The 19th century found Black pioneers settling on the Illinois frontier, clearing land and building homes in an effort to create a community that would support them and their families for generations to come. I discuss how self-sufficient farm labor was one way that Black homesteaders made homes and lives for themselves in the face of the disenfranchisement and inequality they encountered in society. I’ll also discuss the process of enacting a collaborative community archaeology project, examining the intersections between the act of excavation and the process of memorialization. I’ll evaluate my positionality as both an archaeologist and a descendant of these Black pioneers, discussing how the differences between these two standpoints can be examined to make our community and public archaeologies more effective.

Annelise Morris is an anthropological archaeologist who focuses primarily on publically engaged archaeologies of the African Diaspora. Her research examines processes of racialization in the African Diaspora through the lens of materiality, public archaeology, and historical memory and emphasizes the importance of community engagement in archaeology. Annelise graduated from UC Berkeley with her PhD in Anthropology in May of 2015.

Wednesday, October 28, 2015
12:00pm - Seminar Room

Location: Building 500
488 Escondido Mall
Room 106