

ARCL 410 / PHIL 419: Evidential Reasoning in Archaeology
Winter 2021, Term 2

Instructor: Alison Wylie

Meets: Mondays & Wednesdays 4:00-5:30, BUCH D205

What counts as evidence, and what are best practices for working with archaeological evidence? In this seminar we will focus on philosophical issues raised by collaborative practice in archaeology, including ethical and political as well as epistemic and methodological issues. We'll take a case-based approach to building a philosophical framework for understanding the promise and the challenges of such work, with particular attention to community-based and Indigenous-led archaeology as it has taken shape in diverse contexts.

In an initial section of the course readings will be drawn from *Evidential Reasoning in Archaeology* (Chapman & Wylie 2015), *Rock, Bone and Ruin* (Currie 2018), and *Data Journeys in the Sciences* (Leonelli & Tempini 2021). In later sections we will read critical histories of settler-colonial archaeology, for example, selections from *These Mysterious People: Shaping History and Archaeology in a Northwest Coast Community* (Roy 2016), alongside proposals for and examples of Indigenous-led archaeology that will include selections from *Community-Based Archaeology: Research With, By, and For Indigenous and Local Communities* (Atalay 2012), *Transforming Archaeology: Activist Practices and Prospects* (Atalay, Clauss, McGuire & Welch 2014), *A Global Dialogue on Collaborative Archaeology* (Clark & Horning 2019), and *Archaeologies of the Heart* (Supernant, Baxter, Lyons & Atalay 2020).

This course will be run as a seminar with the emphasis on in-class discussion. Requirements will include regular reading response posts, presentations, and a research term paper.

Students from archaeology, anthropology, CNERS, history, and any of the cognate fields of science studies are welcome. Graduate students who prefer to take this course for 500-level credit should contact the instructor to make the necessary arrangements before registration closes.