

Kjersti E. Emerson
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Education

May 2002 B.S. in Sociology, minor in Anthropology Illinois State University
Normal, Illinois
December 2007 M.A. in Anthropology from University of Illinois, Urbana-
Champaign, Illinois

Employment history

Illinois State Archaeological Survey (formerly Illinois Transportation Archaeological
Research Program)
June 1996 – Feb. 2003 *Extra help/lab assistant*
Feb. 2003 - Nov. 2006 *Archaeological Assistant*
Nov. 2006 – 2012 *Cultural Resource Archaeologist*
2012-present *Ceramic Analyst*

Ceramic Analysis

2006 – Present

Primary job involves identifying, recording, and analyzing ceramic artifacts from recent large-scale IDOT excavations and various collections stored at ISAS and other institutions as concerns ISAS, which involves: reconstructing ceramic vessels; preparing and executing plans for conducting ceramic attribute analyses; drawing rim profiles and artifact sketches; recording quantitative and qualitative data as necessary from ceramic artifacts; photographing ceramic collections for research purposes and records.

Selected Ceramic Assemblages Analyzed

Early Woodland: Black Sand and Morton components from nearly two dozen sites along the Illinois River (e.g., 11Cs158, 11F2727, 11Sc632).

Middle Woodland and Late Woodland: Havana and Weaver components at Buffalo Chip (11-Mg-162); Starved Rock Collared component at Fisher site (11-Wi-5).

Mississippian: Spoon River Mississippian (Orendorf phase) at Orendorf Settlement D (11-F-1284).

Upper Mississippian/Oneota: Langford, Fisher, and Huber phase ceramics from the Hoxie Farm (11-Ck-4), Lawrence (11-Ls-2), Fisher (11-Wi-5), Oak Forest (11-Ck-53), Zimmerman (11-Ls-13), Greismer (12-La-3), Oakwood Mound (11-Wi-1), and Huber (11-Ck-1) sites.

Specialized Ceramic Training

2012 Indiana State Museum

Attended workshop on reversible ceramic mending of low-fired ceramics. Learned how to prepare Paraloid B-72 solutions for proper mending of existing sherds, as well as how to create plaster fills (also reversible) to further stabilize mended pottery. These new skills sets and techniques were implemented in our ceramics lab with great success.

Selected Field Experience

1996 – Present

Phase I Danville Beltline Project (01014) over the course of three field seasons; participated in various other survey projects (including projects 02032, 02073, 04073) for the Statewide, Northern, and Western Divisions of ISAS; took part in Phase II and Phase III excavations at various Woodland sites (11-St-331; 11-Mg-162; 11-Bu-2 and 11-Bu-5; 11-V-58; 11-Mc-71; 11-Ha-938) and two historic sites (11-Le-72, 73, 74; and 11-Ch-579).

Publications

Emerson, Kjersti E. and Thomas E. Emerson

2008 *The 1940 Fisher Site Excavations, Will County, Illinois*. Illinois Antiquity 43 (3): 13-15.

Emerson, Thomas E. and Kjersti E. Emerson

2013 Late Fisher Phase Ceramics at the Hoxie Farm Fortified Village. In *The Hoxie Farm Site Fortified Village: Late Fisher Phase Occupation and Fortification in South Chicago*, edited by Douglas K. Jackson and Thomas E. Emerson, pp. 245-326. Illinois State Archaeological Survey Research Report No. 27, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, Illinois.

Emerson, Kjersti E.

2013 Various chapters in *Archaeological Investigations at Buffalo Chip: Woodland Habitations on the Frontier of Morgan County, Illinois*, edited by Richard L. Fishel and Kjersti E. Emerson. Illinois State Archaeological Technical Report No. 150, November 2013.

Emerson, Kjersti E. and Madeleine G. Evans

2015 Late Prehistory at the Zimmerman Site: The Huber occupation of Grid B. In *Protohistory at the Grand Village of the Kaskaskia: The Illinois country on the eve of colony*, edited by Robert F. Mazrim, pp. 103-114. Illinois State Archaeological Survey Studies in Archaeology No. 10, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, Illinois.

Manuscripts in Progress

Emerson, Kjersti E.

20__ Various chapters in *Orendorf Settlement D: A Burned Fortified Mississippian Town in the Central Illinois River Valley*, edited by Lawrence A. Conrad, Kjersti E. Emerson, Duane E. Esarey, and Thomas E. Emerson. Illinois State Archaeological Survey Research Report No. __, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, Illinois. Report in preparation.

Emerson, Kjersti E. and Thomas E. Emerson

20__ Hoxie Farm Fisher and Huber phase ceramics in the Main Occupation Area. Report in preparation.

Conference Participation

Papers

- 2003 “A Preliminary Review of the Late Prehistoric Hoxie Farm Ceramic Assemblage.” Co-author to paper presented at the 49th annual Midwest Archaeological Conference, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
- 2005 “Conceptualizing a Late Fisher Phase Ceramic Assemblage: The Evidence from the Hoxie Farm Fortified Village.” Co-author to paper presented at the 51st annual Midwest Archaeological Conference, Dayton, Ohio
- 2006 “Preliminary Observations on Continuity and Variation in Fisher Component Ceramics.” Paper presented at the 52nd annual Midwest Archaeological Conference, Champaign-Urbana, Illinois
- 2007 “Late Prehistoric Mortuary Behavior in Northeastern Illinois.” Primary author with co-author Kristin Hedman of paper presented at the 53rd annual Midwest Archaeological Conference, Notre Dame, Indiana.
- 2008 “The Fisher Site: The legacy of the W.P.A in northern Illinois.” Paper presented at the 54th annual meeting of the Illinois Archaeological Survey, Collinsville/Edwardsville, Illinois.
- 2011 “The Huber Phase Component at the Hoxie Farm Site: Broadening our understanding of Huber phase ceramics.” Paper presented at the 57th annual Midwest Archaeological Conference, LaCrosse, Wisconsin.
- 2013 “Captured in Time: An examination of material culture patterns and activities represented on the burned structure floors of Orendorf Settlement D.” Paper presented by Kjersti Emerson at the 59th annual Midwest Archaeological Conference, Columbus, Ohio. Authors were Alexey Zelin, Madeleine Evans, Kjersti Emerson, and Brenda Beck.
- 2014 “Dismantling the Fisher-Huber Evolutionary Continuum.” Primary author with Thomas E. Emerson of paper presented at 60th annual Midwest Archaeological Conference, Champaign, Illinois.

Workshops

- 2014 Co-organized (with Dr. Melissa Baltus) ceramics workshop, “Border Crossings: A Ceramic-focused exploration of late pre-contact regional interactions ca. A.D. 1000- ca. A.D. 1500”, held at the 60th annual Midwest Archaeological Conference, Champaign-Urbana, Illinois.

Professional Memberships

Illinois Archaeological Survey (IAS)

Midwest Archaeological Conference (MAC)