Pacifying Hunter-Gatherers
Dr. Ray Hames, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Dept. of Anthropology
Friday, September 14, 12:00-1:15 PM Oldfather Hall Room 827

Using a Rousseauian perspective, a number of researchers have attempted to diminish the extent and importance of warfare among hunter-gatherers. They have done so by employing a number of tactics such as redefining war, censoring ethnographic accounts of warfare in comparative analyses, biasing their interpretation of archaeological evidence, and claiming that outside contact inflates the intensity and frequency of warfare. These tactics are subject to critical analysis and are mostly found to be wanting. Hobbesians with empirical data have already established that the frequency and intensity of hunter-gatherer warfare is greater compared to large scale societies even though middle scale societies have more war. In the end I argue that while war is a primitive trait we may share with chimpanzee, the ability of hunter-gatherer bands to live peaceably with their neighbors (even though war may occur) is a derived trait that fundamentally distinguishes us socially and politically from chimpanzee societies. It is a point often lost in these debates.

Until They All Come Home: Identifying the Remains of U.S. Soldiers at the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency Lab, Offutt AFB
Dr. Brittany Walter, DPAA, Offutt AFB
Friday, October 19, 12:00-1:15 PM Oldfather Hall Room 807

Dr. Brittany Walter is a forensic anthropologist at the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) Laboratory at Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska. The DPAA is an agency of the Department of the Defense charged with providing the fullest possible accounting of US missing personnel to their families and the nation. More than 83,000 Americans remain missing from World War II, the Korean War, the Cold War, and the Vietnam War. Dr. Walter will discuss the role of the forensic anthropologist in contributing to the identification of service members using human remains, and specifically speak about the commingled human remains identification project for the USS Oklahoma, a Pearl Harbor loss of more than 400 soldiers, housed at the Offutt Laboratory.

In Our Backyard: The UNL Campus Archaeology Project
Dr. Effie Athanassopoulos, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Dept. of Anthropology and Dept. of Classics and Religious Studies
Friday, November 9th, 12:00-1:15 PM Oldfather Hall 807

UNL Campus Archaeology is a team project led by faculty, students, and alumni focused upon the analysis and reassessment of historical collections from excavations carried out on the UNL campus in previous decades. The archaeological collections came from three different locations and include a variety of artifacts such as glass bottles, ceramics, metal artifacts, personal items, faunal remains, etc., dating to the late 19th and early 20th century. The archaeological materials along with historical records, such as maps, census data and city directories, can offer insight into the social and domestic life of early Lincoln, in areas that were later redeveloped by the university. We are using a variety of digital tools to document, analyze, share and present these collections. A digital exhibit for research, education and public outreach is near completion. The next step will be to develop a physical exhibit that will incorporate state of the art, interactive tools (Augmented/Virtual Reality). Our aim is to raise awareness of Lincoln’s material past and contribute to preservation efforts of local heritage.