

Jeffrey Scott Brzezinski, Ph.D.

Archaeologist, Researcher, Lecturer
790 Hartford Dr., Boulder, CO 80305
Email: jeffrey.brzezinski@colorado.edu
Phone: (720)-648-1681
jb-arch.org

EDUCATION

- 2019 Ph.D., Anthropology, University of Colorado Boulder, Boulder, CO
Dissertation title: *Terminal Formative Religion and Political Organization on the Coast of Oaxaca, Mexico: The Perspective from Cerro de la Virgen*
Advisor: Dr. Arthur Joyce
- 2011 M.A., Anthropology, University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL
Thesis title: *Worldview, Ideology, and Ceramic Iconography: A Study of Late Terminal Formative Graywares from the Lower Río Verde Valley of Oaxaca, Mexico*
Advisor: Dr. Sarah Barber
- 2007 B.A., Anthropology, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

RESEARCH

- 2022-present **Postdoctoral Scholar**, LiDAR and Groundtruthing Project in the Department of Petén, Guatemala; co-directed by Drs. Brigitte Kovacevich and Michael Callaghan, University of Central Florida
- 2018-2019 **Graduate Research Assistant**, Center for the Study of Origins, University of Colorado Boulder
- 2017-2018 **Graduate Researcher**, Department of New World Pre-Columbian Art, Denver Art Museum, Denver, Colorado
- 2011-2012 **Graduate Research Assistant**, Department of Anthropology, University of Colorado Boulder

TEACHING (INSTRUCTOR OF RECORD)

- 2019-present **Lecturer**, Department of Anthropology, CU Residential Academic Program (RAP), and Department of Continuing Education, University of Colorado Boulder; Courses:
ANTH 1140 - Exploring a Non-Western Culture: The Maya
ANTH 1145 – Indigenous Imperialism in Pre-Columbian Mexico: The Aztecs
ANTH 1190 - Origins of Ancient Civilization
ANTH 2200 - Archaeology of Human History
ANTH 4220 – From Olmecs to Aztecs: The Archaeology of Mexico
ANTH 4224 - Archaeology of the Maya and Their Neighbors

ANTH 4300 - From Cloud People to the Land of the Sky: The Archaeology of Oaxaca

- 2014-2023 **Instructor**, Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Front Range Community College, Boulder and Westminster Campuses; Courses:
ANT 101 - Introduction to Cultural Anthropology
ANT 107 - Introduction to Archaeology
- 2017-2019 **Lecturer**, Department of Anthropology, University of Colorado Boulder; Courses:
ANTH 1190 - Origins of Ancient Civilization
ANTH 2210 - Laboratory Course in Archaeological Methods
ANTH 3300 - Elements of Religion

TEACHING (ASSISTANT)

- 2012-2019 **Teaching Assistant**, Department of Anthropology, University of Colorado Boulder; Courses:
ANTH 1135 - Exploring a Non-Western Culture: The Incas
ANTH 1140 - Exploring a Non-Western Culture: The Maya
ANTH 1145 - Indigenous Imperialism in Pre-Columbian Mexico: The Aztecs
ANTH 1170 - Exploring Culture and Gender through Film
ANTH 1190 - Origins of Ancient Civilization
ANTH 2200 - Archaeology of Human History
ANTH 2020 - Physical Anthropology 2
EBIO 1240 - General Biology Lab 2
- 2015-2016 **Lead Graduate Teacher**, Department of Anthropology and the Graduate Teacher Program, Graduate School, University of Colorado Boulder
- 2012-2014 **Anthropology and Geology Tutor**, University of Colorado Athletic Department, University of Colorado Boulder
- 2008-2011 **Teaching Assistant**, Department of Anthropology, University of Central Florida; Courses:
ANT 2000 - General Anthropology
ANT 3145 - Archaeology of Complex Societies
ANT 3160 - The Americas Before Columbus
ANT 4034 - History of Anthropological Thought
ANT 4932 - Honors Special Topics: Farmer King, Natural World

FIELD EXPERIENCE

- 2023 **Postdoctoral Researcher**, El Mirador LiDAR Archaeological Project (PALM), LiDAR groundtruthing fieldwork in Petén, Guatemala.
- 2016 **Project Director**, Río Verde Hinterland Project (RVHP), Oaxaca, Mexico, Dissertation fieldwork supported by NSF DDRI grant.

- 2013 **Field Director**, Río Verde Polity Project, Oaxaca, Mexico
Project Directors: Arthur A. Joyce and Sarah B. Barber
- 2012 **Field Director**, Río Verde Polity Project, Oaxaca, Mexico
Project Directors: Arthur A. Joyce and Sarah B. Barber
- 2010 **Field Crew Chief**, Caracol Archaeological Project, Caracol, Belize
Project Directors: Arlen F. Chase and Diane Z. Chase
- 2009 **Field Crew Chief**, Río Verde Polity Project, Oaxaca, Mexico
Project Directors: Arthur A. Joyce and Sarah B. Barber
- 2007 **Field School**, St. Johns Archaeological Field School, Ocala, FL
Director: Kenneth E. Sassaman

GRANTS AND AWARDS

- 2018 Summer Graduate School Dissertation Completion Fellowship, University of Colorado Boulder Graduate School, \$6000
- 2018 Graduate Student Research Grant, Department of Anthropology, University of Colorado Boulder, \$800
- 2017 Cartwright Fellowship, Department of Anthropology, University of Colorado Boulder, \$2000
- 2017 GPTI (Graduate Part-Time Instructor) Teaching Excellence Award Nominee, Department of Anthropology, University of Colorado Boulder
- 2017 Earl Morris Archaeology Award, Department of Anthropology, University of Colorado Boulder, \$1000
- 2017 Graduate Student Research Award, Center to Advance Research and Teaching in the Social Sciences (CARTSS), University of Colorado Boulder, \$1500
- 2017 Museum Student Research Award, University of Colorado Museum of Natural History, \$660
- 2015 National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement (DDRI) Grant: “The Río Verde Hinterland Project,” co-PI with advisor, Arthur A. Joyce. (BCS-1551842), \$25,195.
- 2015 Tinker Foundation Grant for Graduate Research, Latin American Studies Center, University of Colorado Boulder, \$1000

2013 Department of Anthropology Pre-Dissertation Grant, University of Colorado Boulder, \$2,333

PUBLICATIONS

PEER-REVIEWED

- In prep **Brzezinski, J. S.**, Scott Macrae, Melvin Rodrigo Guzman Piedrasanta, George Micheletti, Daniel Pierce, Brigitte Kovacevich, and Michael Callaghan,. “Sacred Sights and Sounds: GIS Modeling of Ritual Landscapes at El Mirador, Guatemala.” Unpublished manuscript in possession of the authors, to be submitted to *American Anthropologist*.
- In prep **Brzezinski, J. S.** “Hinterland Craft Production and Exchange in Terminal Formative Coastal Oaxaca, Mexico.” Unpublished manuscript in possession of the author, to be submitted to *Journal of Field Archaeology*.
- In press **Brzezinski, J. S.** and G. D. Hepp. “Ritual Transformation in Formative Period Oaxaca: A Comparative Analysis of Deity Embodiment, Nagualism, and Hybrid Beings.” Unpublished manuscript in possession of the authors, submitted for inclusion in special issue of *Latin American Antiquity*.
- 2024 **Brzezinski, J. S.** “People of Clay and Stone: Indexing Other-Than-Human Animacy and Collective Identity in Coastal Oaxaca, Mexico.” *Latin American Antiquity*. Published online 2024:1-19. doi:10.1017/laq.2024.12
- 2022 **Brzezinski, J. S.**, V. Monson, A. A. Joyce, and S. B. Barber. “The Offerings of Cerro de la Virgen: Politics, Religion, and Identity on the Coast of Oaxaca, Mexico.” In *Identities, Experience, and Change in Early Mexican Villages*, eds. C. E. Santasilia, G. D. Hepp, and R. Diehl. Gainesville: University Press of Florida.
- 2022 **Brzezinski, J. S.**, S. B. Barber, and A.A. Joyce. “The Emergence of Complex Imagery on Late Terminal Formative Gray Ware Pottery from the Lower Río Verde Valley.” In *Crafting Complexity: Material Culture and Agency in Mesoamerica*, Lisa L. DeLance and G. Feinman, eds. Boulder: University Press of Colorado.
- 2020 Hepp, G. D., S. B. Barber, **J. S. Brzezinski**, A. A. Joyce, and R. Wedemeyer. “The Symbolism, Use, and Archaeological Context of Masks in Formative Period Coastal Oaxaca, Mexico.” *Cambridge Archaeological Journal*, 30(2): 257-274.
- 2017 **Brzezinski, J. S.**, A. A. Joyce, and S. B. Barber. “Constituting Animacy and Community in a Terminal Formative Bundled Offering from Coastal Oaxaca, Mexico.” *Cambridge Archaeological Journal*, 27(3): 511-531.
- 2016 Joyce, A. A., S. B. Barber, **J. S. Brzezinski**, C. J. Lucido, and V. Salazar Chávez. “Negotiating Political Authority and Community in Terminal Formative Coastal Oaxaca.” In *Political Strategies in Pre-Columbian Mesoamerica*, S. Kurnick and J. Baron, eds. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press

DISSERTATION, THESES, AND REPORTS

- 2019 **Brzezinski, J. S.** *Terminal Formative Religion and Political Organization on the Coast of Oaxaca, Mexico: The Perspective from Cerro de la Virgen*. Unpublished doctoral dissertation, Department of Anthropology, University of Colorado Boulder.
- 2015 **Brzezinski, J. S.** “Excavaciones en Cerro de la Virgen.” In *El Proyecto Río Verde: Informe Técnico de la Temporada de 2013*. Sarah B. Barber and Arthur A. Joyce, eds. Final report submitted to the Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia. Mexico City, Mexico.
- 2013 **Brzezinski, J. S.** and A. A. Joyce. “Excavaciones de la Operación A.” In *El Proyecto Río Verde: Informe Técnico de la Temporada de 2012*. Sarah B. Barber and Arthur A. Joyce, eds. Final report submitted to the Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia. Mexico City, Mexico.
- 2012 **Brzezinski, J. S.** and J. Aguilar. “Excavaciones de la Operación A.” In *El Proyecto Río Verde: Informe Técnico de la Temporada de 2009*. Final report submitted to the Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia. Mexico City, Mexico.
- 2012 **Brzezinski, J. S.** “Excavaciones de la Operación B.” In *El Proyecto Río Verde: Informe Técnico de la Temporada de 2009*. Final report submitted to the Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia. Mexico City, Mexico.
- 2012 Hedgepeth, J., **J. S. Brzezinski**, D. T. Williams, and H. Baillie. “Excavaciones de la Operación D.” In *El Proyecto Río Verde: Informe Técnico de la Temporada de 2009*. Final report submitted to the Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia. Mexico City, Mexico.
- 2011 **Brzezinski, J. S.** *Worldview, Ideology, and Ceramic Iconography: A Study of Late Terminal Formative Gray Wares from the Lower Río Verde Valley of Oaxaca, Mexico*. Unpublished M.A. Thesis, University of Central Florida.

ACADEMIC CONFERENCES

PAPERS

- 2024 **Brzezinski, J. S.** and G. D. Hepp. “Ritual Transformation in Formative Period Oaxaca: A Comparative Analysis of Deity Embodiment, Nagualism, and Hybrid Beings.” Paper presented at the 2024 Annual Meeting of the Society of American Archaeology, New Orleans, LA.
- 2023 **Brzezinski, J. S.** “Reconsidering Time, Matter, and Community in the Monumental Architecture of Coastal Oaxaca, Mexico.” Paper presented at the 2023 Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, Portland, OR.

- 2022 Kovacevich, B., M. Callaghan, S. Macrae, **J. Brzezinski**, D. Pierce, and Melvin Guzmán Piedrasanta. "The El Mirador Archaeological Project: Recent Results of Remote Sensing and Ground Truthing." Paper presented at the 2022 Pacunam LiDAR Initiative II Conference, Virtual.
- 2022 **Brzezinski, J. S.** "Space, Place, and Other-Than-Human Traces: Going Beyond People to Deconstruct the Public/Private Dichotomy in Pre-Columbian Coastal Oaxaca." Paper presented at the 2022 Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, Chicago, IL.
- 2019 **Brzezinski, J. S.**, V. Monson, A. A. Joyce, and S. B. Barber. "The Offerings of Cerro de la Virgen: Ontological Considerations of a Unique Assemblage of Artifacts from the Coast of Oaxaca, Mexico." Paper presented at the 2019 Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, Albuquerque, NM.
- 2017 Young, A., A. Mayes, **J. S. Brzezinski**, A. A. Joyce, and S. B. Barber. "A comparative bioarchaeological analysis of two Formative Period communities from the lower Río Verde, Oaxaca, Mexico." Paper presented at the 2017 Annual Meeting of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists, New Orleans, LA.
- 2017 Barber, S. B., G. D. Hepp, **J. S. Brzezinski**, and A. A. Joyce. "The Symbolism, Use, and Archaeological Context of Masks in Formative Period Coastal Oaxaca, Mexico." Paper presented at the 2017 Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, Vancouver, BC.
- 2017 **Brzezinski, J. S.** "Recent Excavations at Cerro de la Virgen, Oaxaca, Mexico." Paper presented at the 2017 Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, Vancouver, BC.
- 2017 Monson, V. and **J. S. Brzezinski**. "Whole Vessel Caches: A Comparison of Offerings at Cerro de la Virgen with Lower Río Verde Valley Public Space Offerings." Paper presented at the 2017 Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, Vancouver, BC.
- 2014 **Brzezinski, J. S.**, A. A. Joyce, and S. B. Barber. "The Construction and Use of Public Space at Cerro de la Virgen, Oaxaca, Mexico." Paper presented at the 2014 Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, Austin, TX.
- 2013 **Brzezinski, J. S.**, A. A. Joyce, and S. B. Barber. "Political Centralization and Ceramic Iconography in the Lower Río Verde Valley." Paper presented at the 2013 Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, Honolulu, HI.
- 2013 Barber, S. B., A. A. Joyce, and **J. S. Brzezinski**. "Recent Excavations at the Río Viejo Acropolis, Oaxaca, Mexico." Paper presented at the 2013 Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, Honolulu, HI.

- 2013 Butler, M., A. A. Joyce, and **J. S. Brzezinski**. "Teotihuacan and Oaxaca: Social Transformations at the Scale of the Local Community and the Polity." Paper presented at the 2013 Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, Honolulu, HI.

POSTERS

- 2018 **Brzezinski, J. S.** "Producing Community through Communal Production: Examining Evidence for Collective Practices at Complex B, Cerro de la Virgen, Oaxaca, Mexico." Poster presented at the 2018 Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, Washington, D.C.
- 2018 Wedemeyer, R., A. A. Joyce, **J. S. Brzezinski**, and S. B. Barber. "Fragments of Identity: A Study of Ceramic Figurines from the Terminal Formative Period in the Lower Río Verde Valley, Oaxaca, Mexico." Poster presented at the 2018 Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, Washington, D.C.
- 2017 Young, A., A. Mayes, **J. S. Brzezinski**, A. A. Joyce, and S. B. Barber. "Examining two Formative Period sites from the lower Río Verde, Oaxaca, Mexico: Burials from a centralized polity and a hinterland community." Poster presented at the 2017 Annual Meeting of the Southwestern Association of Biological Anthropologists (SWABA), San Diego, CA.
- 2015 **Brzezinski, J. S.**, A. A. Joyce, and S. B. Barber. "Embedded Rituals: Examining Caching Practices in Public Buildings at Cerro de la Virgen, Oaxaca, Mexico." Poster presented at the 2015 Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, San Francisco, CA.
- 2011 **Brzezinski, J. S.**, S. B. Barber, A. A. Joyce, and A. Workinger. "Worldviews and Iconography: A Study of Late Terminal Formative Gray Wares from the Lower Río Verde Valley, Oaxaca, Mexico." Poster presented at the 2011 Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, Sacramento, CA.

PANELS AND SERVICE

- 2025 Discussant, "The Classic-Postclassic Transition in Oaxaca," Symposium at the 2025 Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, Denver, CO.
- 2019 Panel Discussant, "Rearranging Identities and Society in Formative Mesoamerica," Lightning Session at the 2019 Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, Albuquerque, NM.
- 2019 Session Chair, "Recent Archaeological Research in Oaxaca," General Session at the 2019 Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, Albuquerque, NM.

INVITED LECTURES

- 2023 “Reconsidering Time, Materiality, and Identity in the Monumental Architecture of Coastal Oaxaca, Mexico.” Invited lecture for the Lunch and Learn Program at the University of Central Florida Anthropology Department, Orlando, FL, January 2023.
- 2021 “The Role of Other-Than-Human Beings in the Religion, Politics, and Economics of Pre-Columbian Mesoamerica.” Invited lecture for the 10th International Archaeology Day Expo, hosted by History Colorado, Littleton, CO, October 2021.
- 2021 “Materiality for the Archaeological Enthusiast: Case Studies in Human-Thing Assemblages from Ancient Mesoamerica.” Invited lecture for the Archaeological Institute of America, Boulder Society, Spring 2021.
- 2019 “New Perspectives on the Intersection of Religion and Politics in Ancient Oaxaca, Mexico.” Invited lecture for the Archaeological Institute of America, Denver Society, Fall 2019.
- 2019 “The Role of Religion in the Origins (and Collapse) of Political Complexity on the Coast of Oaxaca, Mexico.” Invited lecture, Center for the Study of Origins, University of Colorado Boulder, Spring 2019.
- 2019 “The Intersection of Politics and Religion in Ancient Oaxaca, Mexico.” Invited lecture for the Alianza de las Artes Americanas, Denver Art Museum, Spring 2019.

ADDITIONAL CREDENTIALS

- 2025 Microcredential, *Pedagogy and Wellness in the Classroom*
Sponsored by the Center for Teaching and Learning, University of Colorado Boulder
- 2022 Microcredential, *Online Teaching Academy*
Sponsored by the Department of Continuing Education, University of Colorado Boulder

SERVICE

- 2023-present **Co-Founder**, Interdisciplinary Pseudoscience Reading Group, Anthropology and Ecology/Evolutionary Biology Departments, University of Colorado Boulder
- 2023-2024 **Participant**, Archaeology and Materiality Reading Group, Department of Anthropology, University of Colorado Boulder
- 2017-2018 **Graduate Student Speaker Series Representative**, Archaeology sub-discipline, Department of Anthropology, University of Colorado Boulder
- 2016-2017 **Chair**, Archaeology Theory Reading Group, Department of Anthropology, University of Colorado Boulder

- 2015 **Project Lead**, Drone Photogrammetric Mapping Exhibit, CU Grand Challenges Internship, Department of Aerospace Engineering, University of Colorado Boulder/Denver Museum of Nature and Science
- 2014-2015 **Anthropology Department Representative**, United Government of Graduate Students (UGGS), University of Colorado Boulder
- 2012 **Graduate Student Faculty Representative**, Archaeology sub-discipline, University of Colorado Boulder
- 2008-2009 **Undergraduate Volunteer Coordinator/Laboratory Director**, Maya Archaeology Lab, Department of Anthropology, University of Central Florida
- 2007 **Laboratory Volunteer**, Southeastern Archaeology Laboratory, University of Florida

LANGUAGES

Fluent: English (native speaker) and Spanish