Andrew Bauer

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“Materializing Memory and Constituting Collectives in Iron Age South India”

This presentation will detail the distribution of megalithic memorial architecture at several sites in northern Karnataka to consider the mediating effects of materials and monuments in producing distinct kin and residential associations of territory and ancestors in South Indian prehistory. In doing so it will problematize the role of things in understandings of political action in the past.

Andrew Bauer is an anthropological archaeologist whose research and teaching interests broadly focus on the archaeology of human-environment relations, including the socio-politics of land use and both symbolic and material aspects of producing cultural spaces, places, and landscapes. Andrew has previously conducted archaeological fieldwork in Turkey, Iran, and the United States but his primary research is based in South India, where he co-directs fieldwork investigating the relationships between landscape history, cultural practices, and institutionalized forms of social inequalities and difference during the region’s Iron Age, Early Historic, and Medieval periods. As an extension of his archaeological work, he is also interested in the intersections of landscape histories and modern framings of nature that relate to conservation issues and climate change. He has published a variety of articles and is the author of Before Vijayanagara: Prehistoric Landscapes and Politics in the Tungabhadra Basin (2015) and the co-editor of The Archaeology of Politics: The Materiality of Political Action and Practice in the Past (2011).