



## Sophia Perdikaris

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Sophia Perdikaris is an archaeologist specializing in the analysis of animal remains from archaeological sites in the North Atlantic and the Caribbean. She has excavated in Norway for eight years, in Iceland for seven years, and in Barbuda for five years and takes students with her in the field, to both Iceland and Barbuda; with Dr. Thomas H. McGovern of Hunter College they have been directing a special program of undergraduate study funded by the National Science Foundation Office of Polar Programs involving undergraduate students in cutting edge interdisciplinary research both in the field and in the lab. The current REU-Islands of Change introduces students to circum Atlantic people/environment interactions over multiple time lines. The Research Experience for Undergraduates program admits 10 CUNY students per year. Her earliest archaeological experience was with Harvard University in Kenya. Professor Perdikaris, received her Ph.D. from the Graduate School and University Center - CUNY and is committed to quality education for public school youth. She is active in developing education and outreach initiatives in Iceland, Barbuda and New York.

She has been a participant of the STAR (The Science, Technology and Research High School) early college initiative at Brooklyn College since its very beginnings six years ago, as well as the Kids Archaeology initiative. In Kids Archaeology school children learn about archaeology and science by being participants rather than observers. In two years time, there will be an all student conference where the children will present their research results to the scientific community. Participant countries are Iceland, Antigua/Barbuda and New York. Talks with Greenland and Norway are on the way. Professor Perdikaris is faculty in residence at the Macaulay Honors College for the Fall 2009 and has been teaching the Science and Technology Honors Seminars for the last five years. She was Tow named professor for 2003-2005.

Her particular research interests are in historical ecology and global climate change. Her early work concentrated on the transition from the Viking Age to medieval times in North Norway and how the early commercialization of the cod

fisheries (AD 1200) affected the people and the economy of the area. Most modern fisheries data were collected in the years post AD1850, but the human manipulation of wild resources and fish started many hundreds of years prior to this. If we are to understand the processes that affected the modern fish populations, we need to look in the impact of human activity to natural resources as far back in time as possible.

Professor Perdikaris is teaching a series of general courses in Anthropology, as well as more specialized ones, such as Zooarchaeology, Urban Archaeology, People Nature and Culture, Viking Age Archaeology and Global Climate Change. She has been a member of NABO (North Atlantic Biocultural Organization) <http://www.nabohome.org> and chair of the Education and the Maritime Adaptations groups since 1992. Professor Perdikaris is also a coordinator of NORSEC <https://outlook.brooklyn.cuny.edu/exchange/SophiaP/Drafts/RE:%20stuff%20coming%20and%20status%20as%20of%20today.EML/NORSEC.htm> (Northern Science and Education Center). NORSEC is a center that has participating faculty from the Graduate School and University Center, Hunter College, Staten Island, John Jay, the University of the Arctic, the medieval Institute of Oslo, the Archaeological Institute of Iceland and the Stefansson Institute. She is currently involved in cooperative projects with institutions in the U.S. and the U.K. , Iceland, Greenland, Faroes, Canada and Barbuda.