

## **Astor Travel Fund Report – Professor Timothy Pauketat**

### **Overview of academic events**

Tim Pauketat led a series of formal academic events, as detailed below. He also engaged in extensive discussions with academic staff, post-docs and graduate students across the School of Archaeology. He also visited archaeological sites of interest near Oxford.

#### **Tuesday 6 May, 5-6PM**

Venue: HB Allen Center Lecture Theatre, Keble College

#### ***The Astor Lecture: A Deep History of Indigenous America: Cultural Astronomy and the Origins of Urbanism***

The Astor Lecture presented a survey of Indigenous American archaeological complexes—from Tiwanaku to Tikal, Chaco, and Cahokia—revealing patterns that suggest the ways in which Indigenous American urbanisms were thoroughly entangled with non-human celestial and terrestrial phenomena. The patterns hint at historical processes that prompt a rethinking of what urbanism was/is.

*Followed by a reception in Keble College.*

#### **Wednesday 7 May, 3-5PM**

Venue: Institute of Archaeology, 34-36 Beaumont Street

#### ***Workshop: Rethinking Climate Change, Ontology, and History: The Case for Medieval North America***

This workshop centred around questioning how human history and climate change—specifically hydroclimate—are causally related, based on Professor Pauketat's work on Cahokia-Mississippian connections into the Puebloan, Huastecan, and Maya worlds. There was lengthy and thought-provoking discussion of the relationships between people and so-called natural events in the light of varied philosophical approaches to the world and its workings.

#### **Thursday 8 May, 3-5PM**

Venue: Institute of Archaeology, 34-36 Beaumont Street

#### ***Workshop: Alternative Urbanisms, Strange Attractors, and the Gods of Ancient Worlds***

A group exploration of the oddest, messiest forms of global urbanisms or proto-urbanisms and what they tell us about the relationship between affects, healing, human history, and humanity. A good range of post-docs and postgraduates attended and there was good participation by people from a range of perspectives. All agreed Professor Pauketat was both a provocative but also engaging and inclusive leader of the discussions.