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Smyth is an anthropological archaeologist with fieldwork experience in North America, South America, and particularly Mesoamerica. His current research focuses on the formative development of complex societies in Northern Yucatan and how the Maya “droughts” of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> centuries, potentially related to climate changes in Arctic, impacted the political-economy and sustainability of ancient Maya society. Such interdisciplinary work is now underway at the Maya center of Xcoch and the Puuc hills region. Michael is the President and Founder of the Foundation for Americas Research, Inc. ([www.FARINCO.org](http://www.FARINCO.org)), a not-for-profit tax exempt organization whose current mission is to conduct field research and analysis into the past cultural responses to major environmental change.