

Thesis abstracts

Masters

Contextualising relocated monuments: How have the post-Soviet statue parks presented the contexts of their relocated monuments, and could this be applied to other societies looking for a similar solution?

Claire Baxter: Masters in Conflict Archaeology and Heritage, Centre for Battlefield Archaeology, University of Glasgow, 2019.

Recent years have seen much debate across the world about statues of figures whose actions are now considered to be questionable—from Confederate generals in the USA, to slave traders in the UK, and colonial statues in Australia. Whilst some people believe that these statues should be taken down as they no longer deserve to occupy prominent space in our cities and cause discomfort to marginalised communities, others fear that removing this difficult heritage will enable forgetting and a missed opportunity to use these monuments for education. One solution that is frequently proposed is that of the post-Soviet statue parks in Budapest, Lithuania and Moscow. However, when relocating a statue, preserving its context is vital for it to be of use for education and future research. In the case of the statues, it is not just their physical context, but also their historical and socio-political context which need to be preserved. It is the aim of this paper to investigate how the post-Soviet statue parks in Moscow, Budapest and Lithuania have presented the different contexts of their relocated statues and monuments, and whether these examples address the concerns of societies in the USA, UK and Australia who may be looking at statue parks as a solution for their own contested statues and monuments.

Honours

Untangling Identity: The archaeology of smoking and addiction at the Artillery Drill Hall

Emily Martin: Bachelor of Arts (Hons), Department of Archaeology, University of Western Australia, 2019.

Historical archaeology has a long history of using smoking practices as a basis for the interpretation of identity in the archaeological record. However, this research has focused on clay pipes in an anthropocentric understanding of smoking practices that rarely includes other forms of smoking material culture and the agency the objects have in influencing the development of human culture. Tobacco is addictive—a fact that cannot be ignored in the understanding of the practice. These human-thing relationships between smokers and their consumption vectors provide a unique perspective by providing a framework to dissect identity through the power of an individual to use tobacco and other drugs as a method of conforming with or rebelling against a common group identity. However, the power these drugs hold over individuals through their addictive nature has equal authorship over the formation of smoking behaviours. These two forces work in tandem to create the archaeological record and the representation of the group and individual identity it preserves. This thesis explores these relationships in the development of individual and group identities through the artefact assemblage excavated from the underfloor deposits of the Artillery Drill Hall in Fremantle, Western Australia. This assemblage is made up of a diverse range of smoking material culture that includes clay pipes, cigarette packaging, and cigarettes. They reflect the dynamic history of the site between 1850–2015 from its origins as a garden in the Fremantle Convict Cantonment to a drill hall for the military and finally a music venue for the development of Perth's unique music scene. These artefacts were catalogued and interpreted through a theoretically informed quantitative and qualitative analysis that shows how the agency of humans and things shape the development of identity and its representation in the archaeological record.