



I am currently a PhD student at The CUNY Graduate Center Department of Anthropology, emphasis in archaeology. I have previously taught courses related to prehistoric archaeology and Viking Age migration and trade as an adjunct lecturer at Queens College and am currently working at City College as an Instructional Technology Fellow for Macaulay Honors College.

My research involves a comparative study of Viking Age and early medieval material culture in the North Atlantic and focuses on the distribution of common artifact types of non-local materials found on settlement sites (rather than rare high status metalwork mainly recovered from hordes and graves as done in most prior studies). By analyzing the artifact collections from household settlement sites in Iceland, Greenland, and Shetland produced in recent decades I hope to be able to learn more about the scale and significance of trade between continental Europe and the North Atlantic islands and of trade and exchange among islands during the Viking Age.

I propose to test a minimal trade scenario in which first settlers brought with them a “Viking Settler Kit” which included materials that often could not be renewed from local sources and thus steadily dwindled over time. Prestige objects like swords and precious metals could not be easily replaced, but neither could everyday artifacts like antler combs, glass beads, or steatite vessels. Minimal Viking Age trade contacts meant that neither elites nor lower ranking settlers could easily renew or upgrade their initial “settler kit” to demonstrate changing status or wealth, blurring archaeologically visible status differences. The inter-island exchange and trade documented in the late Viking-Medieval period probably associated with expanded markets for dried fish in NW Europe provided an opportunity for replenishment of not only elite objects but also household artifact inventories. This scenario and its implications can be tested by systematic comparison of the substantial artifact collections now available from Iceland and Greenland, and the growing collections from the Faroe Islands and Shetland. Exceptions to these predictions can generate productive avenues for further research, and are expected to generate useful discussions with other scholars studying artifact collections from the North Atlantic.

My methodology is quantitative in nature, comparing the non-local material components of artifact assemblages from settlement sites and addressing how quantities of these materials change over time. By comparing local with non-local materials at Norse sites, I hope to evaluate the relative importance that imports may have played in subsistence.

Along with archaeology, I am interested in issues related to learning, interactive technology, educational outreach, digital social media, and the myriad ways that these topics intertwine.