

Daniel Alexander Contreras, Ph.D

Institute for Ecosystem Research
Kiel University
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Academic Positions

2011 Humboldt Postdoctoral Fellow, Institute for Ecosystem Research, Kiel University
2009-11 Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow, Introduction to the Humanities Program, Stanford University
2007-09 Lecturer, Department of Anthropology, Stanford University
2008-09 Research Associate, Cultural Heritage Resource, Stanford University

Education

2007 Ph.D, Department of Anthropological Sciences, Stanford University
Dissertation title: *Sociopolitical and Geomorphologic Dynamics at Chavín de Huántar, Peru*
2004 M.S., Anthropological Sciences, Stanford University
1998 M.A., Latin American Studies, Stanford University
1996 B.A., Religion (*Magna cum laude*), Amherst College
Certificate, Five College Program in Latin American Studies

Professional Interests

THEORY AND METHODS

geoarchaeology; human-environment interactions, digital methods and archaeology; GIS; geomorphology; environmental archaeology; prehistoric ecology; obsidian; origins and development of social inequality

REGIONS

Andean South America, Mesoamerica

Publications

In press. Contreras, Daniel A., Nicholas Tripcevich and Yuri Cavero Palomino. "Investigaciones en la fuente de la obsidiana tipo Quispisisa, Huancasancos- Ayacucho." In *Proceedings of the XVI Congreso Peruano del Hombre y la Cultura Andina y Amazónica, Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos, Lima, Peru, October 2009*.

In press. Brodie, Neil and Daniel A. Contreras. "The economics of the looted archaeological site of Bâb edh-Dhrâ': a view from Google Earth." In Paula K. Lazrus and Alex W. Barker (eds.) *All The Kings Horses: Looting, Antiquities Trafficking and the Integrity of the Archaeological Record*. Washington DC: Society for American Archaeology.

In press. Contreras, Daniel A. and Kristin Nado. "Interpreting Geochemically Characterized Obsidian from Chavín de Huántar, Peru." In Peterson, David and John Dudgeon (eds.), *Social Archaeometry*.

In press. Tripcevich, Nicholas and Daniel A. Contreras. "Quarrying and Production at the Quispisisa Obsidian Source." In Tripcevich, Nicholas and Kevin Vaughn (eds.), *Mining and Quarrying in the Ancient Andes: Sociopolitical, Economic and Symbolic Dimensions*.

2011 Contreras, Daniel A. "How Far to Conchucos? A GIS Approach to Assessing the Implications of Exotic Materials at Chavín de Huántar." *World Archaeology* 43(3):380-397.

2011 Tripcevich, Nicholas and Daniel A. Contreras. "Quarrying Evidence at the Quispisisa Obsidian Source, Ayacucho, Peru." *Latin American Antiquity* 22(1):121-136.

2011 Rick, John W., Christian Mesia, Daniel A. Contreras, Silvia R. Kembel, Rosa M. Rick, Matt Sayre, and John Wolf. "La Cronología de Chavín de Huántar y sus Implicancias para el Periodo Formativo." *Boletín de Arqueología PUCP* 13:87-132.

2010 Contreras, Daniel A., "Huaqueros and Remote Sensing Imagery: Assessing Looting Damage in the Virú Valley, Peru." *Antiquity* 84(324):544-555.

2010 Contreras, Daniel A. and Neil Brodie "The utility of publicly-available satellite imagery for investigating looting of archaeological sites in Jordan." *Journal of Field Archaeology* 35(1):101-114.

2010 Contreras, Daniel A. "A Mito-Style Structure at Chavín de Huántar: Dating and Implications." *Latin American Antiquity* 21(1):1-19.

2010 Contreras, Daniel A. and Neil Brodie. "Shining Light on Looting: Using Google Earth to Quantify Damage and Raise Public Awareness." *SAA Archaeological Record* 10(3):30-33.

2010 Contreras, Daniel A. "Landscape and Environment: Insights from the Prehispanic Andes." *Journal of Archaeological Research* 18(3):241-288.

2010 Contreras, Daniel A. "Reconstructing an Engineered Environment in the Central Andes: Landscape Geoarchaeology at Chavín de Huántar, Peru." In *The Archaeology of Anthropogenic Environments*, edited by Rebecca M. Dean. Center for Archaeological Investigations, Occasional Paper No. 37. Carbondale: Southern Illinois University, pp225-249.

2009 Contreras, Daniel A. "Reconstructing Landscape at Chavín de Huántar, Perú: A GIS-based Approach." *Journal of Archaeological Science* 36(4): 1006-1017.

2009 Contreras, Daniel A. and David K. Keefer. "Implications of the Fluvial History of the Wacheqsa River for Hydrologic Engineering and Water Use at Chavín de Huántar, Peru." *Geoarchaeology* 24(5):589-618.

2008 Contreras, Daniel A. "Geomorfología y Paisaje en Chavín de Huántar." In *Museo Nacional Chavín*. Lima: Instituto Nacional de Cultura, pp51-59.

In preparation. Contreras, Daniel A. "Collaborative Action and Landscape Setting at Chavín de Huántar, Perú."

In preparation. Rick, John W., Daniel A. Contreras, Silvia R. Kembel, Matthew P. Sayre, Christian Mesia, and John W. Wolf. "The Janabarriu Problem: Interpretation and Chronology at Chavín de Huántar."

In preparation. Contreras, Daniel A. and John Rick (eds.). *Temples and Traditions: Debating the Central Andean Formative*. Manuscript proposal accepted by Cotsen Institute.

In preparation. Contreras, Daniel A. "Diversity in Ritual Architecture at Chavín de Huántar"
In Contreras, Daniel A. and John Rick (eds.). *Temples and Traditions: Debating the Central Andean Formative*.

Extramural Grants and Fellowships

2011 National Geographic Society Committee for Research and Exploration Grant #8916-11 (\$23,000, with Nicholas Tripcevich)

2010 Council of American Overseas Research Centers Multi-Country Research Fellowship (\$10,000)

2006 Lewis and Clark Field Scholar Grant, American Philosophical Society (\$1800)

2006 John Mason Clark 1877 Fellowship, Amherst College (\$7200)

2006 Explorers Club Exploration Fund Grant (\$1200)

2005 National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant # 0532350 (\$12,000)

2005 Amherst College Memorial Fellowship (\$4600)

2005 Lynford Family Foundation Grant (\$1000)

2002 John Woodruff Simpson Fellowship, Amherst College (\$1600)

Intramural Grants and Fellowships

2006 Stanford Humanities Center Mellon Foundation Dissertation Fellowship (\$19,500)

2006 Freeman Spogli Institute O'Bie Shultz Dissertation Write-Up Grant (\$2000)

2005 Graduate Research Opportunity Grant, School of Humanities and Sciences (\$5000)

2003 Graduate Summer Field Research Grant, Center for Latin American Studies

2002 Mellon Summer Fieldwork Grant (\$3000)

2002 Graduate Summer Field Research Grant, Center for Latin American Studies (\$4565)

Awards

2007 Joseph H. Greenberg Award for Academic Excellence in Anthropological Sciences, Department of Anthropological Sciences, Stanford University

2002 Annual Reviews Prize, Department of Anthropological Sciences, Stanford University

1996 Inducted into *Phi Beta Kappa* Society, Amherst College Chapter.

1996 Moseley Prize in Religion (2nd place), Amherst College.

Archaeological Field Research

2009-2011 Quispisisa Characterization Project, Ayacucho, Peru (co-P.I. with Nicholas Tripcevich)

- 2010-11 Project Geoarchaeologist, The el-Hemmeh Excavation Project, Wadi al-Hasa, Jordan (P.I. Cheryl Makarewicz)
- 2010-11 Project Geoarchaeologist, McMaster Obsidian Procurement Expedition (P.I. Tristan Carter)
- 2010 Geoarchaeological Consultant, Remote Detection of Hydraulic Agricultural Features at Teotihuacan, Teotihuacan, Mexico (P.I. Ian Robertson)
- 2009 Geoarchaeological Consultant, Proyecto Arqueológico Stanford, Chavín de Huántar, Peru (P.I. John Rick, Stanford University)
- 2009 Ground-truthing satellite-identified Looting Damage in Jordan (co-P.I. with Neil Brodie)
- 2007 Field Consultant, Proyecto Arqueológico Queneto, Valle de Virú, Peru (P.I. Ignacio Cancino, Stanford University)
- 2002-2006 Field Director, Proyecto Arqueológico Stanford, Chavín de Huántar, Peru (P.I. John Rick, Stanford University)
- 2004-2005 Field Supervisor, Stanford-Universidad del Valle Semetabaj Project, San Andres Semetabaj, Guatemala (P.I. John Rick, Stanford University and Luisa Escobar Galo, Lic., Universidad del Valle)
- 2003 Field Supervisor, Stanford Field School, Çatalhöyük Archaeological Project, Çatalhöyük, Turkey (P.I. Ian Hodder, Stanford University)
- 1998, 2000 Field Assistant, Proyecto Arqueológico Stanford, Chavín de Huántar, Peru (P.I. John Rick, Stanford University)
- 1995 Student, Proyecto Arqueológico Valle de Naco, La Sierra, Honduras (P.I.s Ed Schortman and Pat Urban, Kenyon College)

Teaching Experience

- 2011 *World Archaeology and Global Heritage*
- 2010 *World Archaeology and Global Heritage*
- 2009 *Past Human Environments; GIS in Anthropological Research; Laws and Orders.*
- 2008 *Digital Methods in Archaeology; Introduction to Peruvian Prehistory; Archaeology as a Profession.*
Tropical Ecology and Conservation (with Rodolfo Dirzo)
- 2007 *Humanized Landscapes: Archaeological Approaches to Human-Environment Interactions.*
Advanced Andean Archaeology (with John Rick)
- 2006 *Models and Images in Archaeological Computing* (with John Rick)
- 2003-2005 Teaching Assistant, Department of Anthropological Sciences, Stanford University. Courses included: *Introduction to Prehistoric Archaeology, Peruvian Archaeology, Human Origins, Introduction to Mesoamerican Archaeology*
- 1999-2001 History Teacher, Robert Louis Stevenson School, Pebble Beach, CA
- 1998-1999 Teaching Assistant, Center for Latin American Studies, Stanford University
Courses included: *History of Mexico, Sustainable Development in Latin America*
- 1997-1998 History Teacher, Punahou School, Honolulu, HI

Papers Presented

- 2011 "Quarrying and production at the Quispisisa Obsidian Source." With Nicholas Tripcevich. Paper presented at the invited symposium *Quarrying and Mining in the*

- Ancient Andes* at the 76th Annual Society for American Archaeology Meeting, Sacramento, CA, April 2011.
- 2011 "Retrospect and Prospect for Obsidian Studies in the Central Andes." With Nicholas Tripcevich. Paper presented at the invited symposium *The Cutting Edge: The State of Play in World Obsidian Studies* at the 76th Annual Society for American Archaeology Meeting, Sacramento, CA, April 2011.
- 2011 "Ancient Obsidian Exploitation in the Mediterranean: Giali Reexamined." With Kyle Freund and Tristan Carter. Poster presented at the 76th Annual Society for American Archaeology Meeting, Sacramento, CA, April 2011.
- 2011 "Exotic Goods at Chavín de Huántar: Reconstructing Interaction Networks in 1st Millennium B.C.E. Peru." Invited talk at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, February 2011.
- 2011 "How Far to Conchucos? Assessing the Implications of Exotic Goods at Chavín de Huántar." Poster presented at the 51st Annual Meeting of the Institute of Andean Studies, Berkeley, CA, January 2011.
- 2010 "¿Porqué estudiar la obsidiana? Investigaciones en la fuente de la obsidiana tipo Quispisisa, Huancasancos - Ayacucho." Presentation at the Universidad de San Cristobal de Huamanga, Ayacucho, Peru, August 2010.
- 2010 "Interpreting Geochemically Characterized Obsidian from Chavín de Huántar, Peru." With Kristin Nado. Paper presented at the invited symposium *Social Archaeometry: Promise and Prospects in the Anthropological Sciences* at the 75th Annual Society for American Archaeology Meeting, St. Louis, Missouri, April 2010.
- 2010 "The Power of Nature and the Nature of Power: Landscape History, Conceptions of the Environment, and Emergent Inequality in the Prehispanic Central Andes." Invited talk at Brown University, February 2010.
- 2009 "Investigaciones en la fuente de la obsidiana tipo Quispisisa, Huancasancos-Ayacucho." With Nicholas Tripcevich and Yuri Caverro. Paper presented at the XVI Congreso Peruano del Hombre y la Cultura Andina y Amazónica, Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos, Lima, Peru, October 2009.
- 2009 "The Quarry Pits of Quispisisa Obsidian Source: Ayacucho, Peru." With Nicholas Tripcevich. Presentation for the UC Berkeley Archaeological Research Facility *Brownbag Series*.
- 2009 "Research at the Quispisisa obsidian source in the central Peruvian highlands." With Nicholas Tripcevich. Paper presented at the 74th Annual Society for American Archaeology Meeting, Atlanta, Georgia, March 2009.
- 2009 "Lessons from the Landscape: Reconstructing the Engineered Environment at Chavín de Huántar, Peru." Invited talk at Smith College, February 2009.
- 2009 "Satellites, Huaqueros, and Settlement Patterns: Uses of Remote-Sensing Imagery in the Virú Valley" Paper presented at the 49th Annual Meeting of the Institute of Andean Studies, Berkeley, CA, January 2009.
- 2009 "Lessons from the Landscape: Geoarchaeology at Chavín de Huántar." Presentation for the Human Ecology of Landscapes and Watersheds Geomorphology Brown Bag, Oregon State University, February 2009.
- 2008 "Lessons from the Landscape: Reconstructing the Engineered Environment at Chavín de Huántar, Peru." Invited talk at the University of Alabama, December 2008.
- 2008 "The Janabarriu Problem: Context and Chronologies at Chavín de Huántar." With John Rick, Christian Mesia, John Wolf, Matt Sayre, and Silvia Kembel. Presentation for the 48th Annual Meeting of the Institute of Andean Studies, Berkeley, CA, January 2008.
- 2008 "La cronología de Chavín de Huántar y sus implicancias para el Periodo Formativo." With John Rick, Silvia Rodriguez Kembel, and Christian Mesia. Paper presented at

- the *VI Simposio Internacional de Arqueología PUCP: El Periodo Formativo: Enfoques y Evidencias Recientes*. Cincuenta Años de la Misión Arqueológica Japonesa y su Vigencia, September 2008.
- 2008 "Quantifying Looting: Is Google Earth More Than Just a Toy?" Presentation for the *Stanford Archaeology Center Workshop Series*, October 2008.
- 2008 "Lessons from the Landscape: Reconstructing the Engineered Environment at Chavín de Huántar, Peru." Presentation for the *Stanford Archaeology Center Brownbag Series*, December 2008.
- 2008 "Quantifying Looting - Hybrid Research Using Google Earth and ArcGIS." Presentation for the *GIS Special Interest Group*, Stanford University, November 2008.
- 2007 "Implications of a Dynamic Environment: Reconstructing Past Landscapes at Chavín de Huántar, Peru." Presented for the *Stanford Archaeology Center Workshop Series*.
- 2007 "A Mito-Style Chamber at Chavín de Huántar: Dating and Implications." Paper for the *72nd Annual Society for American Archaeology Meeting*, Austin, Texas.
- 2007 "Reconstructing an Engineered Environment in the Central Andes: Landscape Geoarchaeology at Chavín de Huántar, Peru." Presented for the *2007 SIU Carbondale Visiting Scholar Conference*, Carbondale, Illinois.
- 2007 "Understanding the Archaeological Landscape at Chavín de Huántar." Presentation for the *UC Berkeley Archaeological Research Facility Brownbag Series*.
- 2007 "Praying or Playing? Belief in Archaeological Interpretation." Presentation for the *Stanford Archaeology Center Brownbag Series*.
- 2006 "Expanding the Map: Geomorphologic and Cultural Processes at Chavín de Huántar". Presented at the *46th Annual Meeting of the Institute of Andean Studies*, Berkeley, CA.
- 2006 "A Mito-style Chamber at Chavín de Huántar: Implications for Regional Interaction in the Initial Period and Early Horizon." Presented at *Searching for Patterns in the Diversity of the Andean Formative*, Stanford University.
- 2006 "Machiavellian Agents and Created Structures: Defining Setting and Understanding Landscape Engineering at Chavín de Huántar". Presented as part of the invited symposium, *Agency, Settings and Architecture in Andean Archaeology* at the 71st Annual Society for American Archaeology Meeting, San Juan, Puerto Rico. Organizers: David Chicoine and Elizabeth DeMarrais.
- 2006 "Natural Sources of Power and Emerging Authority at Chavín de Huántar". Co-presented with John Rick as part of the invited symposium, *Religious Authority and Ritual Architecture in Prehispanic South America* at the 71st Annual Society for American Archaeology Meeting, San Juan, Puerto Rico. Organizers: Augusto Oyuelo-Caycedo and Jerry Moore.
- 2006 "A Modified Landscape in the Central Andes: Integrating Geoarchaeology into the Prehistory of Chavín de Huántar, Peru". Presented at the *2nd Archaeological Sciences of the Americas Symposium*, Tucson, Arizona.
- 2005 "Proyecto de Historia Paisajística, Riesgo Ambiental, y Ingeniería del Terreno, Chavín de Huántar, Resultados Preliminares, 2005". Presented at the *Primer Congreso de Arqueología de Ancash*, Huaraz, Peru.
- 2005 "Uncovering the Temple Landscape: Problems of Topographic History and Settlement Survey in the Geologically Dynamic Valley of Chavín de Huántar". Presented as part of the invited symposium, *Research at Chavin de Huantar, Peru, 1994-2004* at the 70th Annual Society for American Archaeology Meeting, Salt Lake City, UT. Organizer: Silvia Kembel.
- 2005 "Geomorphologic and Sociopolitical Dynamics at Chavín de Huántar, Peru". Presented at *Defining Social Complexity: Approaches to Power and Interaction in the Archaeological Record* conference, Cambridge, England.

- 2004 "Drinking One's Way to False Consciousness: The Role of Chicha in the Emergence of Social Inequality at Chavin de Huantar, Peru". Presented at the *Congreso Internacional sobre la Cerveza en la Prehistoria y la Antigüedad*, Barcelona, Spain.
- 2004 "Are They Biting Yet? The Mid-Holocene Sea-level Rise and the Antiquity of the Maritime Adaptation in Coastal Peru". Presented for the Andean Archaeology Working Group, Center for Latin American Studies, Stanford University.
- 2004 "Where Do We Go from Here? Conservation Easements and 'Chavin at the Crossroads'". Presented at the Archaeology Center Brown Bag Series, Stanford University.
- 2003 "Assessing Change in Peruvian Archaeological Sites: Developing a Digital Methodology". Co-presented with Dana Jensen at the Center for Latin American Studies Bolívar House Lecture Series, Stanford University.

Media Coverage

- 2011 Andrés Bermúdez Liévano. "La nueva Mirada" *Computer Hoy* 329:33-34.
- 2011 Erin Wayman. "GIS: A Rising Tool in the Geoarchaeologist's Toolbox" *Earth* January 2011: 26-32.
- 2010 Heather Pringle. "Google Earth Shows Clandestine Worlds" *Science* Aug. 2010: 1008-1009.
- 2009 Stanford University. "Buying, Selling, Owning the Past" *Stanford Report* Jan. 2009: 9-12.

Other Skills and Experience

Spatial data management software (ArcGIS, Surfer, Didger); archaeological survey; geomorphologic field survey

- 2006 Organizer, "Searching for Patterns in the Diversity of the Central Andean Formative" Roundtable Symposium, held at Stanford University 3-4 March 2006.
- 2005-07 Co-coordinator, Stanford Obsidian Research Group, Stanford Archaeology Center
- 2003-07 Coordinator, Andean Archaeology Working Group, Center for Latin American Studies, Stanford University
- 2003 Curriculum Support, Human Biology "B" side (social theory, linguistics, paleoanthropology and archaeology), Stanford University Dept. of Human Biology

Languages

Written and oral fluency in Spanish.

Professional Memberships

Society for American Archaeology
 Institute of Andean Studies
 International Association of Obsidian Studies
 Register of Professional Archaeologists