indiana University Summer Field School
- 2008 Field Student, Burrell Orchard (33LN15), Sheffield, OH. Cleveland Museum of Natural History Field School under the direction of Dr. Brian Redmond
- 2008 Field Student, Afar Depression, Ethiopia. Woranso Mille Paleoanthropological Research Project under the direction of Dr. Yohannes Haile-Selassie

Grants, Awards, and Honors

- 2020 Supplemental Summer Block Grant Fellowship, Graduate College, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, \$2222.00
- 2019 Conference Travel Award, Department of Anthropology, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, \$250.00
- 2018 Illinois Association for the Advancement of Archaeology Permanent Fund Grant, \$400
- 2017 Summer Research Funding, Department of Anthropology, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, \$400.00
- 2017 Mellon Travel Award, Garden and Landscape Studies, Dumbarton Oaks, \$500.00
- 2016 Conference Travel Award, Department of Anthropology, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, \$250.00
- 2015 Summer Research Funding, Department of Anthropology, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, \$500.00
- 2014 List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Results based on student ratings from Introduction to Archaeology
- 2013 The Forest N. Baker Award for American Anthropology, Department of Anthropology, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, \$1000.00

Peer-Reviewed Publications

- 2016 Lucero, Lisa J. Jessica Harrison, Jean Larmon, Zach Nissen, and **Erin Benson**, Prolonged Droughts, Short-Term Responses and Diaspora: The Power of Water and Pilgrimage at the Sacred Cenotes of Cara Blanca, Belize, *WIRES Water* 4. doi:10.1002/wat2.1148.

Other Publications and Book Reviews

- 2018 Investigating the Ordinary: Everyday Matters in Southeast Archaeology, edited by Sarah E. Price and Philip J. Carr, *Midcontinental Journal of Archaeology*, <http://midwestarchaeology.org/mcja/book-reviews>.
- 2017 **Benson, Erin M.**, In the Shadow of Yalbac: Hinterland Settlement between Yalbac and the Cara Blanca Pools. *Research Reports in Belizean Archaeology* 14: 97-109.
- 2013 **Benson, Erin M.** and Joseph M. Galloy, Ceramic Owl Effigies from Ancient East St. Louis, *Illinois Antiquity* 48(3): 10-13.

Technical and Research Reports

- 2021 (ed) *The Archaeology of Cahokia's Farmlands, Volume I: The Sauget Industrial Park's Fingers South Site*. Manuscript in Preparation, Illinois State Archaeological Survey, Prairie Research Institute, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.
- 2021 (ed) *The Archaeology of Cahokia's Farmlands, Volume II: The Sauget Industrial Park Sites*. Manuscript in Preparation, Illinois State Archaeological Survey, Prairie Research Institute, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.
- 2017 (ed) *Results of the 2016 Valley of Peace Archaeology Project: Cara Blanca Pool 1 Excavations and Yalbac Salvage Archaeology Program*, edited by Lisa J. Lucero, Jean T. Larmon, and **Erin M. Benson**. Report submitted to the Institute of Archaeology, National Institute of Culture and History, Belize.
- 2017 Results of the 2016 Valley of Peach Archaeology Project Salvage Excavations. In *Results of the 2016 Valley of Peace Archaeology Project: Cara Blanca Pool 1 Excavations and Yalbac Salvage Archaeology Program*, edited by L. J. Lucero, J. T. Larmon, and E. M. Benson, pp 43-72. Report submitted to the Institute of Archaeology, National Institute of Culture and History, Belize.
- 2015 Settlement in the Spanish Lookout Corporation (SPLC) Fields of Yalbac. In *Results of the 2014 Valley of Peach Archaeology Project: Underwater and Surface Explorations at Cara Blanca*, edited by Lisa J. Lucero. pp. 130-145, Report submitted to the Institute of Archaeology, National Institute of Culture and History, Belize.
- 2014 Archaeological Investigations at Site 11S742 (Tucker Drive Site) for the IL Route 157/I-64 Park and Ride Facility. *Archaeological Testing Short Report #449*, Illinois State Archaeological Survey, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, on file with ISAS.
- 2014 Archaeological Investigations at Site 11MS1330 (Schoolhouse Branch Site). *Archaeological Testing Short Report #457*, Illinois State Archaeological Survey, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, on file with ISAS.

Media

- 2016 **Benson, Erin** and Jean Larmon, Salvaging the Past in an Ancient Maya Settlement [Blog post]. <https://news.illinois.edu/blog/view/6367/368535>.
- 2016 Larmon, Jean and **Erin Benson**, Drought and Pilgrimage at the Cara Blanca Pools, Belize [Blog post]. <https://news.illinois.edu/blog/view/6367/372910>.
- 2011 Illinois Archaeology in the Field and in the Lab [Film]. Illinois Archaeological Survey. <https://ilarchsurv.org/film>.

Conference Papers and Posters

- 2019 The Emergence of Meaning through Place at Two Late Cahokian Sites. Paper presented at the 63rd Annual Midwestern Archaeological Conference, October 10-13, Mankato, MN.
- 2018 The 2018 Field Season at Fandel Mounds: A Lohmann Horizon Cahokian Outpost near Peoria, IL. Paper presented at the Mississippian Conference, July 28, Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site, Collinsville, IL. Co-author with Duane Esarey, Greg Wilson, and Dana Bardolph
- 2018 Composing the Late Cahokian Countryside: A View from the Rhea Site, St. Clair County, Illinois. Poster presented at the 83rd Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, April 11-15, Washington, DC.
- 2018 Building a Future through the Past: Archaeology at the Orpheum. Paper presented at the Society for Anthropology in Community Colleges Great Lakes Regional Conference, March 30-31, Champaign, IL.
- 2017 Composing the Late Cahokian Countryside: Excavations at the Rhea Site (11S2086), St. Clair County, Illinois. Paper presented at the 61st Annual Midwestern Archaeological Conference, October 19-21, Indianapolis, IN.
- 2016 In the Shadow of Yalbac: Results of the 2016 Salvage Excavations of Yalbac's Hinterland Settlements. Paper presented at the 14th Belize Archaeology and Anthropology Symposium, June 27-July 1, San Ignacio, Cayo District, Belize.
- 2014 Absorbed Residue Analysis on Ceramics from Three Moorehead Phase Sites in the American Bottom. Poster presented at the 58th Annual Midwestern Archaeological Conference, October 2-4, Champaign, IL.
- 2014 Back to the Future: Embracing New Understandings of Alternative Temporalities. Paper presented at the 7th Annual Theoretical Archaeology Group Conference, May 23-25, Urbana, IL.
- 2014 Archaeological Site Significance for Management: Not as Simple as You Would Think. Poster presented at the Prairie Research Institute Lightning Symposium, March 20, Champaign, IL. Primary author with Michael Farkas and Duane Esarey
- 2014 Absorbed Residue Analysis on Two Late Mississippian Sites in the American Bottom. Paper presented at the 3rd Science and Archaeology Symposium, February 21, Urbana, IL.
- 2013 The 'Reality' of Other-Than-Human Persons in Place Making and Community. Paper presented at the 6th Annual Theoretical Archaeology Group Conference, May 9-11, Chicago, IL. Primary author with Amanda J. Butler

- 2012 Terminal Beginnings at the East St. Louis Mound Complex. Paper presented at the 69th Annual Southeastern Archaeological Conference, November 7-11, Baton Rouge, LA. Primary author with Alleen Betzenhauser
- 2011 Owl Medicine: Three Ceramic Owl Effigies from the East St. Louis Mound Center. Paper presented at the 57th Annual Midwestern Archaeological Conference, October 13-15, La Crosse, WI. Primary author with Joseph Galloy
- 2010 Feature 181: A Burnt Stirling Phase Structure at East St. Louis. Paper presented at the 56th Annual Midwestern Archaeological Conference, October 21-24, Bloomington, IN, at the 68th Annual Southeastern Archaeological Conference, October 28-30, Lexington, KY, and at the 54th Illinois Archaeological Survey Annual Meeting, October 8-9, Normal, IL. Co-author with Steve Boles

Symposia and Sessions Organized

- 2018 Graduate Research Symposium. Symposium organized for the Department of Anthropology, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, March 31, Urbana, IL.
- 2014 Back to the Future: The Convergence of Remembering, Practicing, and Preparing. Session organized for the 7th Annual Theoretical Archaeology Group Conference, May 23-25, Urbana, IL.

Invited Lectures

- 2019 Composing the Late Mississippian Countryside, Mound City Archaeological Society Lecture Series, St. Louis
- 2019 Composing the Late Mississippian Countryside: Community and Household Identity during Cahokia's Decline, East Central Illinois Archaeological Society Lecture Series, Urbana
- 2018 Cahokia, presented to ANTH 101: Introduction to Anthropology, Urbana
- 2018 Peopling the Americas, presented to ANTH 105: World Archaeology, Urbana
- 2017 Composing the Late Cahokian Countryside: Preliminary Results from 2017 Excavations at the Rhea Site, Illinois State Archaeological Survey Brown Bag Speaker Series, Champaign
- 2017 Climate Change and Cahokia, presented to ANTH 278: Climate Change and Civilization, Urbana
- 2015 Ethics in Archaeology, presented to ANTH 220: Introduction to Archaeology, Urbana

Professional Registrations, Memberships and Certifications

Register of Professional Archaeologists

Midwest Archaeological Conference
 Southeastern Archaeological Conference
 Illinois Archaeological Survey
 Society for American Archaeology

Competent Individual in OSHA Excavation Safety

Certification in Adult, Child, and Infant CPR and AED and in Standard First Aid
Certificate in Graduate Teaching

Positions Held

- 2019-2021 Member, Illinois Historic Sites Advisory Council, Springfield, Illinois
 2015-16 Treasurer, Archaeology Student Society, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
 2013-15 Member of the Midwest Archaeological Conference Student Workshop Committee
 • Workshops organized: “Getting a Job in the Field of Archaeology,” “Current Issues facing Midwestern Archaeological Students,” and “Proposing and Funding Archaeological Research and Fieldwork”
 2013-14 President, Archaeology Student Society, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Skills

Software: ArcGIS, Microsoft Office, Adobe Creative Suite
 Equipment: Sokkia Total Stations, Sokkia and Spectra Precision Data Collectors, Trimble GPS, Bartington Grad 601-2 Dual Sensor Gradiometer, DJI Phantom 3 Professional Drone
 Analyses: Advanced ceramic analysis, absorbed residues/stable isotope analysis, GIS/Spatial analysis
 Language: Reading proficiency in Spanish

Volunteer Work and Community Outreach

- 2019 STEAMPunk Kids Club, Orpheum Children’s Science Museum, Champaign, Illinois
 2018 Pygmalion Festival Tech Demo, Urbana, Illinois; Demonstrating the use of Augmented Reality in archaeology
 2018 Time Machine: American Indian Cultures, Spurlock Museum of World Cultures, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
 2017 Archaeology Day for the Girl Scouts of Central Illinois, Mahomet, Illinois
 2017 Organizer of the First Annual Archaeology Day at the Orpheum Children’s Science Museum, Champaign, Illinois
 2016 Fundraised for, planned, and implemented an archaeology exhibit at the Orpheum Children’s Science Museum, Champaign, Illinois
 2013-15 Volunteer and organizer at Archaeology Day: History in Motion (2015), Engage the Senses (2014), IndiVisible (2013), University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign