“Digital Frontiers of Pre-Hispanic Landscapes: Chaco Canyon, New Mexico and Beyond”

Dr. Carolyn Heitman
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Sunday, January 31, 2016
2:00 pm
The Joslyn Art Museum
Abbott Lecture Hall
2201 Dodge St. | Omaha, NE
All AIA lectures are free and open to the public.
New technologies are continually transforming archaeological practice as well as the questions we ask about the past. Over the last 10 years I have been involved in a variety of digital projects focused on heritage or legacy collections largely focused on the UNESCO world heritage site of Chaco Canyon, New Mexico. In this presentation I profile the genesis and benefits of open-access archaeological resources and discuss the challenges we face in this digital frontier to both interpret and protect cultural landscapes.

Carrie C. Heitman is an Assistant Professor of Anthropology at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln and a Faculty Fellow at the Center for Digital Research in the Humanities. Prior to starting at UNL in 2013, she was an American Council of Learned Societies New Faculty Fellow in the Department of Anthropology at Northwestern University. She holds a PhD in anthropology from the University of Virginia. Since 2004, Heitman has helped oversee the building of the Chaco Research Archive (www.chacoarchive.org), and her research continues to explore how digital technologies can help us better understand human complexity. Her research on Chaco Canyon integrates disparate data sets to help answer fundamental questions about how and why social inequalities transform into structural inequalities over time in human societies. Heitman’s research has focused on the Pueblo region of the American Southwest, particularly aspects of social organization, demography, exchange, mortuary behavior, and ritual and cosmology during the period from A.D. 700 to 1150.